Set up source control

# Set up source control for environments#

Link a Git repository to an n8n instance and configure your source control.

n8n uses source control to provide environments. Refer to Environments in n8n for more information.

## Prerequisites#

To use source control with n8n, you need a Git repository that allows SSH access.

This document assumes you are familiar with Git and your Git provider.

## Step 1: Set up your repository and branches#

For a new setup:

• Create a new repository for use with n8n.

• Create the branches you need. For example, if you plan to have different environments for test and production, set up a branch for each.

To help decide what branches you need for your use case, refer to Branch patterns.

## Step 2: Configure Git in n8n#

• Go to Settings > Environments.

• In Git repository URL enter the SSH URL for your repository.

• n8n supports ED25519 and RSA public key algorithms. ED25519 is the default. Select RSA under SSH Key if your git host requires RSA.

• Copy the SSH key.

## Step 3: Set up a deploy key#

Set up SSH access by creating a deploy key for the repository using the SSH key from n8n. The key must have write access.

The steps depend on your Git provider. Help links for common providers:

• GitHub | Managing deploy keys

• GitLab | Deploy keys

## Step 4: Connect n8n and configure your instance#

• In Settings > Environments in n8n, select Connect. n8n connects to your Git repository.

• Under Instance settings, choose which branch you want to use for the current n8n instance.

• Optional: select Protected instance to prevent users editing workflows in this instance. This is useful for protecting production instances.

• Optional: choose a custom color for the instance. This will appear in the menu next to the source control push and pull buttons. It helps users know which instance they're in.

• Select Save settings.