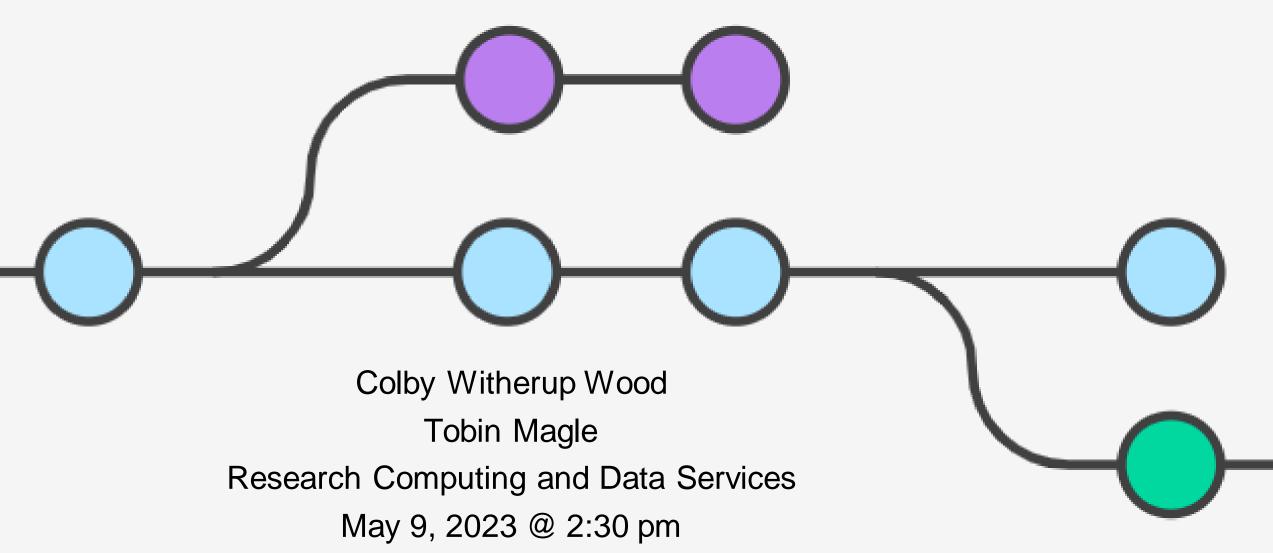
Version control using GitHub



Today we're going to cover:

- What is version control?
- What is git?
- Version control using GitHub
- Collaboration in GitHub

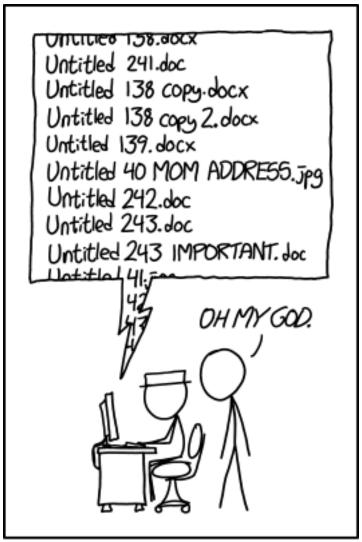




Manual Version Control

"Renaming files"

- Creates many files
- Relies on your ability to name files consistently
- Not designed for collaboration

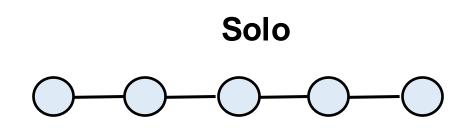


PROTIP: NEVER LOOK IN SOMEONE. ELSE'S DOCUMENTS FOLDER.

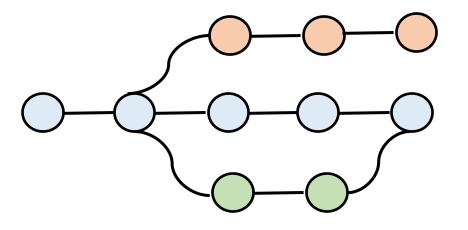
Version Control Systems

"Unlimited undo"

- One file, many versions
- Records who made what change when
- Good for collaboration: identifies and helps resolve conflicting changes



Collaborative



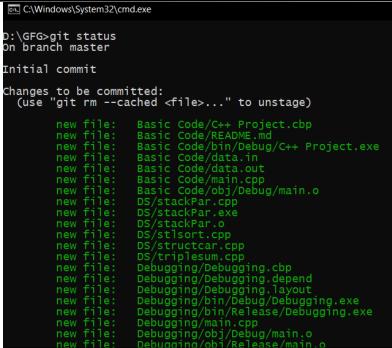
Today we're using git

- Built for large software development projects
- Can get complicated, but the basics are simple
- Free, open source
- Many online resources/tutorials

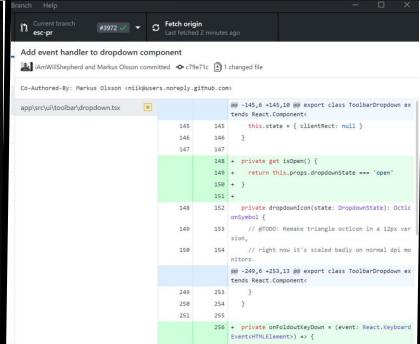


Ways to use Git

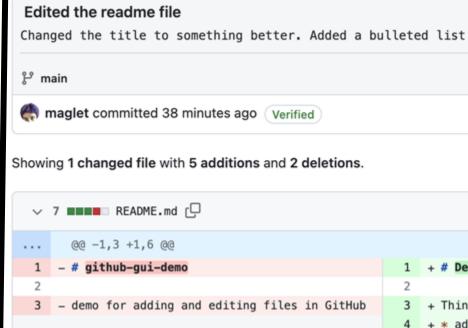
Command line



Desktop Clients

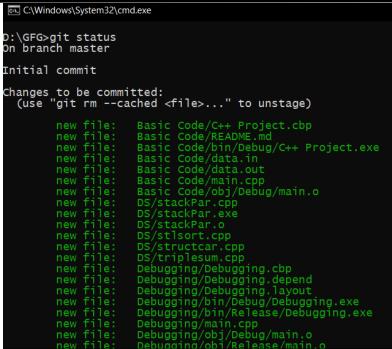


GitHub Website

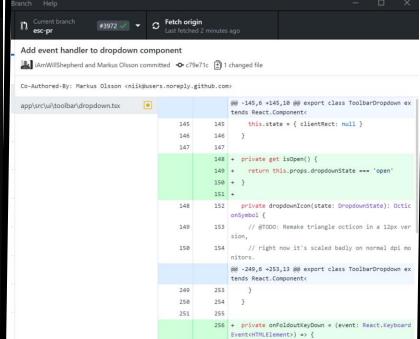


Ways to use Git

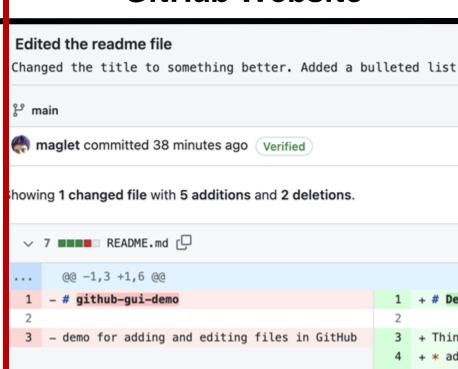
Command line



Desktop Clients



GitHub Website



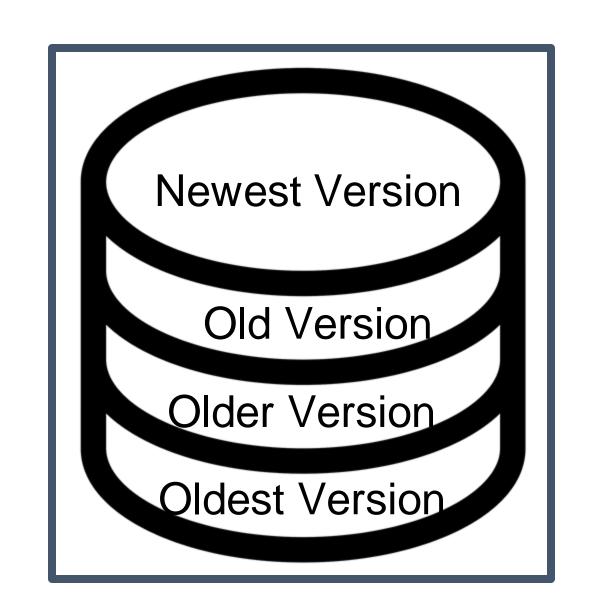
GitHub

- A place to store your work remotely
 - Free public repositories
 - Unlimited private repositories with Northwestern GitHub Org
- Can edit files in the web browser
- Collaborate

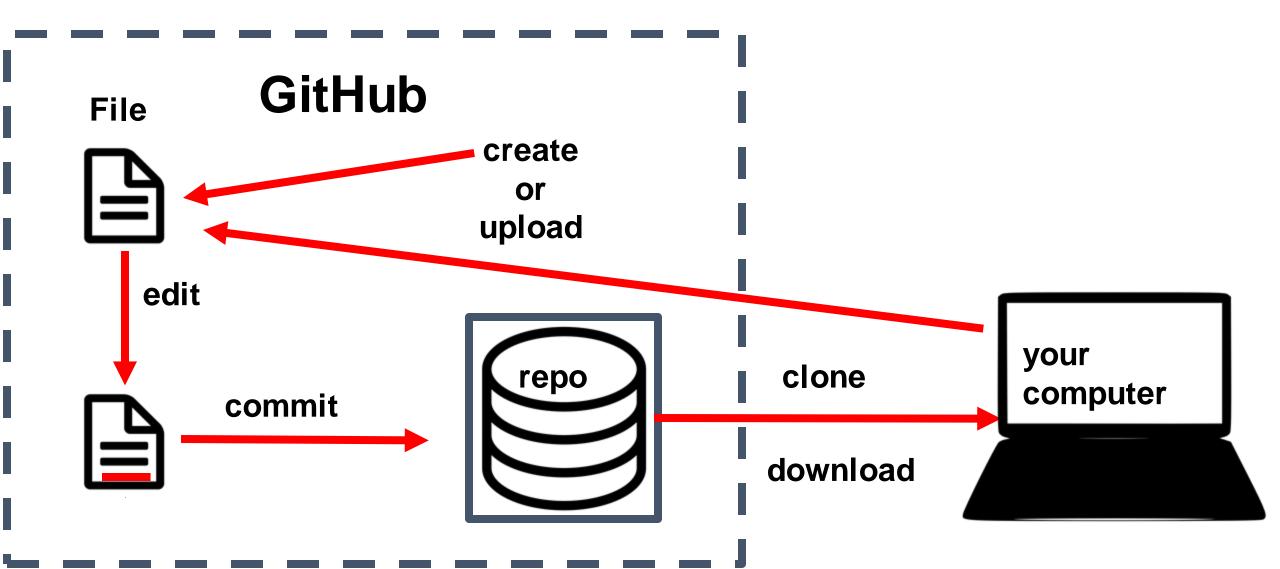


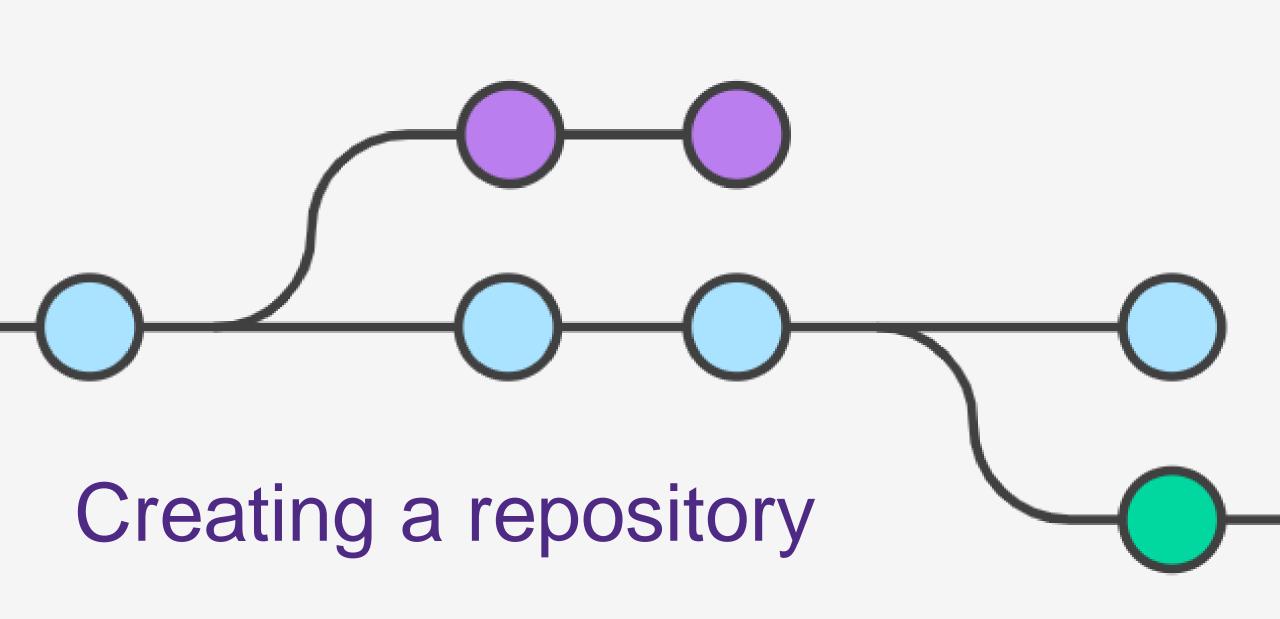
GitHub jargon

- Repository ("repo") -
- Commit how you save your changes to the files in the repository
- Blame -
- History -
- Diff -
- Each commit saves the new version of the file on top of the older versions
- All changes are saved
- Can compare what has



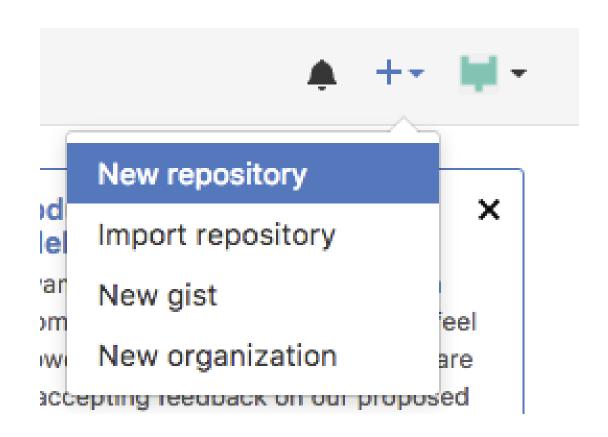
GitHub workflow overview





Make an empty GitHub repo

- Go to http://github.com
- Click the plus sign on the upper right hand side of the screen
- Select New repository



Make an empty repository

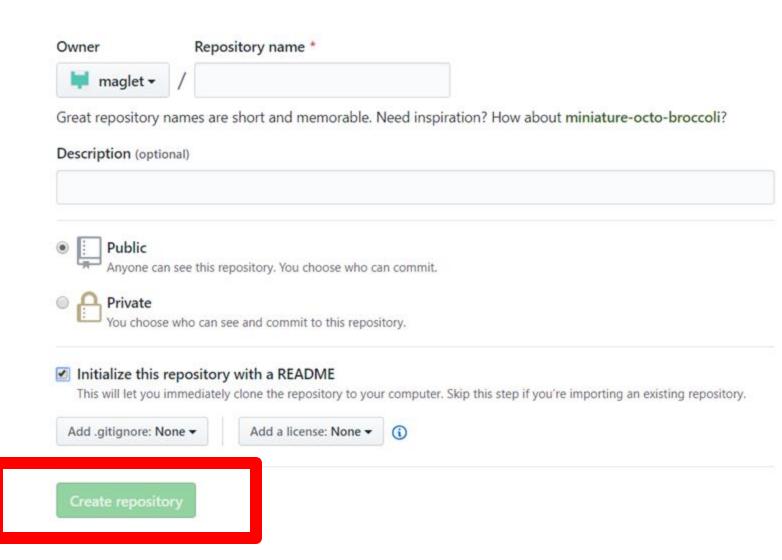
Name your repository

Provide a description

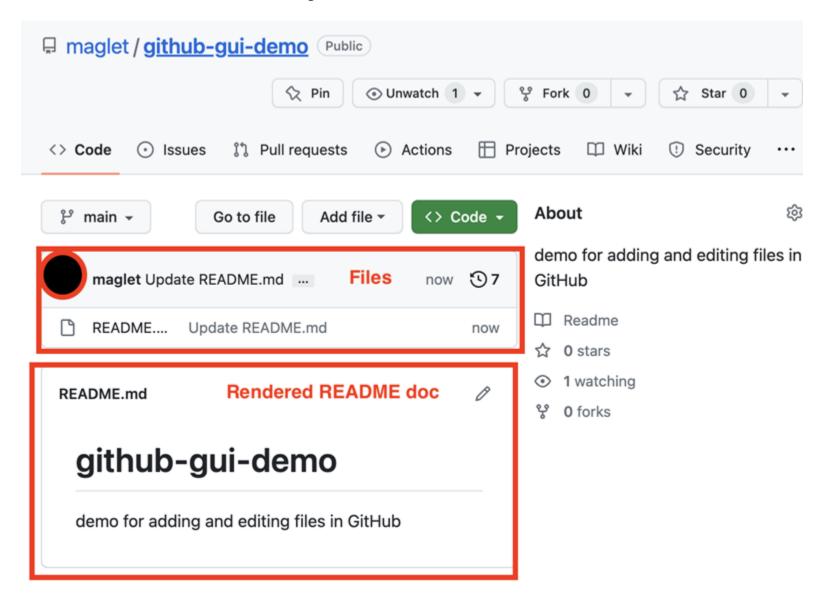
Keep it public

Initialize with a README

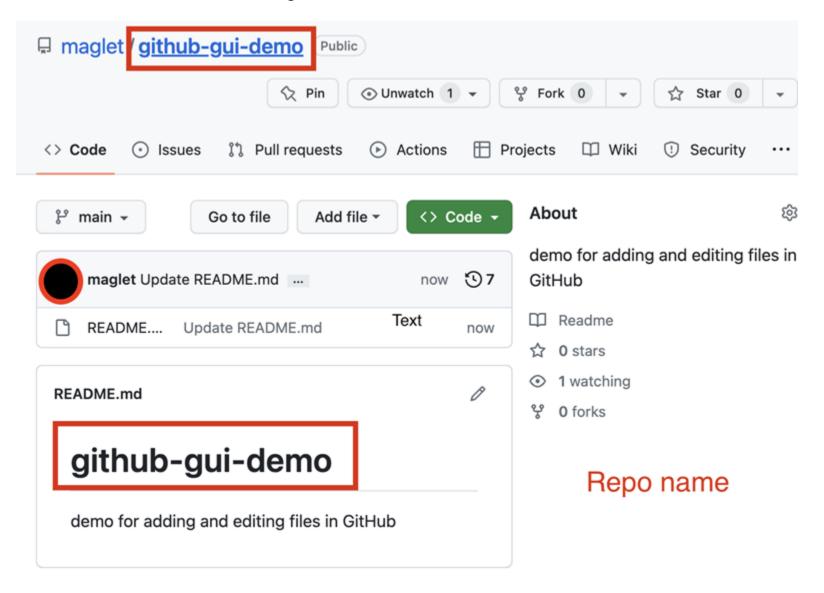
Create a repo



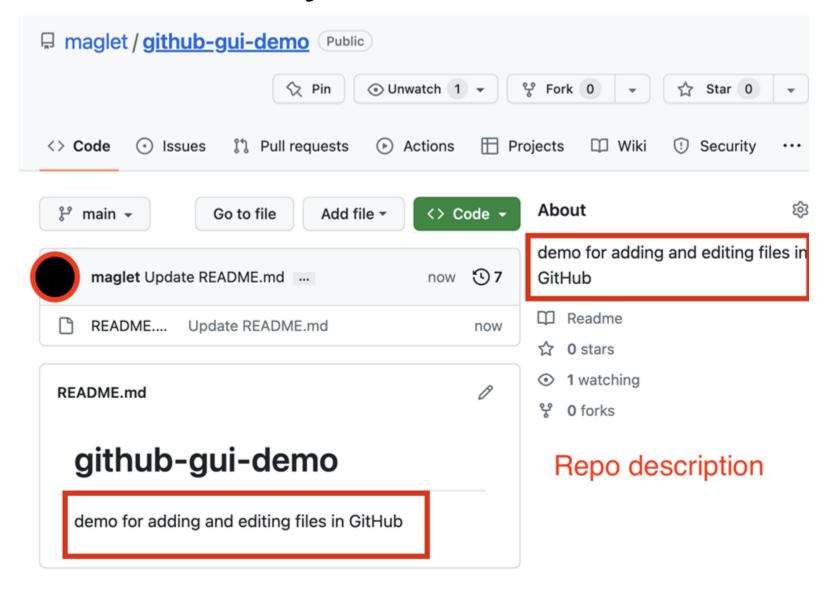
What you should see



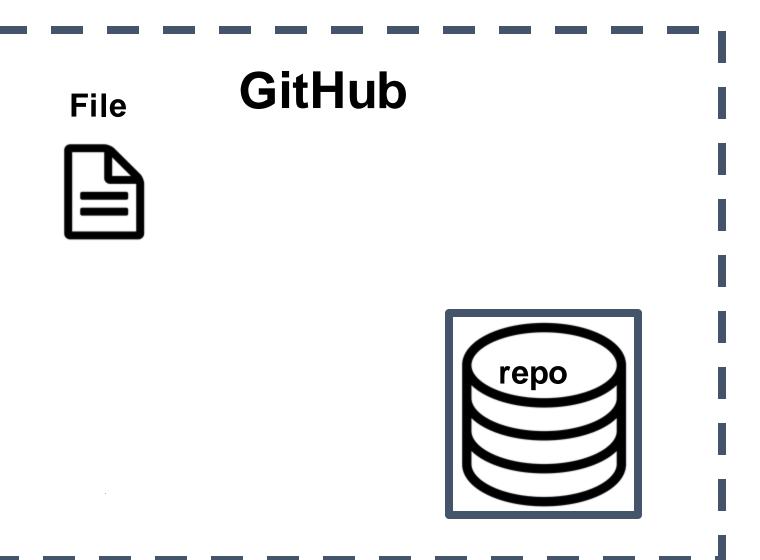
What you should see

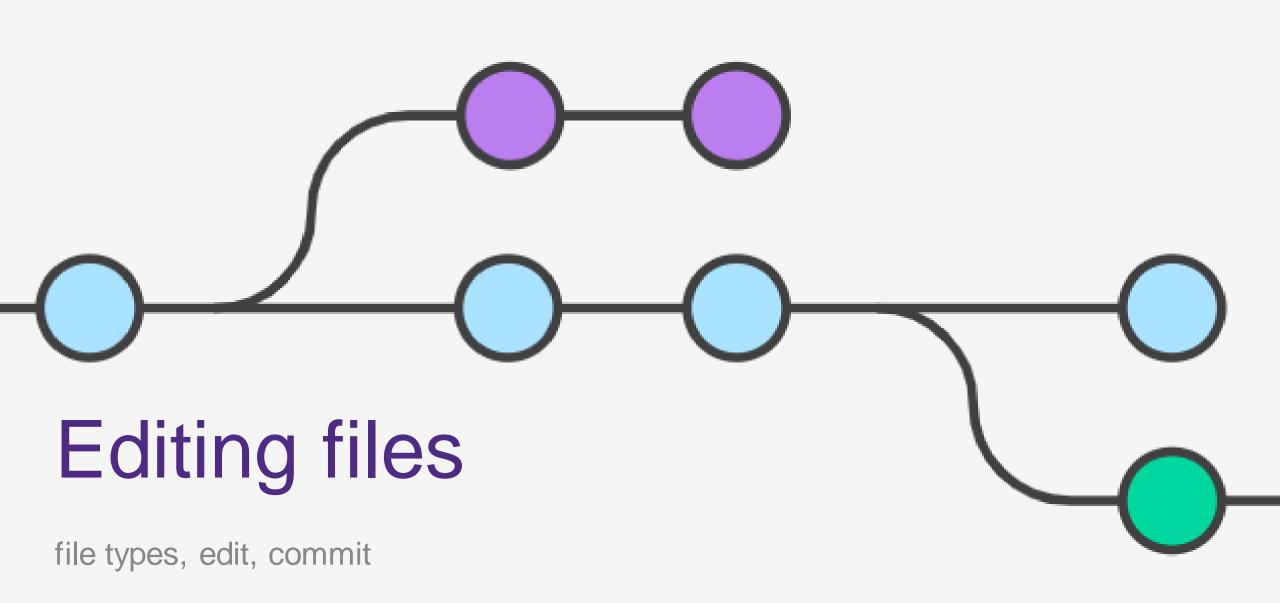


What you should see



What we've done so far





Types of files git works best with

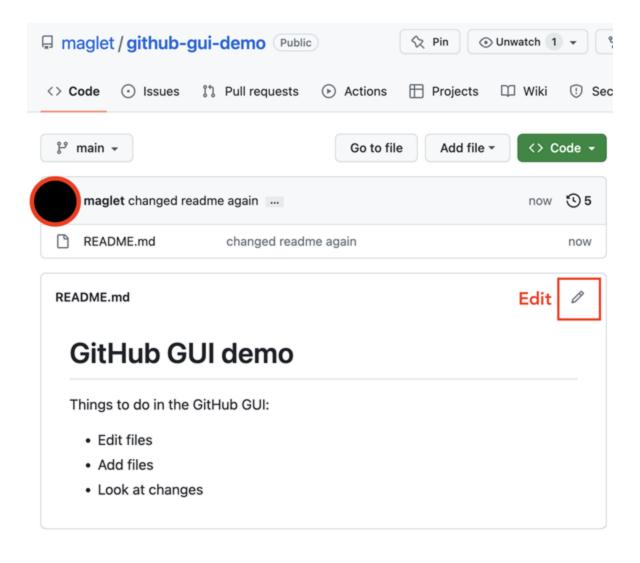
"Good" formats (text based)

- Documents (.txt, .tex, .rtf, .md)
- Tabular Data (.csv)
- Source code (.R, .py, .c, .sh)

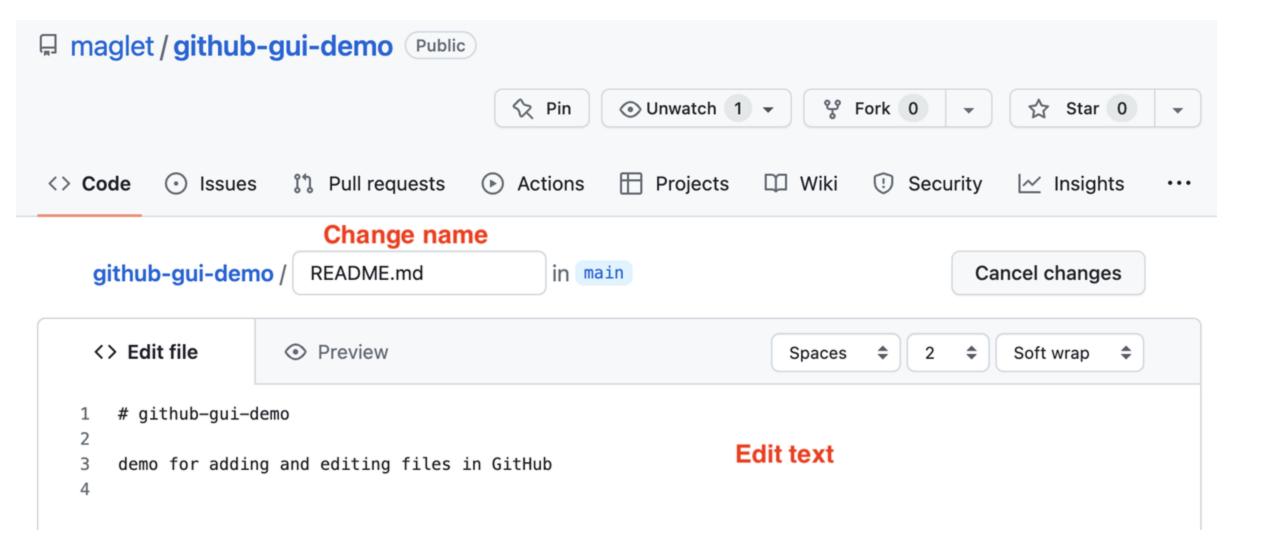
"Bad" formats (binary files)

- Documents (.docx, .pdf, .ppt)
- Excel spreadsheets (.xlsx)
- Media (.jpg, .mp3, .mp4)
- Databases (.mdb, .sqlite)

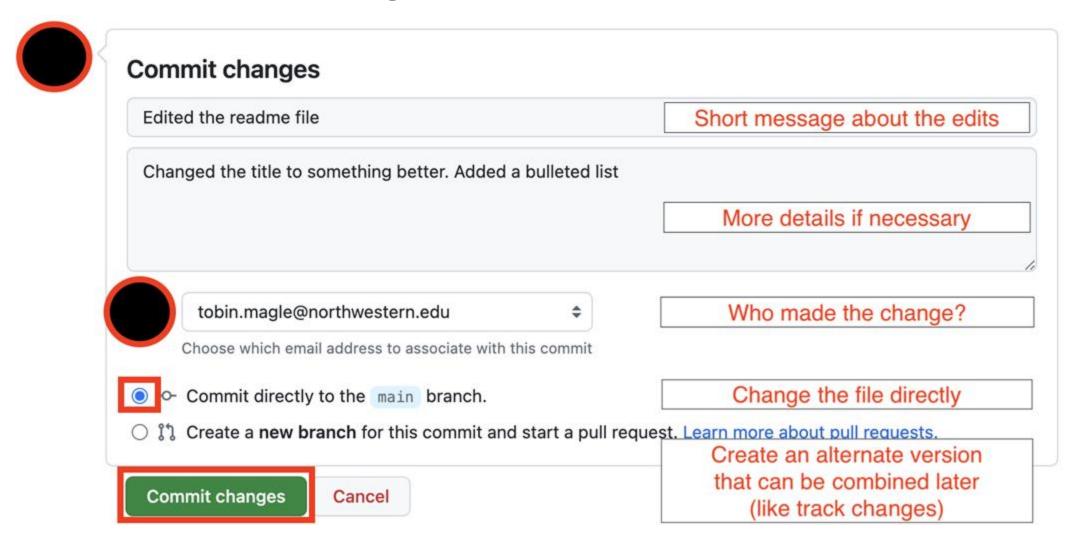
Edit the README file



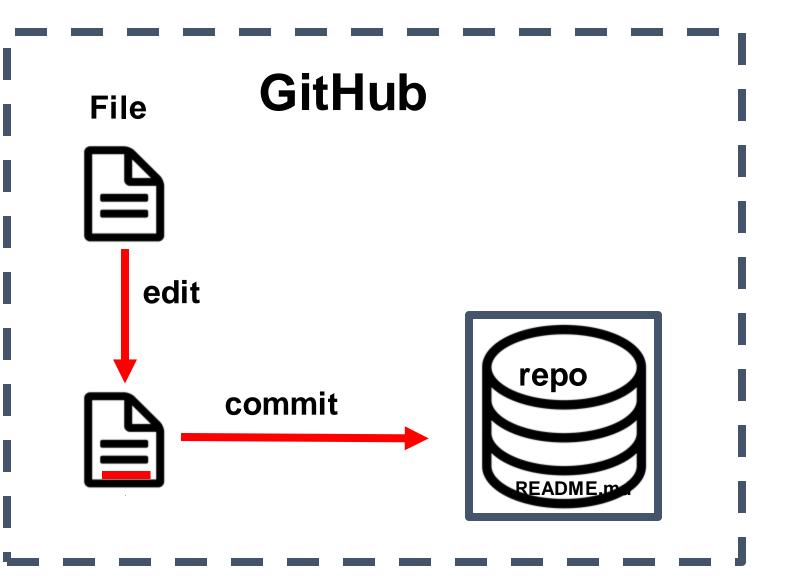
File editor

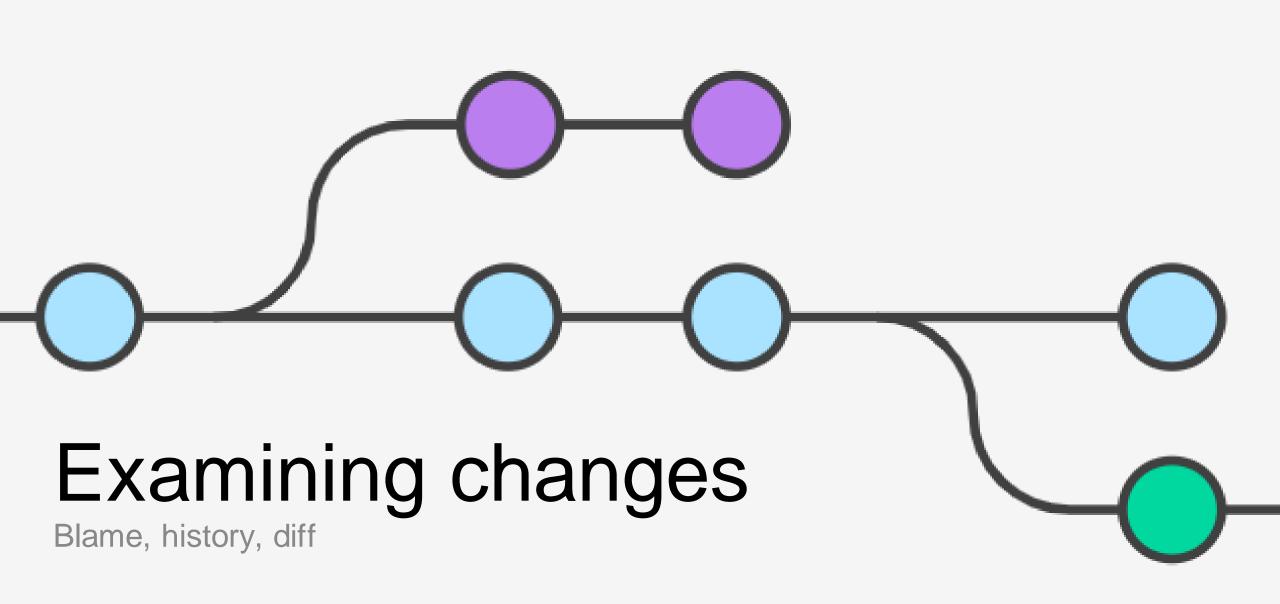


Commit Changes



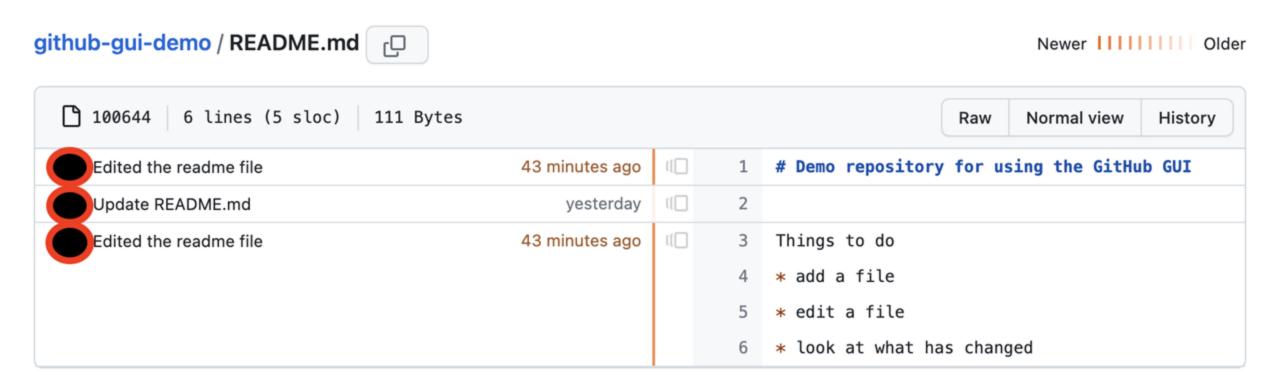
What we've done so far





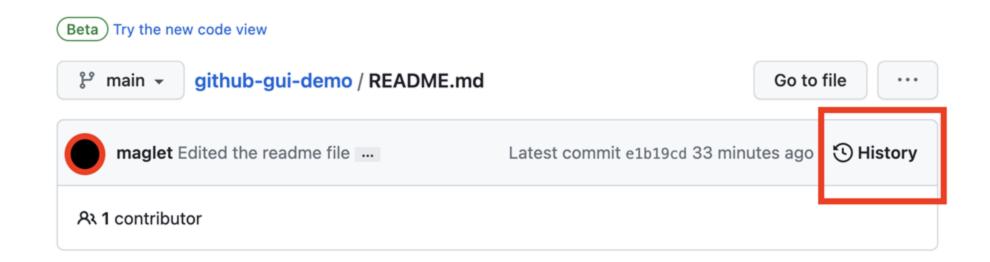
Blame

See when each line of a file was edited last



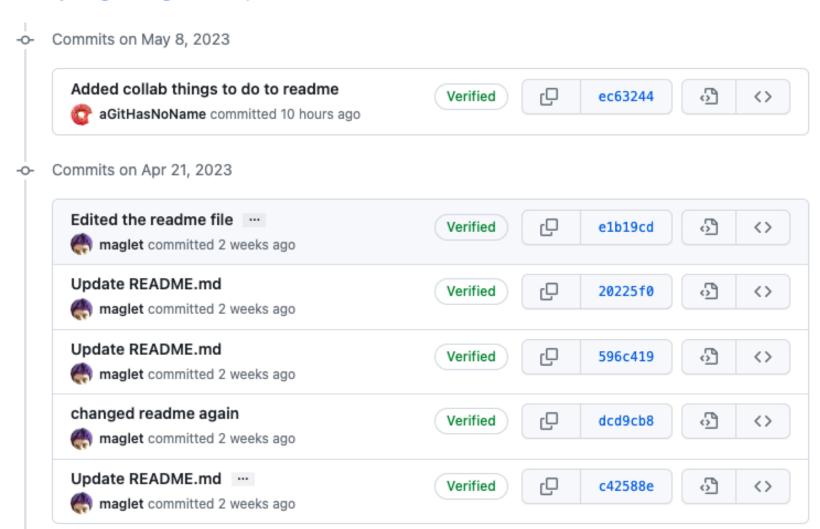
View History

See all commits that have been made



View History

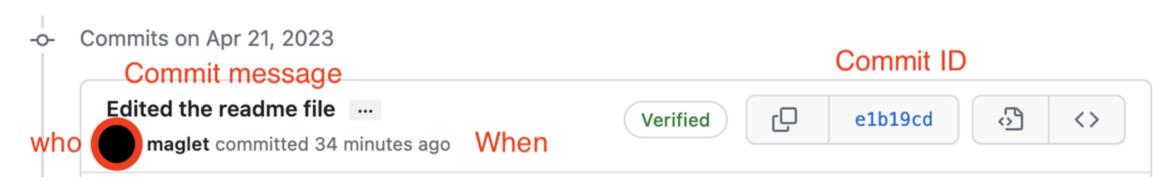
History for github-gui-demo / README.md



View History

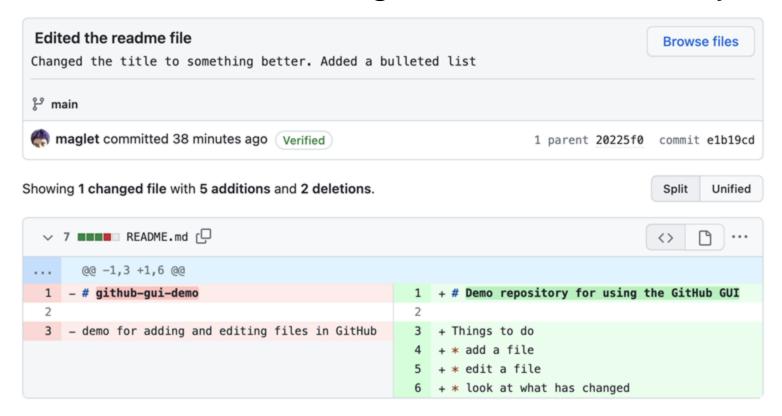
See who made the commit, when, and the commit message

History for github-gui-demo / README.md



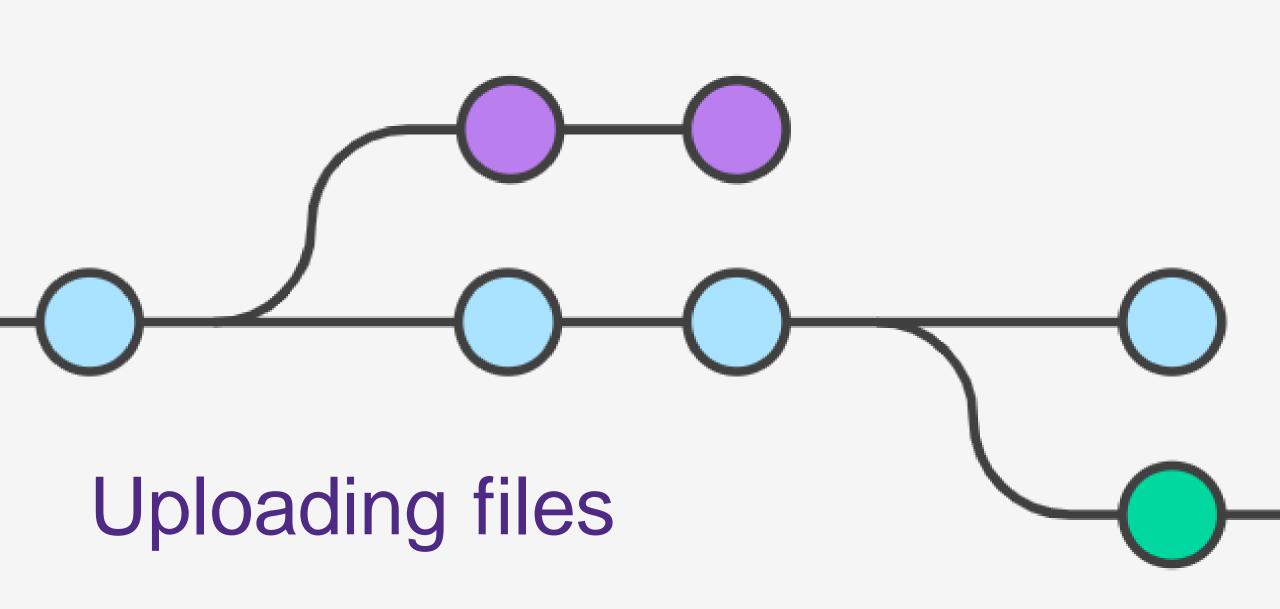
diff

See what changed in the file line by line

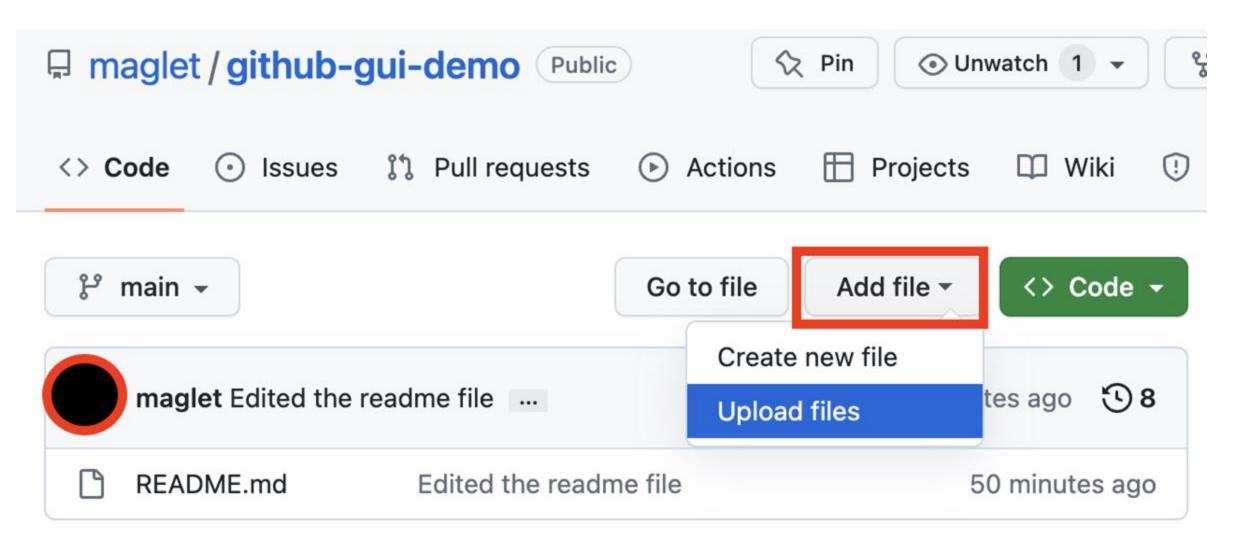


Red = deleted

Green = added



Add a file from your computer



Choose files

github-gui-demo / Drag files here to add them to your repository Or choose your files

Commit



Commit changes

Added an R script

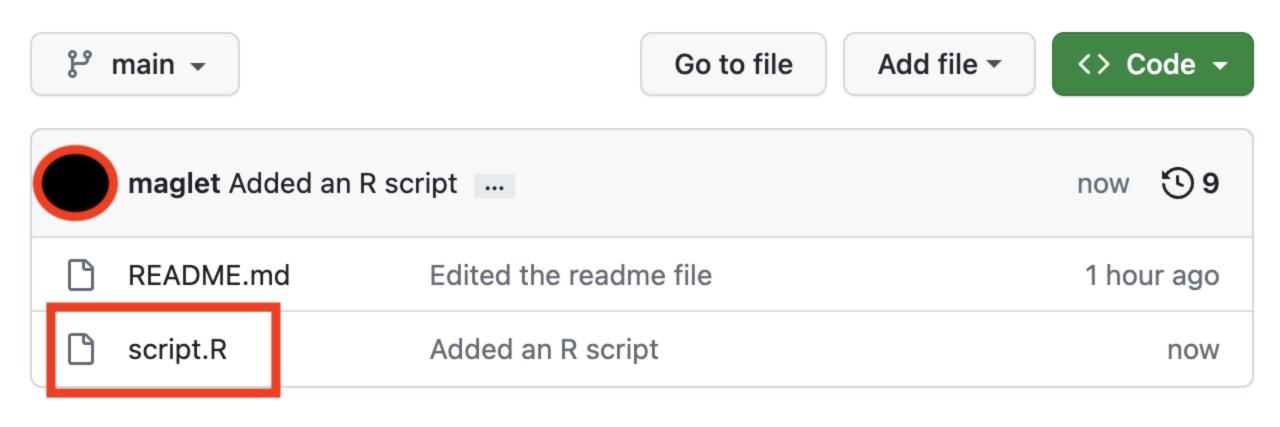
Add an optional extended description...

- O Commit directly to the main branch.
- \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Create a new branch for this commit and start a pull request. Learn more about pull requests.

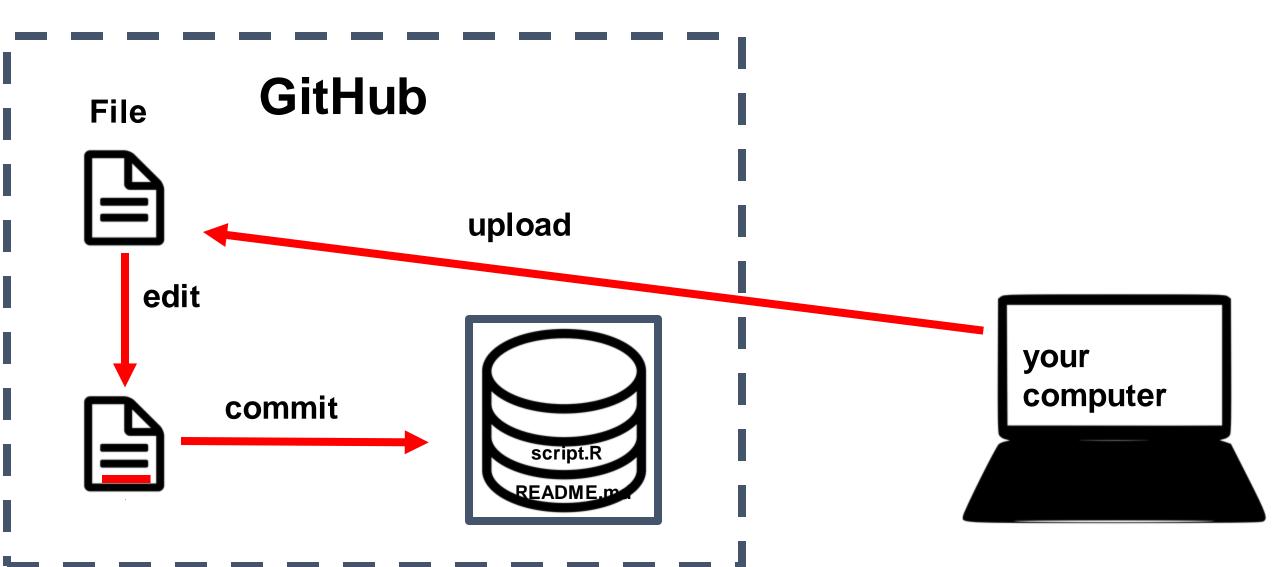
Commit changes

Cancel

File was added

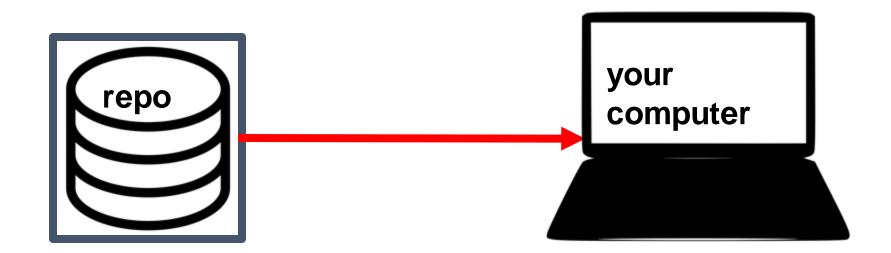


What we've done so far



Running code

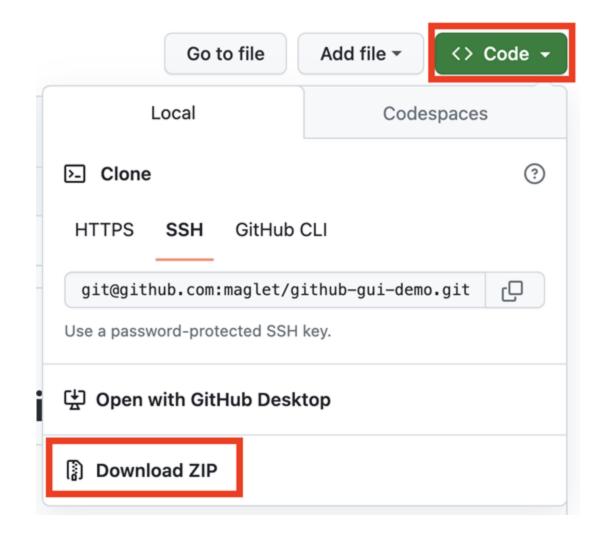
- Copy and paste take the lines of code you need to run locally
- Download download most recent version of files
- Clone downloads the whole repository to do version control on your computer



Download

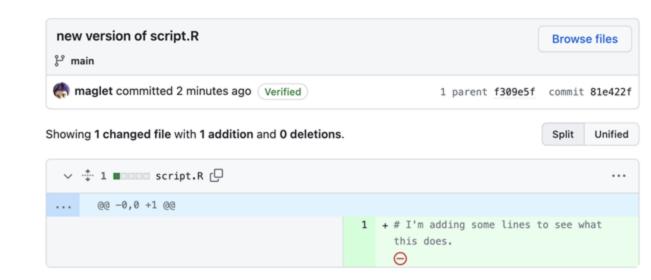
- Click the green code button
- Click download ZIP

- Extract files using a program on your computer
- Open your files

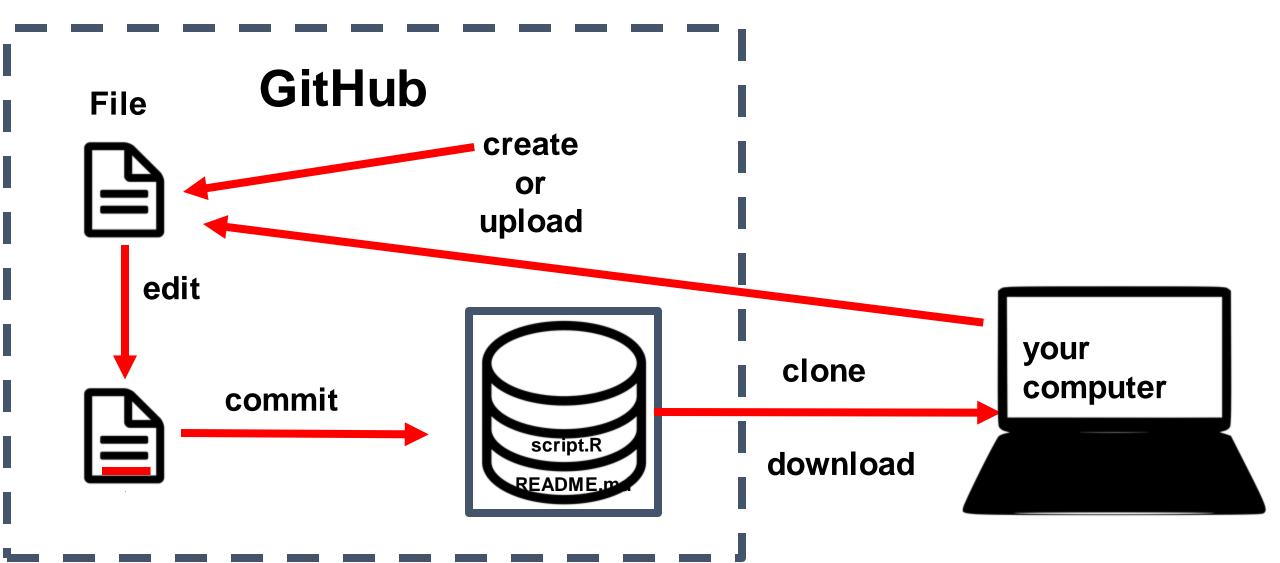


Save changes

- Add file > upload file
- Select the file you changed
- Commit with a message
- File is updated



GitHub workflow overview



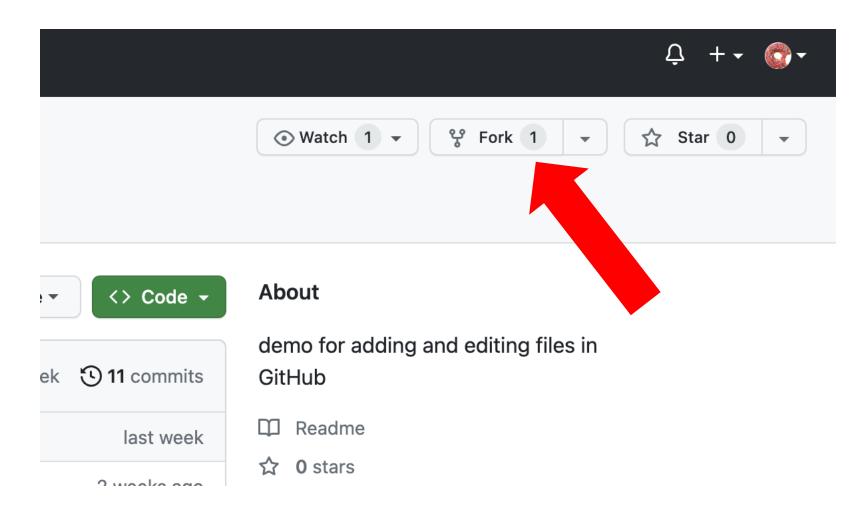


SO MUCH JARGON with Git

STEP ONE: FORK THE REPO

Fork your friend's repo (AKA make a copy of the repo in your own account).

You can now play around with your version without messing up your friend's.



STEP TWO: **OPEN** your version of the repo

Click on your account in the top right corner of your screen. Then click on Your repositories. Choose the forked repo.

Signed in as

Your profile

aGitHasNoName

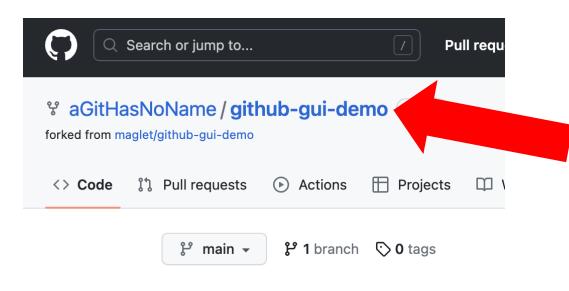
Set status

Your repositories

Your organizations

Your enterprises

Your projects

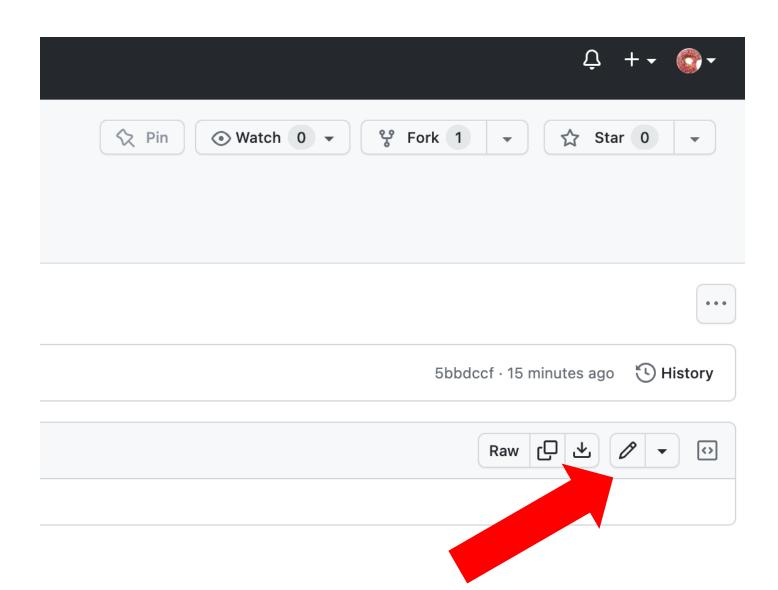


You can see it's your version of the repo in the top left of your screen.

STEP THREE: **EDIT** a file

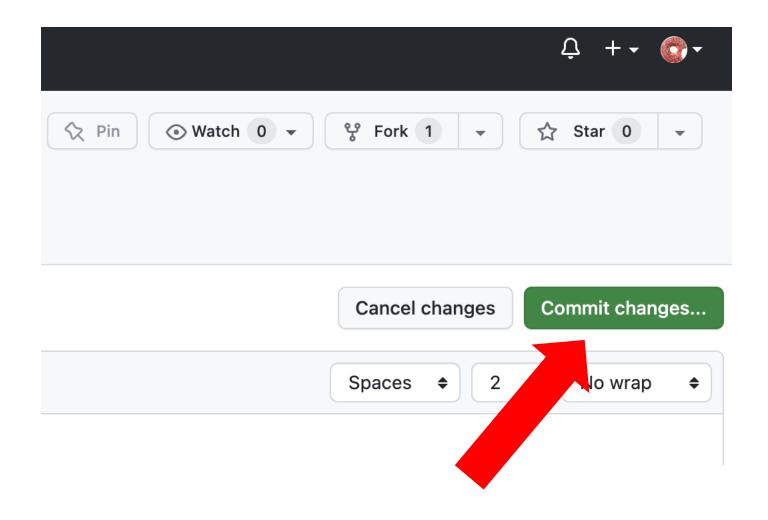
Open a file in the repo. Click on the pencil icon to Edit the file.

You can make direct changes or paste in new code you've been working on.



STEP FOUR (a): **COMMIT** your changes

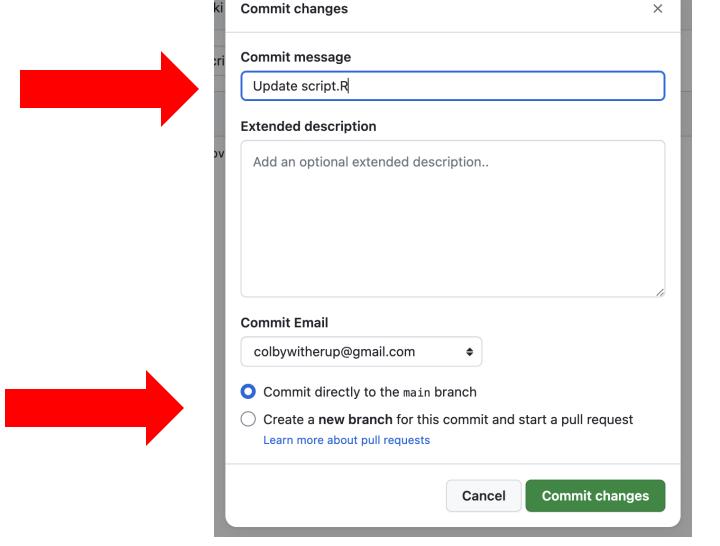
The button will light up once you've made a change to the file.



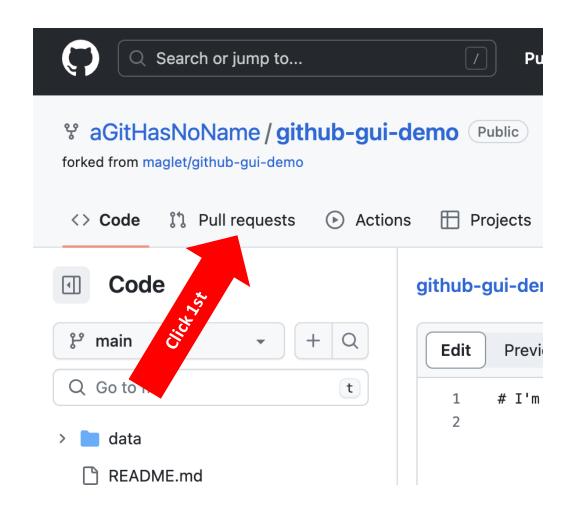
STEP FOUR (b): **COMMIT** your changes

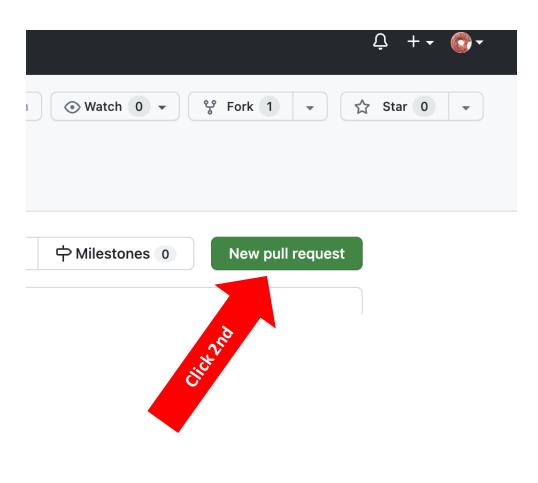
Name your commit.

You can commit directly to the main branch (that's the main branch in YOUR version of the repo). This lets you keep working on this file or on other files too before sending all your changes to your friend.



STEP FIVE (a): Create a PULL request





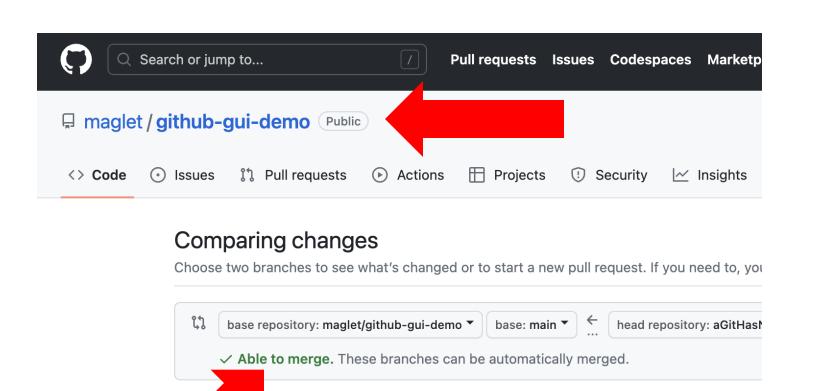
PUSH

- AKA "Create a pull request" when working with someone else's repo
- Make changes (AKA commits) to your version of the repo and ask them to accept those changes into their version of the repo
- Remember, your friend won't lose their previous version if they accept your changes – all versions are saved!

PULL

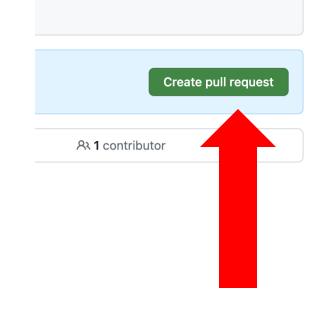
 Like "Accept all changes" in Microsoft Word when you let someone else review and make suggestions to your doc

STEP FIVE (b): Create a **PULL** request



It will now list your friend's version of the repo.

If it says "Able to merge", click the green button.

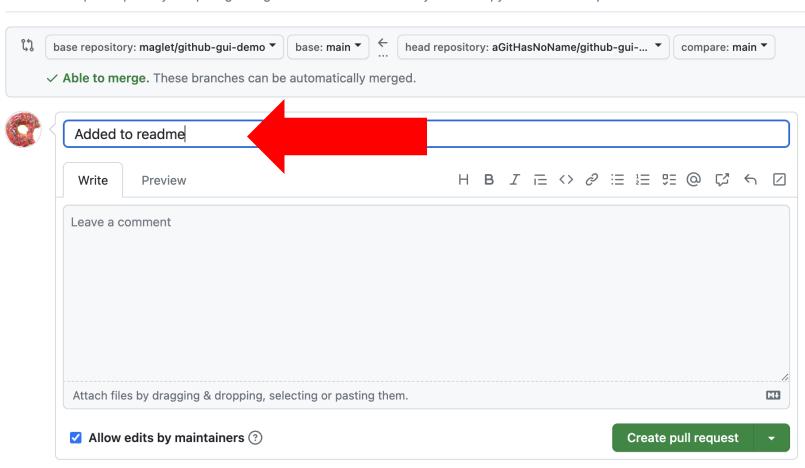


If it doesn't say "Able to merge", that means your friend has made changes since the last time you merged. Jump ahead to Step Five (d) for help.

STEP FIVE (c): Create a PULL request

Open a pull request

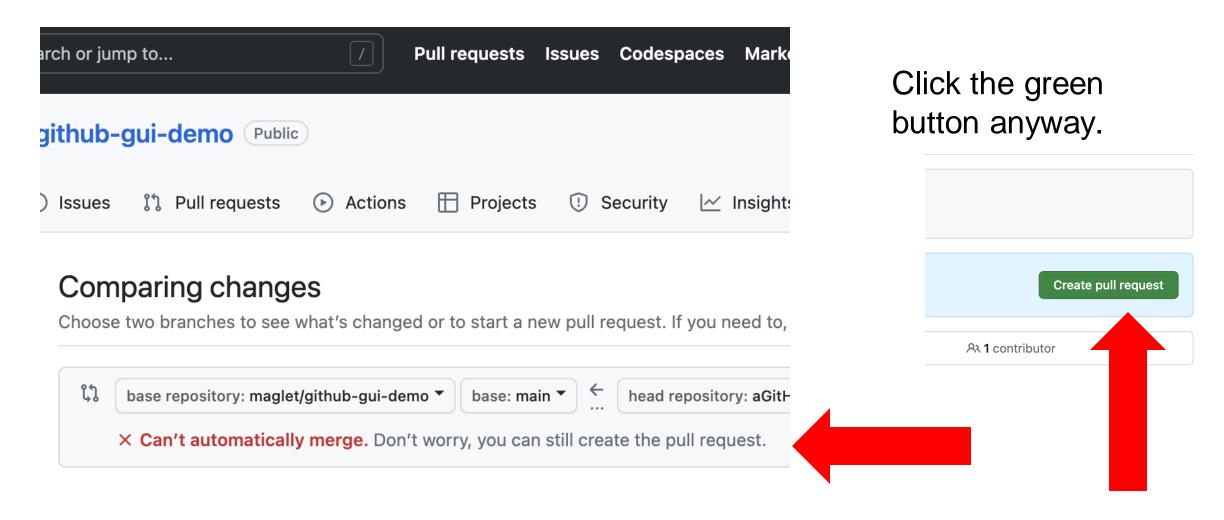
Create a new pull request by comparing changes across two branches. If you need to, you can also compare across forks.



Give the pull request a name. You can also write a comment to your friend.

Click the green button.

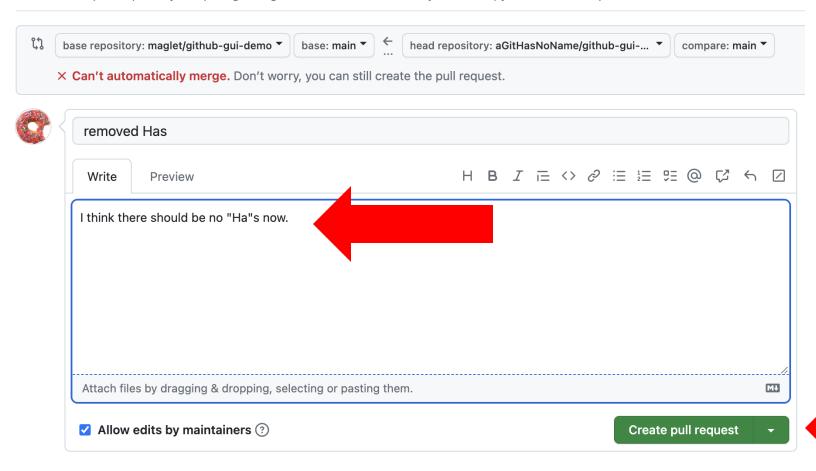
STEP FIVE (d): **HELP!** Can't automatically merge



STEP FIVE (d): **HELP!** Can't automatically merge

Open a pull request

Create a new pull request by comparing changes across two branches. If you need to, you can also compare across forks.



Make your case to your friend about why your changes are waaaay better than their changes.

Click the green button.

STEP FIVE (e): WAIT

Wait for your friend to accept your pull request.

IMPORTANT: If you make any new commits before your friend PULLS, they will go into the same pull request and get pulled along.

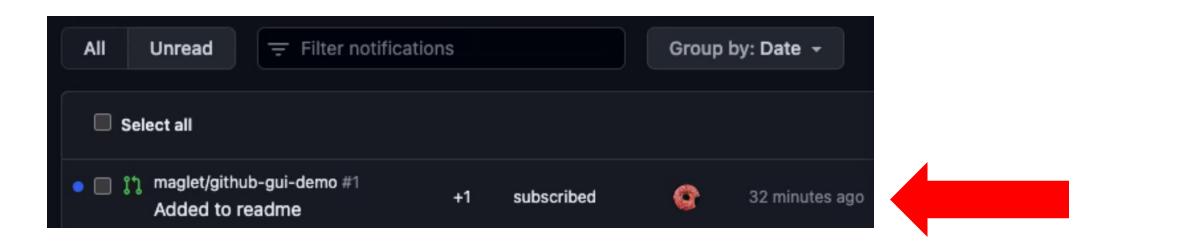
How to accept a pull request

STEP ONE: Open the pull request

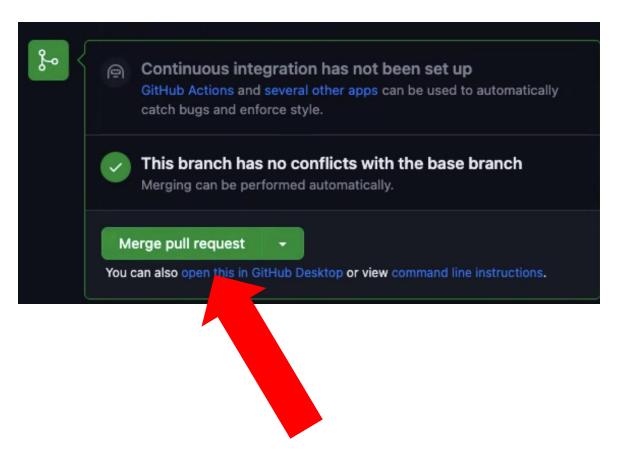
Click on your notifications icon in the top right corner.



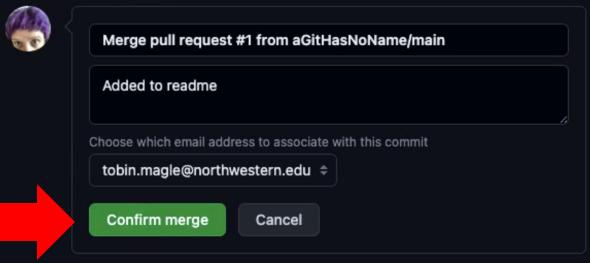
Select the pull request from the menu.



STEP TWO: MERGE your friend's changes into your repo

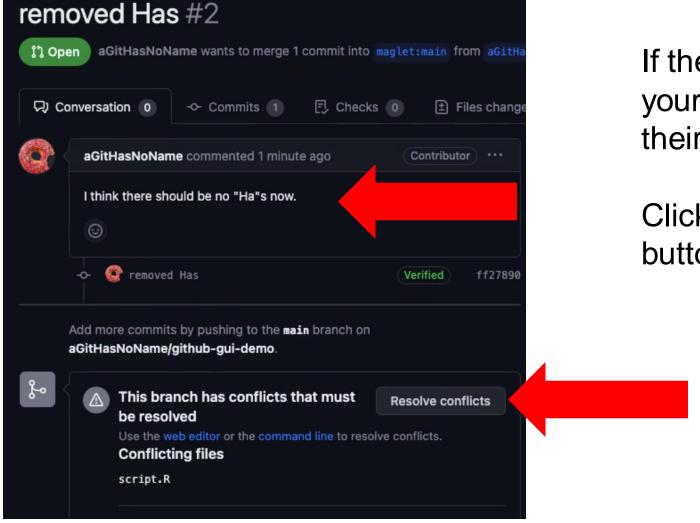


Click on "Merge pull request", then "Confirm merge"



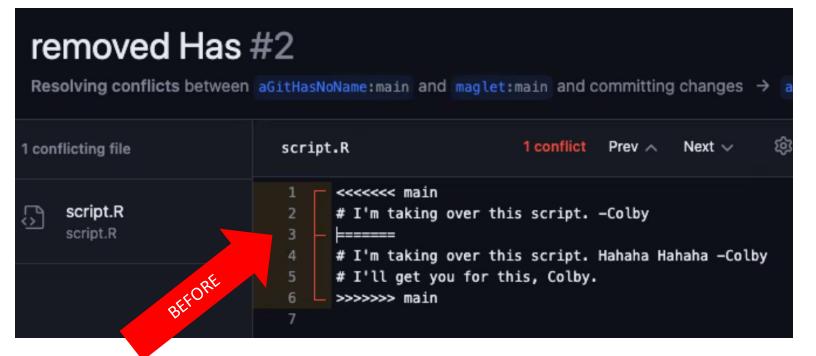
STEP TWO: MERGE your friend's changes into your repo





If there's a conflict, you'll see your friend's explanation of their changes.

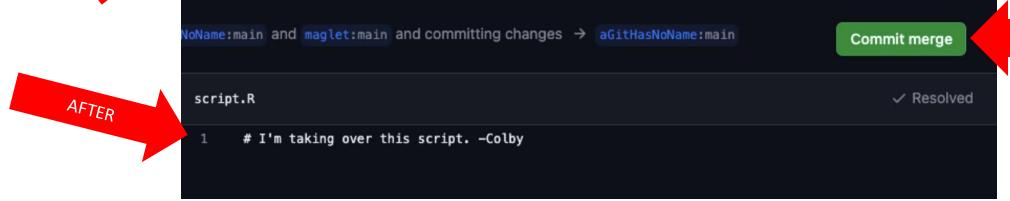
Click the "Resolve conflicts" button. It's a little hidden.

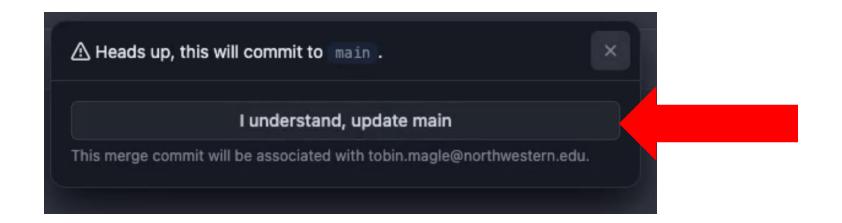


View the conflict.

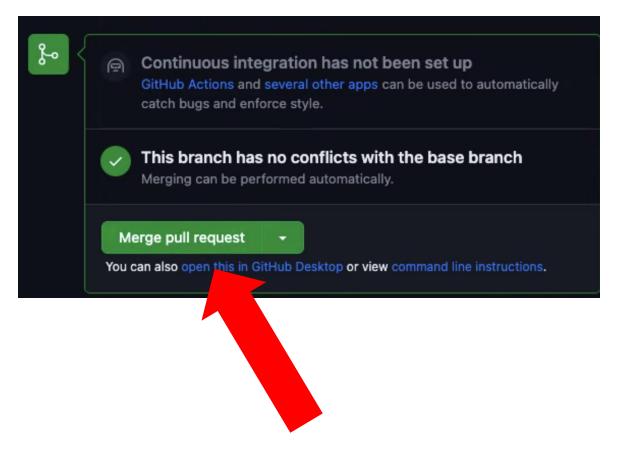
Decide what it should really be and edit it directly in the box.

Once it looks correct, click the green button.

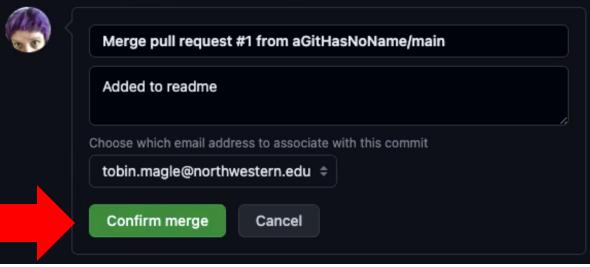




Click the warning box "I understand, update main".



Click on "Merge pull request", then "Confirm merge"



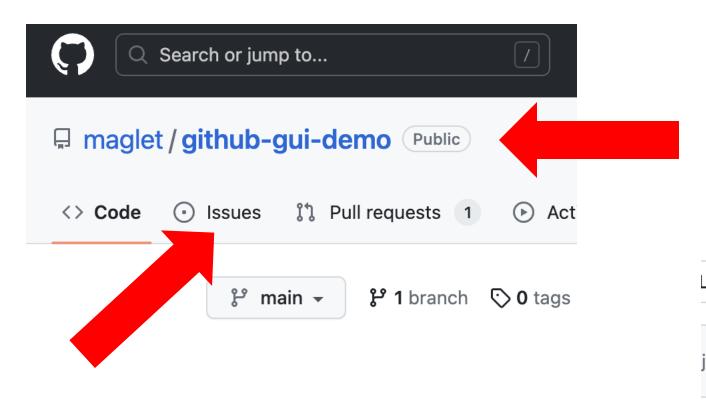


OPEN AN ISSUE

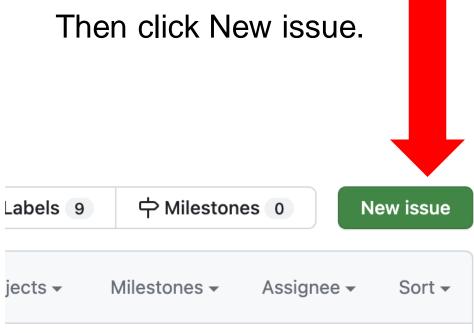
Issues are a great way to

- track what still needs to be done on a project
- report bugs that need to get fixed
- have discussions about the what, why, how, and who of your code and documentation

OPEN AN ISSUE

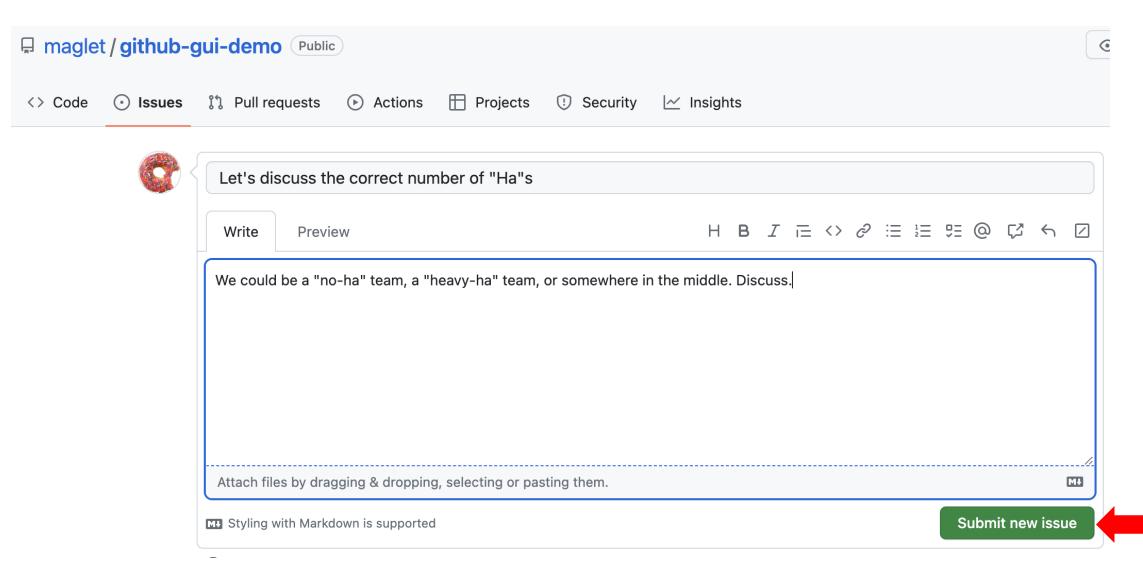


On your friend's repo, click Issues.



OPEN AN ISSUE

Submitting an issue will start a discussion thread.





git from the command line

You can also do your commits, pushes, and pulls from the command line (using git commands instead of point-and-click).

You will need a Linux or bash terminal. Mac computers come with a Linux terminal, but PC users will need to install one. We recommend WSL2 or git-bash.

git from the command line

Suggestions for learning git:

- We will teach git this summer in person.
 - June 23rd session for REU students we will likely have a couple open spots for this class; email colby.witherup@northwestern.edu if you are interested.
 - We will teach a larger class at some point, but date is TBA. Subscribe to the Research Computing Services listserv to get the most up-to-date workshop announcements.
- Follow a self-guided tutorial online. We recommend https://carpentries-incubator.github.io/git-novice-branch-pr/