

Getting Started with Claude Code Using GitHub Codespaces

Welcome! This guide will walk you through everything you need to start using GitHub, Codespaces, and Claude Code—even if you've never used any of these tools before.

What You'll Need Before Starting

- A computer with internet access
- An email address
- About 30 minutes of your time
- A Claude account

Part 1: Creating Your GitHub Account

Step 1: Go to GitHub's Website

1. Open your web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Edge)
2. Type github.com into the address bar and press Enter
3. You'll see GitHub's homepage

Step 2: Sign Up for an Account

1. Click the "**Sign up**" button in the top-right corner
2. Enter your email address and click "**Continue**"
3. Create a password (make it strong - use letters, numbers, and symbols)
4. Choose a username (this will be your identity on GitHub)
5. Complete any verification puzzles GitHub shows you
6. Check your email for a verification code from GitHub
7. Enter the verification code on the GitHub page

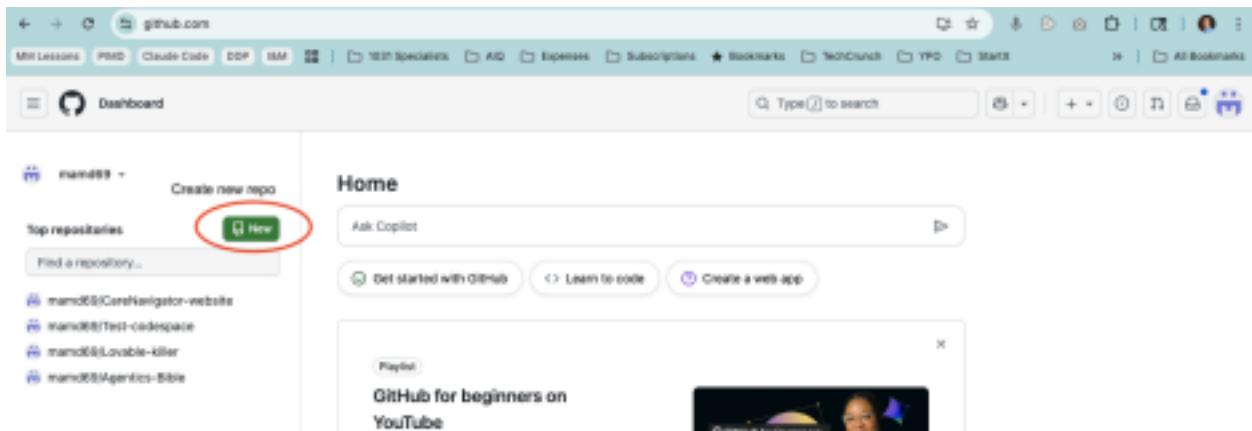
Congratulations! You now have a GitHub account.

Part 2: Creating Your First Repository

A repository (or "repo") is like a project folder that stores your code and files.

Step 1: Create a New Repository

1. After logging in, click the green "New" button (or the "+" icon in the top-right corner)
2. Select "New repository"



Step 2: Set Up Your Repository

1. **Repository name:** Type a name for your project (example: `my-first-project`)

2. **Description** (optional): Add a brief description like "My first GitHub project"

Visibility:

- Choose "**Public**" if you want others to be able to copy it
- Choose "**Private**" if you want to choose who can use

4. **Add README:** Check the box to On

5. Click the green "**Create repository**" button at the bottom

Great job! You've created your first repository.

Part 3: Opening a GitHub Codespace

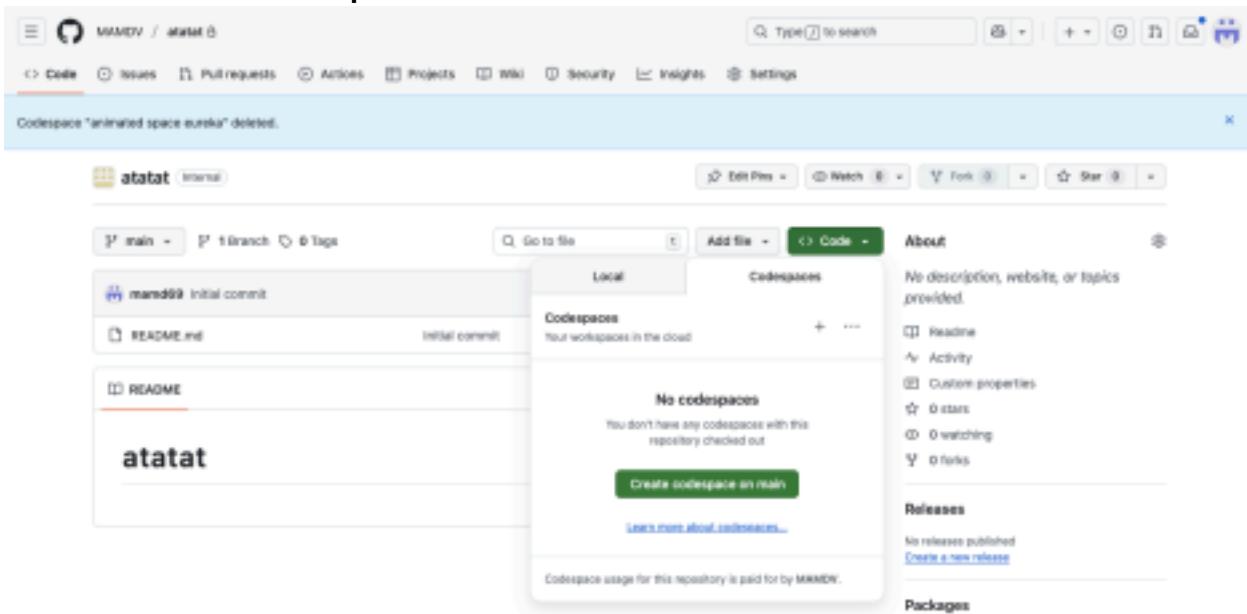
GitHub Codespaces gives you a complete development environment in your browser—no software installation needed (yet)!

Step 1: Open Codespaces from Your Repository

Option A: Create a Codespace using VS Studio in the Web

1. You should now be on your repository's main page

2. Click the **green "Code"** button
3. Click the "**Codespaces**" tab
4. Click "**Create codespace on main**"



Option B: Create a Codespace using VS Studio Desktop (preferred option if already installed)

1. In VS Code Desktop, open a New Window
2. Click Start → Connect to...
3. Choose "Connect New Codespace"
4. Choose the Repo you just created (you can select the 2 core option)

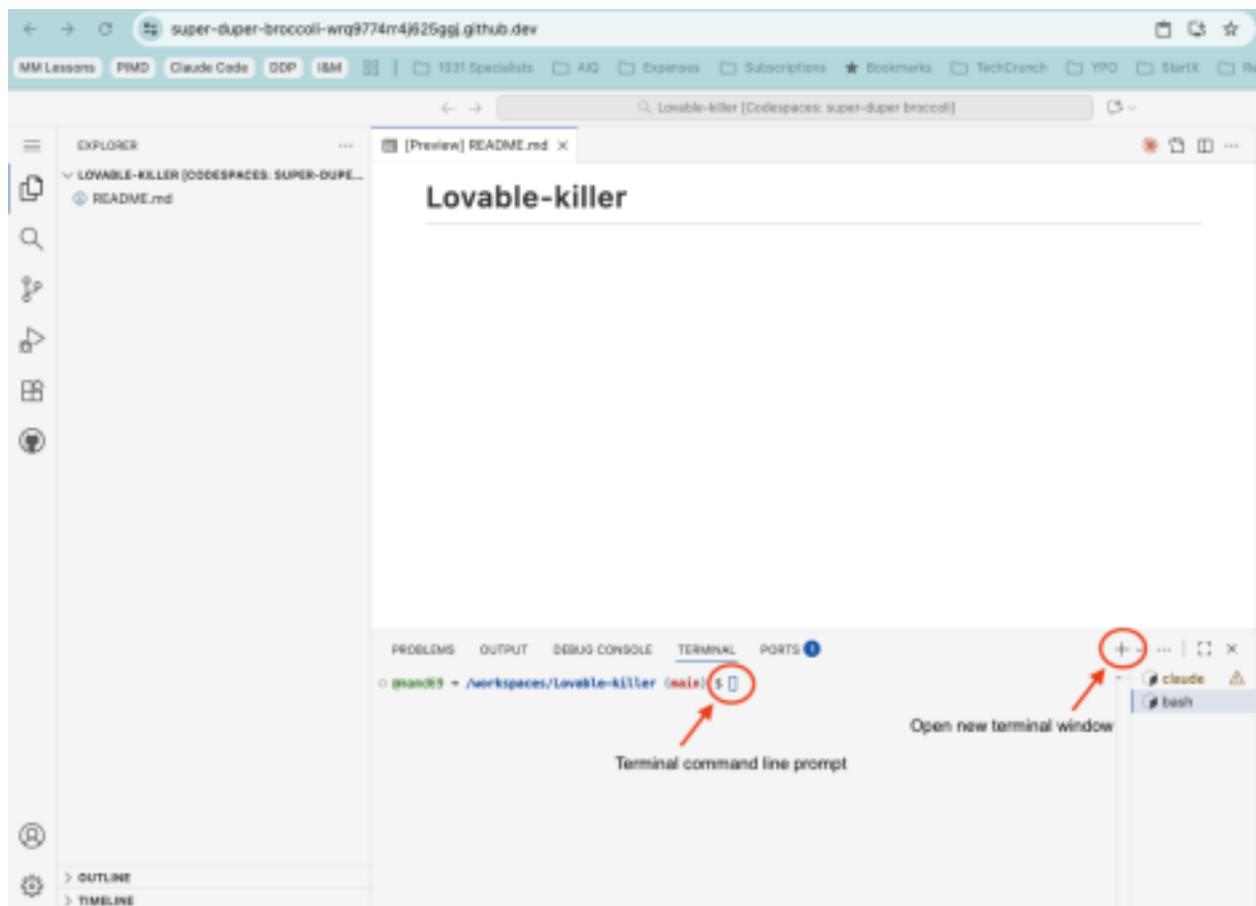
Step 2: Wait for Your Codespace to Start

- GitHub will take 1-2 minutes to set up your coding environment
- You'll see a loading screen with progress messages
- When it's ready, you'll see a code editor that looks like Visual Studio Code

Step 3: Familiarize Yourself with the Codespace

Your Codespace has three main areas:

- **Left sidebar:** File explorer where you can see your files
- **Center area:** Code editor where you write code
- **Bottom panel:** Terminal where you type commands



Important: Keep this window open—we'll use it in the next steps!

Part 4: Installing Claude Code

Claude Code is an AI-powered coding assistant that runs in your terminal.

Step 1: Open the Terminal in Your Codespace

1. In your Codespace, look at the bottom panel
2. You should see a tab called "**Terminal**"
3. If you don't see a terminal, press `Ctrl + `` (backtick key, usually below the Esc key)

Step 2: Install Claude Code

Now, let's install Claude Code globally. Copy and paste this command into your terminal window command line prompt:

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

What this does: This command installs Claude Code so you can use it from anywhere in your terminal.

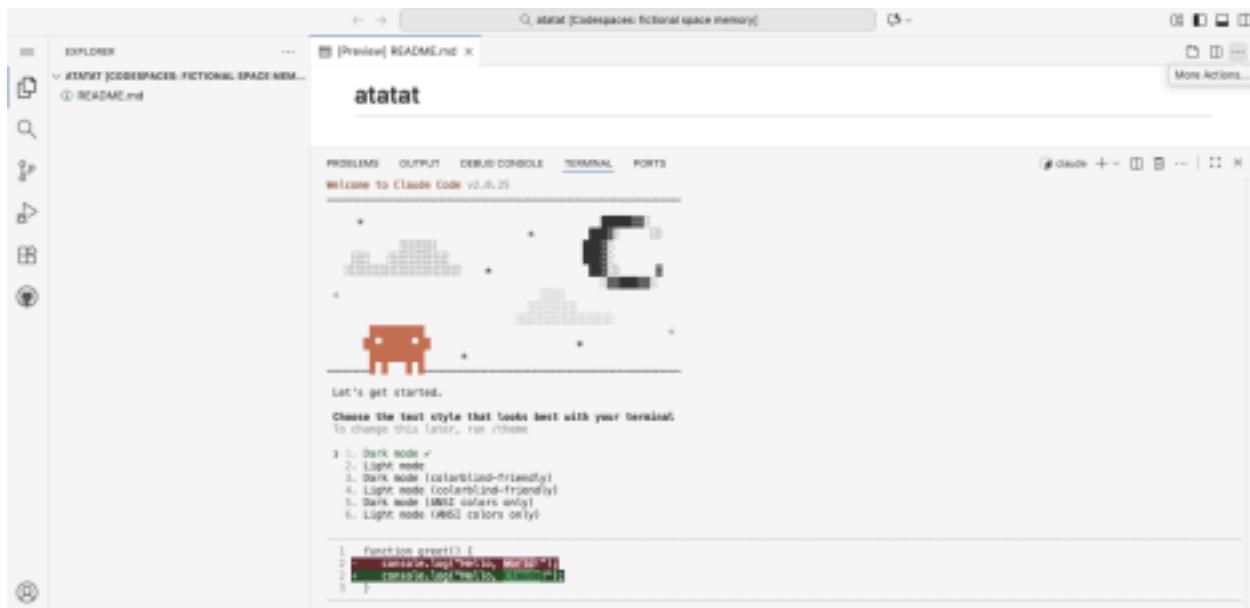
Wait for the installation to complete (it may take 1-2 minutes).

Step 3: Run Claude Code

Enter this command:

claude

You should see something similar to this window. Enter either “1” for dark mode or “2” for light mode.



Step 4: Authenticate Claude Code

Before you can use Claude Code, you need to connect it to your Anthropic account:

1. Enter either:

- “1” if you have a Claude Max account, or
- “2” if you have a \$20/mo account and have enabled API billing

2. You'll see a message like "Please visit this URL to authenticate..." Click the URL (or copy and paste it into a new browser tab)

3. You'll be taken to the Anthropic website. Click Authorize. (If you do not yet have a Claude account, see step 5 below).

NOTE: You will likely see an error the first time you hit Authorize, which is a known bug. Go back to your tab with the Github Codespace, click the link while holding down the Cmd key (Mac) or Ctrl key (Windows). Then click Authorize again.

NOTE: Make sure to log into the Claude account where you have billing enabled...see account info at bottom of authorization page

4. Paste the key provided by Claude into Claude Code (in the Github Codespace tab)

5. (if you do not have a Claude account) Setup a Claude account, including either:

a. Pro account (\$20/mo) plus API billing account (setup at <https://platform.claude.com/settings/billing>), or

b. Max account (\$100/mo or \$200/mo)

NOTE: We recommend starting with (a), unless you know you will be a daily user of claude code/flow, in which case we recommend Claude Max \$200/mo (as you'll blow through \$200/mo in API usage)

Part 5: Creating Helpful Shortcuts

Before we install Claude Flow, let's create some useful shortcuts that will make working with Claude Flow much easier. .

Step 1: Create Claude Code Aliases to skip permissions

We'll create two helpful aliases:

- `dsp` - A shortcut for running Claude Code without permission prompts
- `dsp-c` - A shortcut for running Claude Code in "continue" mode without permission prompts

Copy and paste these commands into Claude Code:

```
create a bashrc alias for dsp "claude
--dangerously-skip-permissions" and dsp-c "claude
--dangerously-skip-permissions -c"
```

What this does: This tells Claude Code to execute commands without asking for your permission each time. This is essential for smooth operation, especially when working on larger projects.

Important: This flag is called "dangerously" because it allows Claude to run commands without confirmation. Only use this in environments you trust (like your own Codespace) and when working on projects where you're comfortable with Claude making changes.

Step 3: Exit Claude Code, Close this Terminal Window and Open a New Terminal Window **This is important!** To ensure all your settings are properly loaded:

1. In Claude Code, enter: exit
2. Look at the top of the terminal panel
3. Click the "X" icon to close the current terminal window
4. Click the "+" icon to open a new terminal tab

Why this matters: Opening a new terminal ensures that your aliases and all configurations are properly loaded and ready to use.

Step 5: Test Your Aliases

Try your new shortcuts in the **new terminal**:

```
dsp
```

The first time you run dsp, it will require your approval.

❖❖ Success! What's Next?

Congratulations! You've successfully:

- ✓ Created a GitHub account
- ✓ Created your first repository
- ✓ Opened a GitHub Codespace
- ✓ Installed Claude Code
- ✓ Created helpful bash aliases (dsp and dsp-c)

What Can You Do Now?

1. **Explore Claude Code:** type /help to learn more about Claude Code
2. **Start a coding project:** Ask Claude Code to help you build something
3. **Explore a repo:**
 - a. Open a new repo
 - b. Type /init to have Claude Code explore the repo and create a new [claude.md](#) file (a master project prompt)
 - c. Read the [claude.md](#) file
 - d. Ask Claude Code to explain what the project is and offer ideas to enhance

Getting Help

- **Claude Code documentation:** <https://docs.claude.com/en/docs/claude-code>
- **GitHub Help:** <https://docs.github.com>

Troubleshooting Common Issues

"npm: command not found"

Solution: Node.js isn't installed properly. Run:

Shell

```
curl -fsSL https://deb.nodesource.com/setup_lts.x | sudo -E bash -  
sudo apt-get install -y nodejs
```

"Permission denied" errors

Solution: Don't use `sudo` with npm. If you have permission issues, configure npm properly:

Shell

```
mkdir ~/.npm-global  
npm config set prefix '~/.npm-global'  
echo 'export PATH=~/npm-global/bin:$PATH' >> ~/.bashrc  
source ~/.bashrc
```

Claude Code authentication fails

Solution:

1. Make sure you have an active billing account at console.anthropic.com
2. Try running `claudie` again and follow the authentication flow
3. Check that you've approved the OAuth permissions

Claude Flow "SQLite" errors (if using Windows)

Solution: Use the automatic fallback mode:

Shell

```
npx -y claude-flow@alpha init
```

❖❖ Pro Tips

1. **Save your work frequently:** Click File > Save or press `Ctrl + S`. Even, better turn on Auto Save under File > Auto Save (Auto Save is on by default in VS Code Web)
2. **Use the terminal wisely:** You can open multiple terminal tabs if needed
4. **Commit and Push your changes:** Use Git and GitHub commands to save versions of your work
5. **Read error messages:** They often tell you exactly what's wrong

You're now ready to start building with AI-powered development tools!

Happy coding! ☕☕