

# GitHub Key Terms

Here are some of the most important terms you'll encounter when working with Git and GitHub.

- **Repository (or "Repo"):** The central place where a project lives. It's a folder that contains all of your project's files, including all of the past versions of those files.
- **Version Control:** The practice of tracking and managing changes to software code. Git is a tool for version control.
- **Git:** A free and open-source system for tracking changes in computer files and coordinating work on those files among multiple people.
- **GitHub:** A web-based platform that uses Git for version control. It's a social network for developers and allows for easy collaboration on projects.
- **Fork:** A copy of a repository that lives on the GitHub server, in your personal account. It allows you to make changes to a project without affecting the original.
- **Clone:** A copy of a repository that you download to your local computer. This is your working version of the project. You make changes to this local copy.
- **Commit:** A "snapshot" of your changes at a specific point in time. It's a way of saying, "I'm finished with this set of changes, save it." Every commit has a message that describes the changes.
- **Push:** The act of sending your committed changes from your local computer (your clone) to your remote repository on GitHub.
- **Pull:** The act of downloading the latest changes from a remote repository to your local computer. This keeps your local copy up to date.
- **Branch:** An independent line of development within a repository. The `main` branch is the primary one, and developers often create new branches to work on features or fixes without affecting the main codebase.
- **Pull Request (PR):** A request to merge your changes from your branch (or a forked repository) into another repository's branch. This is the standard way to propose a change to a project and allows others to review your code.
- **Merge:** The process of combining changes from one branch into another.