

# Initialize a Local Repository: `git init`

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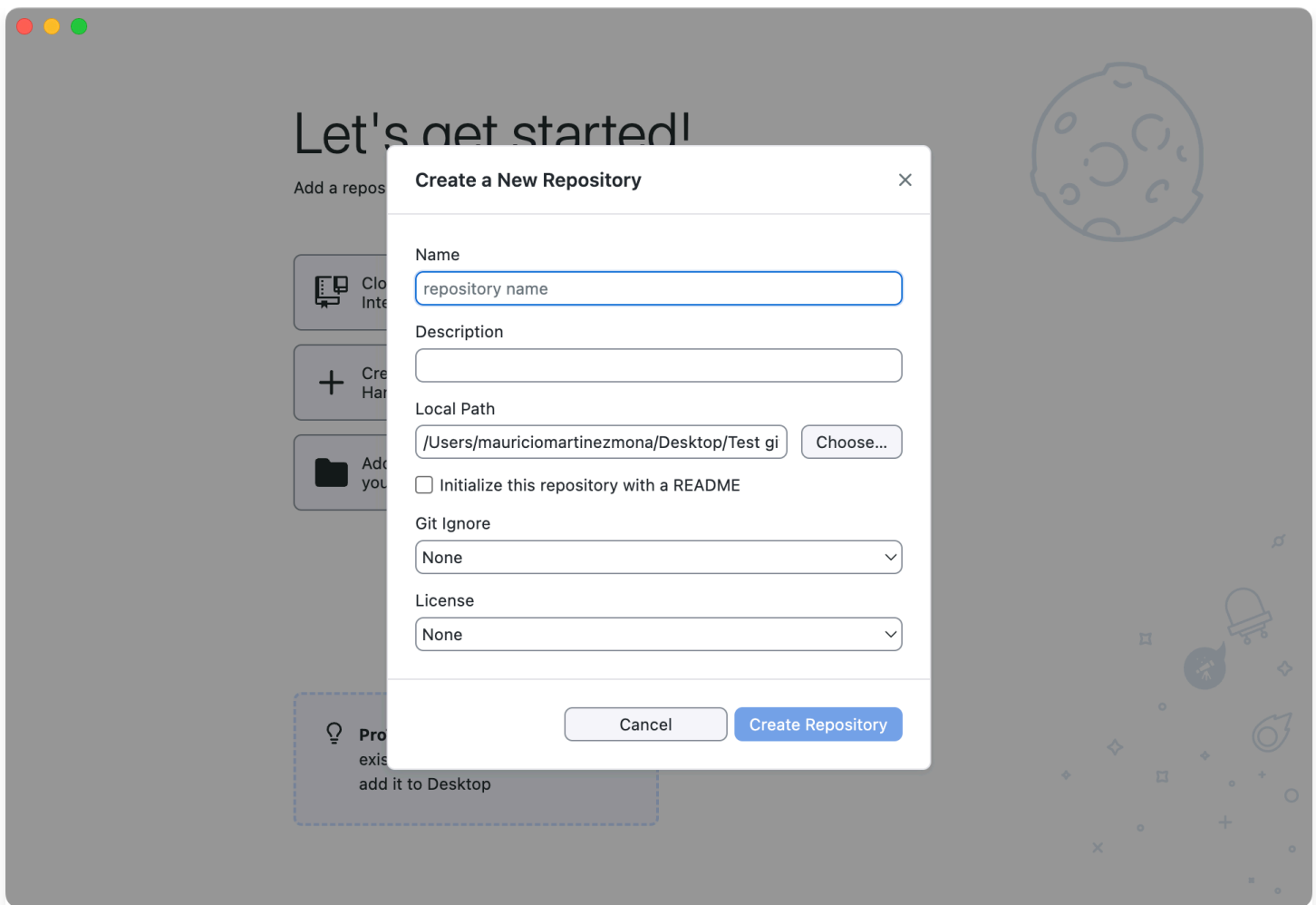
Initializing the project in Git means telling the software: **this is the folder to create different versions of**. When you do this, the folder looks unchanged, but behind the scenes, Git prepares the project for upcoming work.

You can go to <https://desktop.github.com/> <sup>↗</sup> to install GitHub Desktop, or you can download here the version that corresponds to your operating system:

- [Windows](#) <sup>↗</sup>
- [macOS Intel-based machines](#) <sup>↗</sup>
- [Apple silicon Mac](#) <sup>↗</sup>

Once you install GitHub Desktop, initialize a local repository. Think of a repository as the path (the folder) where all the files in a project should be. To initialize a repository in GitHub Desktop:

1. Open GitHub Desktop.
  - Create a GitHub account if you want, but it is not necessary for now as you will only be working with local files.
2. Click on:  
**Create a New Repository on your Hard Drive**
3. Choose a **Name** and a **Description**.
4. Define your **Local Path**.
5. You can choose to start the folder with a README file where you can store the name and description of the project. This is a good idea for every project, a developer starting to work on your project will appreciate the added information there (this developer will include future you).
6. For now, you can leave the **Git Ignore** and **License** options as **None**.

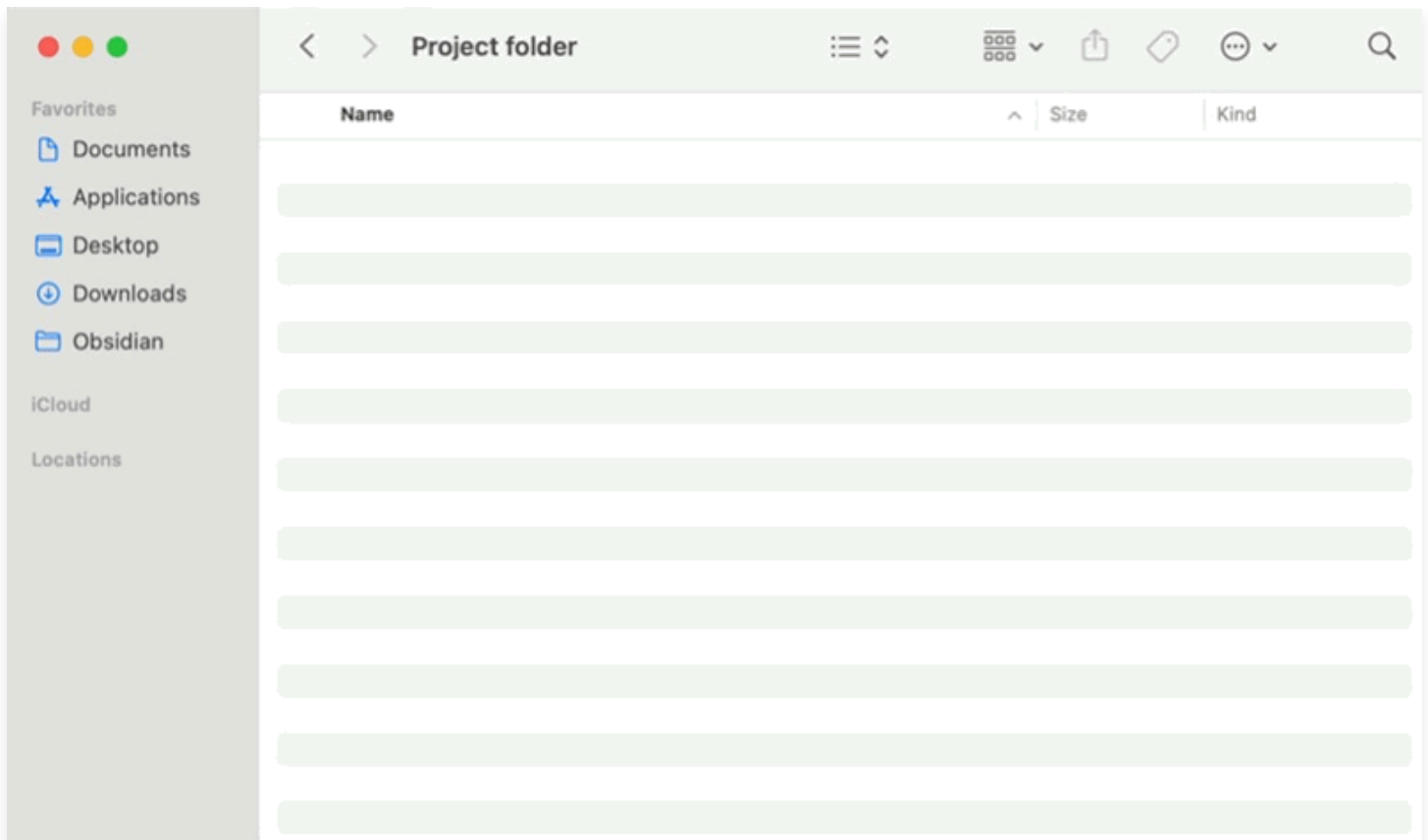


And that is it. The folder you described when you initialized will be your repository.

## Follow Along | Initialize a Repository

The best route to understand a new concept is to practice. This *Follow Along* project will demonstrate, using simple text, how Git works. This is optional, but a good idea to do if you are new to Git.

1. Follow the above steps to create a repository. For this example, **Project folder** will do.
2. Go to the folder where you created the repository. At first glance, nothing happened. But if you reveal the hidden files you will see a new folder called **.git**.



⚠ Do not do anything to these files, they are hidden for a reason!

That is it. You have initialized your Git local repository. The next step is to stage your files, which is a funny way to say: these are the files that will change, and I want to create a checkpoint for them.