



# Welcome to GitHub on the CLI

Presentation slides for Command Line Enthusiasts.

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# What is Github CLI (gh)?

gh brings GitHub to your terminal. Free and open source.

gh has come to stay as first-class building block in the GitHub universe (130 releases in 3.5y!)

gh is written in Go and therefore available on any platform.

## Ok, but why should I use GitHub CLI?

Goodbye, context switching between your terminal and your browser for a seamless and mouse-less efficient developer experience.

- Entire GitHub workflow: Work with issues, pull request, checks, release and more on the CLI
- Script, automate and customize almost any action with builtin commands
- GitHub API: eventually also everything else available via the GitHub API
- Enterprise-ready: works with GitHub.com and GitHub Enterprise Server

# Where can I get help on GitHub CLI?

gh has an excellent built-in help that follow common usage:

```
gh --help  
gh COMMAND [SUBCOMMAND] --help
```

These built-in help texts are also available as a manual at <https://cli.github.com/manual>.

The official micro-website on Github CLI is at <https://cli.github.com> with a short visual introduction to the tool and links to the **manual** and the **release notes**. The latter are well maintained and a good read after every upgrade.

gh is open source. Find the repo at <https://github.com/cli/cli>

# Agenda

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# Getting Started

Installing and Configuring

# Installing the GitHub CLI binary

Follow the installation instructions at <https://github.com/cli/cli#installation> for your platform.

For me on macOS using Homebrew:

```
brew install gh
```

## On macOS:

gh is available via Homebrew, MacPorts, Conda, Spack

## On Windows:

gh is available via WinGet, scoop, Chocolatey, Conda, and as downloadable MSI.

## On Linux:

gh is available either via official repos or as package downloads - see [Installing gh on Linux and BSD](#)

# Authenticating to GH and GHES

Login to github.com or our GHES

```
gh auth login
```

```
→ gh auth login
? What account do you want to log into? GitHub Enterprise Server
? GHE hostname: github.unibe.ch
? What is your preferred protocol for Git operations? HTTPS
? Authenticate Git with your GitHub credentials? Yes
? How would you like to authenticate GitHub CLI? Login with a web browser
```

Press Enter to open github.unibe.ch in your browser...

```
✓ Authentication complete.
- gh config set -h github.unibe.ch git_protocol https
✓ Configured git protocol
✓ Logged in as michael-rolli
```

# Authentication (cont.)

Show current authentication status

```
gh auth status
```

```
→ gh auth status
```

```
github.com
```

- ✓ Logged in to github.com as mrolli (keyring)
- ✓ Git operations for github.com configured to use https protocol.
- ✓ Token: gho\_\*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Token scopes: gist, read:org, read:project, repo, workflow

```
github.unibe.ch
```

- ✓ Logged in to github.unibe.ch as michael-rolli (keyring)
- ✓ Git operations for github.unibe.ch configured to use https protocol.
- ✓ Token: gho\_\*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Token scopes: gist, read:org, repo, workflow



# Manage Permission Scopes

As an example, we are going to add the `read:project` permission scope to the GHES token:

```
gh auth refresh --scopes read:project --hostname github.unibe.ch
```

For more information on managing permission scopes, see `gh auth refresh --help`

## Setup the gh Credential Helper

Configure git to use GitHub CLI as the credential helper for all authenticated hosts

```
gh auth setup-git
```

This edits your git configuration file.

# Working with Repositories

Creating, cloning, forking and all the rest

# Overview of Repo Commands

Work with GitHub repositories.

## USAGE

```
gh repo <command> [flags]
```

## GENERAL COMMANDS

```
create:      Create a new repository
list:        List repositories owned by user or organization
```

## TARGETED COMMANDS

```
archive:     Archive a repository
clone:       Clone a repository locally
delete:      Delete a repository
deploy-key:  Manage deploy keys in a repository
edit:        Edit repository settings
fork:        Create a fork of a repository
rename:      Rename a repository
set-default: Configure default repository for this directory
sync:        Sync a repository
unarchive:   Unarchive a repository
view:        View a repository
```

# Listing Repositories

- Show all repos my Repositories on github.com

```
gh repo list
```

- Show all repos of IDSYS on github.com

```
gh repo list idsys-unibe-ch
```

- List all repos of IDSYS on our GHES

```
GH_HOST=github.unibe.ch gh repo list idsys-unibe-ch
```

Having a hard-coded environment variable is not an ideal solution when you are using both GitHub platforms, therefore an elegant alias might come in handy:

```
# Add this to your .bashrc or .zshrc  
alias lgh="GH_HOST=github.unibe.ch gh"
```

# Forking and Cloning Repositories

- Clone an existing repo of mine

```
gh repo clone mrolli/testy
```

- Fork a repository of another user/organisation

```
gh repo fork idsys-unibe-ch/forkme4edu
```

This creates a fork in your user profile interactively. After forking you work on feature branches in your fork and then you create a pull request against the main branch of the upstream repository.

This is the preferred way to contribute to repos where you don't have any permissions. The target repo only needs to be public.

# Creating new repositories

- Create a new repo on github.com interactively

```
gh repo create
```

- Create a new repo using flags and clone it locally

```
gh repo create my-project --public --clone
```

- Create a new repo on github.com from an existing local repo:

```
git init
git add .
git commit -m "Initial commit"
gh repo create myorg/myrepo --public --source=.
git push -u origin main
```

# Working with Issues

Creating, commenting, properties, templates, ...

# Overview of Issue Commands

Work with GitHub issues.

## USAGE

`gh issue <command> [flags]`

## GENERAL COMMANDS

<code>create:</code>	Create a new issue
<code>list:</code>	List issues in a repository
<code>status:</code>	Show status of relevant issues

## TARGETED COMMANDS

<code>close:</code>	Close issue
<code>comment:</code>	Add a comment to an issue
<code>delete:</code>	Delete issue
<code>develop:</code>	Manage linked branches for an issue
<code>edit:</code>	Edit issues
<code>lock:</code>	Lock issue conversation
<code>pin:</code>	Pin a issue
<code>reopen:</code>	Reopen issue
<code>transfer:</code>	Transfer issue to another repository
<code>unlock:</code>	Unlock issue conversation
<code>unpin:</code>	Unpin a issue
<code>view:</code>	View an issues



# Examples for working with issues

- List closed issues:

```
gh issue list -s closed
```

- List all open issue that are relevant for me:

```
gh issue status
```

- List all issue in organisation that are relevant for me:

```
gh status -o idsys-unibe-ch
```

- View specific issue in terminal...

```
gh issue view
```

- Edit specific issue:

```
gh issue edit 123 --add-label bug
```

- Comment on specific issue using the content of a file:

```
gh issue comment 123 --body-file ../output.log
```

# Working with Pull Requests

Creating, commenting, templates, merging ...

# Overview of Pull Request commands

Work with GitHub pull requests.

## USAGE

`gh pr <command> [flags]`

## GENERAL COMMANDS

`create:` Create a pull request  
`list:` List pull requests in a repository  
`status:` Show status of relevant pull requests

## TARGETED COMMANDS

`checkout:` Check out a pull request in git  
`checks:` Show CI status for a single pull request  
`close:` Close a pull request  
`comment:` Add a comment to a pull request  
`diff:` View changes in a pull request  
`edit:` Edit a pull request  
`lock:` Lock pull request conversation  
`merge:` Merge a pull request  
`ready:` Mark a pull request as ready for review  
`reopen:` Reopen a pull request  
`review:` Add a review to a pull request  
`unlock:` Unlock pull request conversation  
`view:` View a pull request

# Examples for working with pull requests

- List open pull requests:

```
gh pr list
```

- Work on an issue by creating a linked branch and switch to the branch:

```
gh issue develop 123 --checkout
```

- List all open PRs that are relevant for me:

```
gh gh pr status
```

- Create a new PR interactively:

```
gh pr create
```

- Show check runs on specific PR:

```
gh pr check 123
```

- Merge specific PR using the rebase merge method:

```
gh pr merge --rebase
```

# On Merge Methods

When working with PR, Github features three different merge methods:

- Merge pull request
- Squash and merge
- Rebase and merge

The allowed merge methods can be configured on a per repo basis.

In a project, wisely choose one and stick to it! There is no right or false!

More information on this topic:

- [Official documentation on merge methods](#)
- [GitHub Merge strategies explained by examples](#)

Also mentioned here shall be the [merge queue feature](#) that GitHub offers.

# Other Interesting Features

API, projects, releases, workflows, aliases, labels, extensions, ...

# GitHub REST API Usage

```
function setup_snow_autolinkref {
  autolinkref=$(gh api --method GET \
    -H "Accept: application/vnd.github+json" \
    -H "X-GitHub-API-Version: 2022-11-28" \
    "/repos/$1/autolinks" --jq '[] | select(.key_prefix=="SNOW-")'
)

if [ -n "$autolinkref" ]; then
  success "Autolink reference for SNOW already setup."
  return 0
fi

gh api \
  --method POST \
  -H "Accept: application/vnd.github+json" \
  -H "X-GitHub-API-Version: 2022-11-28" \
  "/repos/$1/autolinks" \
  -f key_prefix="SNOW-" \
  -f url_template="https://serviceportal.unibe.ch/text_search_exact_match.do?sysparm_search=<num>" \
  -F is_alphanumeric=true
}
```

See <https://docs.github.com/en/rest>

# Overview of Project Commands

Work with GitHub Projects. Note that the token you are using must have 'project' scope, which is not set by default. You can verify your token scope by running 'gh auth status' and add the project scope by running 'gh auth refresh -s project'.

## USAGE

```
gh project <command> [flags]
```

## AVAILABLE COMMANDS

```
close:      Close a project
copy:       Copy a project
create:     Create a project
delete:     Delete a project
edit:       Edit a project
field-create: Create a field in a project
field-delete: Delete a field in a project
field-list: List the fields in a project
item-add:   Add a pull request or an issue to a project
item-archive: Archive an item in a project
item-create: Create a draft issue item in a project
item-delete: Delete an item from a project by ID
item-edit:  Edit an item in a project
item-list:  List the items in a project
```



# Managing Project Releases

It's possible to create releases based on tags right from the CLI. First prepare the tag to create a release for:

```
git checkout main
git tag -a -s -m "Release v1.0" v1.0
git push origin --tags
```

Then create the release - examples:

- Interactively create a release

```
gh release create
```

- \* Non-interactively create a release

```
gh release create v1.2.3 --notes "bugfix release"
```

- \* Use automatically generated release notes

```
gh release create v1.2.3 --generate-notes
```

- \* Create a release and start a discussion

```
gh release create v1.2.3 --discussion-category "General"
```

# Managing Workflows and Check Runs

List, view, and run workflows in GitHub Actions.

```
gh workflow <command> [flags]
```

## AVAILABLE COMMANDS

disable:	Disable a workflow
enable:	Enable a workflow
list:	List workflows
run:	Run a workflow by creating a workflow_dispatch event
view:	View the summary of a workflow

List, view, and watch recent workflow runs from GitHub Actions.

```
gh run <command> [flags]
```

## AVAILABLE COMMANDS

cancel:	Cancel a workflow run
delete:	Delete a workflow run
download:	Download artifacts generated by a workflow run
list:	List recent workflow runs
rerun:	Rerun a run
view:	View a summary of a workflow run
watch:	Watch a run until it completes, showing its progress

# Extensions

## Overview of Extension Commands

### AVAILABLE COMMANDS

browse:	Enter a UI for browsing, adding, and removing extensions
create:	Create a new extension
exec:	Execute an installed extension
install:	Install a gh extension from a repository
list:	List installed extension commands
remove:	Remove an installed extension
search:	Search extensions to the GitHub CLI
upgrade:	Upgrade installed extensions

## Noteworthy extensions

```
> gh extension list
gh label          heaths/gh-label          v0.4.0
gh markdown-preview yusukebe/gh-markdown-preview 23d1a241
```

# Managing GitHub Labels

- Builtin labels commands

## AVAILABLE COMMANDS

clone:	Clones labels from one repository to another
create:	Create a new label
delete:	Delete a label from a repository
edit:	Edit a label
list:	List labels in a repository

- Commands in heaths/gh-labels extensions

## Available Commands:

completion	generate the autocompletion script for the specified shell
create	Create the label <name> in the repository
delete	Delete the label <name> from the repository
edit	Edit the label <name> in the repository
export	Export labels from the repository to <path>, or stdout if <path> is "-".
help	Help about any command
import	Import labels into the repository from <path>, or stdin if <path> is "-".
list	List labels in the repository, optionally matching substring [name] in the label name or description

# Thank you!

Questions? More feature demonstration?