

Welcome to GitHub on the CLI

Presentation slides for Command Line Enthusiasts.

Press Space for next page →

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 follows 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

1. Getting Started
2. Installing the GitHub CLI binary
3. Manage Permission Scopes
4. Working with Repositories
5. Working with Issues
6. Working with Pull Requests
7. Other Interesting Features
 1. GitHub REST API Usage
 2. Project Commands (new)
 3. Release Management
 4. Workflow Management
 5. Extending GitHub CLI
 6. Label Management

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

List 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

create:	Create a new issue
list:	List issues in a repository
status:	Show status of relevant issues

TARGETED COMMANDS

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