

Download a single folder or directory from a GitHub repo



How can I download only a specific folder or directory from a remote Git repo hosted on GitHub?

876

Say the example GitHub repo lives here:



```
git@github.com:foobar/Test.git
```



Its directory structure:

325

```
Test/  
  foo/  
    a.py  
    b.py  
  bar/  
    c.py  
    d.py
```

I want to download only the **foo** folder and not clone the whole Test project.

[git](#)[file](#)[github](#)[directory](#)[repository](#)

edited Mar 27 at 14:51



[Minhas Kamal](#)

7,066 3 32 45

asked Aug 18 '11 at 10:33



[g_inherit](#)

4,391 3 11 5

3 I wrote a shell script for this using svn checkout - [github.com/Decad/github-downloader](#) – [Declan Cook](#) Nov 5 '13 at 11:01

287 Can somebody explain to me why there isn't an "official" web-interface solution to this? It seems like a trivial feature to implement, yet super useful. – [Alexander](#) Jul 14 '14 at 5:02

3 I developed a chrome extension using KinoLien's gitzip . [github.com/charany1/GHSDD](#) – [charany1](#) May 26 '16 at 19:35

2 see @janos answer svn alternative is the best, no auth, no registration, no limit, no plugins – [stackdave](#) Oct 11 '17 at 10:30

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28 Answers

**Two options for this feature:****461 Option 1: Browser Extensions**

[Chrome Extension](#), [Firefox Addon](#)

+200

Usage:

1. In any GitHub repos page.
2. Just double click on the blank part of the items you need.
3. Click download button at bottom-right.
4. See the progress dashboard and wait for browser trigger download.
5. Get the ZIP file.

Get Token:

1. Click GitZip Extension icon on your browser.
2. Click "Normal" or "Private" link besides "Get Token".
3. Authorize GitZip permission on Github auth page.
4. Back to repo page of the beginning.
5. Continue to use.

Option 2: Github gh-page

<http://kinolien.github.io/gitzip> by using GitHub API, and JSZip, FileSaver.js libraries.

Step1: Input github url to the field at the top-right.

Step2: Press enter or click download for download zip directly or click search for view the list of sub-folders and files

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In most cases, it works fine, except that the folder contains more than 1,000 files, because of the Github Trees API limitation. (refers to [Github API#Contents](#))

And it also can support private/public repos and upgrade the rate limit, if you have GitHub account and use "get token" link in this site.

edited Jun 12 at 13:12



Ivan Aracki

2,124 4 28 49

answered Nov 17 '15 at 9:41



Kino

4,943 1 9 13

-
- 5 This is awesome, but looks like its so awesome the demand is pushing you over your ratelimit and so it's no longer working ;-). It would be great to be able to login with GitHub OAuth - which would allow private repo support, and also increase your rate limit since they'd be authenticated requests – [hobailey](#) Apr 1 '16 at 7:28
-
- 2 @hobailey Now, it can get access token to increase rate limit, and also access private repos. – [Kino](#) Jun 5 '16 at 1:37
-
- 1 @MYounas See about OAuth, Trees, Blobs chapters in [Github API Doc.](#), and also use JSZip, FileSaver.js js libraries for gitzip implementation. – [Kino](#) Aug 25 '16 at 4:02
-
- 1 Would anyone be interested in a chrome extension that does this? – [goldylucks](#) Jan 26 '17 at 10:07
-
- 3 This really needs to be added to the actual github website, it is extremely useful. – [rolls](#) Oct 19 '17 at 3:14
-

git clone --filter from Git 2.19

1

This option will actually skip fetching unneeded objects from the server:

```
git clone --depth 1 --no-checkout --filter=blob:none \
  "file://$(pwd)/server_repo" local_repo
cd local_repo
git checkout master -- mydir/
```

The server should be configured with:

```
git config --local uploadpack.allowfilter 1
git config --local uploadpack.allowanysha1inwant 1
```

An extension was made to the Git remote protocol to support this feature in v2.19.0, but there is no server support at that time. But it can

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I have covered this in more detail at: [How do I clone a subdirectory only of a Git repository?](#)

answered Jun 8 at 8:42



Ciro Santilli 新疆改造中心996ICU六四事件

161k 36 612 504

1 Interesting and upvoted. I suppose I must have mentioned this 2.19 feature elsewhere. – VonC Jun 8 at 11:05

@VonC I think I beat you to it this once: [stackoverflow.com/questions/2466735/...](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2466735/) and I only looked at it after the release XD! I was of course Googling today a bit after 2.22 release, all answer have already been updated of course ;-). It never ceases to amuse me how there is always another semi duplicate left, always, and I end up finding it one year later with a slightly different query. I don't intend to beat you on git though, too hard, but keep an eye on necromancer counts! haha – **Ciro Santilli** 新疆改造中心996ICU六四事件 Jun 8 at 11:17

Well, keep up the good work: the all community will benefit from this little side competition (and I did upvote your other answer at the time) – VonC Jun 8 at 11:24

@VonC joking of course, I upvote your stuff as well obviously. I just need to find a way to redeem those points into money now XD – **Ciro Santilli** 新疆改造中心996ICU六四事件 Jun 8 at 11:26

A straightforward answer to this is to first tortoise svn from following link.

1 <https://tortoisesvn.net/downloads.html>

while installation turn on CLI option, so that it can be used from command line interface.

copy the git hub sub directory link.

Example

<https://github.com/tensorflow/models/tree/master/research/deeplab>

replace tree/master with trunk

<https://github.com/tensorflow/models/trunk/research/deeplab>

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svn checkout <https://github.com/tensorflow/models/trunk/research/deeplab>

files will be downloaded to the deeplab folder in the current directory.

edited Apr 14 at 7:42

answered Apr 14 at 7:36



Khan

353 2 6



23



Whoever is working on specific folder he needs to clone that particular folder itself, to do so please follow below steps by using sparse checkout.

1. Create a directory.
2. Initialize a Git repository. (`git init`)
3. Enable Sparse Checkouts. (`git config core.sparsecheckout true`)
4. Tell Git which directories you want (echo 2015/brand/May(refer to folder you want to work on) >> `.git/info/sparse-checkout`)
5. Add the remote (`git remote add -f origin https://jafartke.com/mkt-imdev/DVM.git`)
6. Fetch the files (`git pull origin master`)

edited Mar 16 at 8:39



iBug

22.4k 6 44 69

answered May 14 '15 at 6:28



Mohammed Jafar

331 3 3

Too bad this comment did not get enough upvotes. Looks like the solution provided applies to all git repositories and not just the github one. – Kalyan Aug 26 '16 at 16:00

4 This doesn't actually do what was desired, though. It still clones the whole repository, it just doesn't check out some folders. – Chris Jan 5 '17 at 4:18

Thank!!! Worked for me :) – Mihai M. Mar 17 '17 at 16:32

Resolved here : stackoverflow.com/questions/4114887/... – J K Nov 17 '17 at 16:27



If you want to use Python and SVN to download a specific GitHub directory, here is the code that you would use:

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```

import validators
from svn.remote import RemoteClient

def download_folder(url):
    if 'tree/master' in url:
        url = url.replace('tree/master', 'trunk')

    r = RemoteClient(url)
    r.export('output')

if __name__ == '__main__':
    url = input('Enter folder URL: ')
    if not validators.url(url):
        print('Invalid url')
    else:
        download_folder(url)

```

You can check more details about this code and other GitHub search and download tips in this tutorial:

<https://python.gotrained.com/search-github-api/>

answered Mar 13 at 5:53



GoTrained

114 4

There's a Python3 pip package called `githubdl` that can do this*:

6

```

export GIT_TOKEN=12345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123
pip install githubdl
githubdl -u http://github.com/foobar/test -d foo

```

The project page is [here](#)

* Disclaimer: I wrote this package.

edited Feb 2 at 2:20

answered Jun 19 '18 at 10:08



Willem van Ketwich

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Use this function, the first argument is the url to the folder, the second is the place the folder will be downloaded to:

```
0 function github-dir() {  
    svn export "$(sed 's/tree\/master/trunk/' <<< "$1")" "$2"  
}
```

answered Oct 25 '18 at 5:40



HappyFace

477 5 15

If you are comfortable with unix commands, you don't need special dependencies or web apps for this. You can download the repo as a tarball and untar only what you need.

5 Example (woff2 files from a subdirectory in fontawesome):

```
curl -L https://api.github.com/repos/FortAwesome/Font-Awesome/tarball | tar xz --  
wildcards "*/web-fonts-with-css/webfonts/*.woff2" --strip-components=3
```

- More about the link format: <https://developer.github.com/v3/repos/contents/#get-archive-link> (including how to get a zip file or specific branches/refs)
- Keep the initial part of the path (*/) to match any directory. Github creates a wrapper directory with the commit ref in the name, so it can't be known.
- You probably want `--strip-components` to be the same as the amount of slashes (/) in the path (previous argument).

This will download the whole tarball. Use the SVN method mentioned in the other answers if this has to be avoided or if you want to be nice to the GitHub servers.

answered Aug 22 '18 at 7:46



Albin

1,261 1 14 21

3

answered this question, such as Willem van Ketwich and aztask, made tools to accomplish this task. However, if the tool isn't written for the language you are using, or you don't want to install a third party library, these don't work.

However, there is a much easier way. GitHub has an API that allows you to download a single file or an entire directory's contents [using GET requests](#). You can access a directory using `https://api.github.com/repos/:owner/:repo_name/contents/:path` that returns a JSON object enumerating all the files in the directory. Included in the enumeration is a link to the raw content of the file, the `download_url` parameter. The file can then be downloaded using that URL.

It's a two step process that requires the ability to make GET requests, but this can be implemented in pretty much any language, on any platform. It can be used to get files or directories.

answered Jul 12 '18 at 23:29



Nothing wrong with other answers but I just thought I'd share step-by-step instructions for those wandering through this process for the first time.

31

How to download a single folder from a github repository (Mac OS X):

~ To open Terminal just click spotlight and type terminal then hit enter

1. On a Mac you likely already have SVN (to test just open terminal and type **"svn"** or **"which svn"** ~ without the quote marks)
2. On Github: Locate the Github path to your git folder (not the repo) by clicking the specific folder name within a repo
3. Copy the path from the address bar of the browser
4. **Open Terminal** and type: **svn export**
5. Next paste in the address (eg.): <https://github.com/mingsai/Sample-Code/tree/master/HeadsUpUI>
6. Replace the words: **tree/master**
7. with the word: **trunk**
8. Type in the destination folder for the files (in this example, I store the target folder inside of the Downloads folder for the current user)

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10. The final terminal command shows the full command to download the folder (compare the address to step 5) **svn export** <https://github.com/mingsai/Sample-Code/trunk/HeadsUpUI> ~/Downloads/HeadsUpUI

BTW - If you are on Windows or some other platform you can find a binary download of subversion (svn) at <http://subversion.apache.org>

~ If you want to checkout the folder rather than simply download it try using the svn help (tldr: replace **export** with **checkout**)

Update

Regarding the comment on resuming an interrupted download/checkout. I would try running `svn cleanup` followed by `svn update`. Please search SO for additional options.

edited Apr 9 '18 at 16:48

answered Sep 13 '15 at 0:37



Tommie C.

9,701 5 61 83

1 I have to download many files from a specific folder and got this error in the middle of the download: svn: E175002: REPORT of '/bgmartins/scripts-parlamento/!svn/vcc/default': 200 OK (github.com) Do you how can I resume the download? – **Miguel** Jun 7 '17 at 21:56

gives 404 now no more worky? – **Kalpesh Soni** Aug 30 '18 at 16:46

Worked for me. That's amazing. – **Heath Raftery** Mar 21 at 19:38

It's one of the few places where SVN is better than Git.

6

In the end we've gravitated towards three options:

1. Use wget to grab the data from GitHub (using the raw file view).
2. Have upstream projects publish the required data subset as build artifacts.
3. Give up and use the full checkout. It's big hit on the first build, but unless you get lot of traffic, it's not too much hassle in the following builds.

edited Jan 24 '18 at 8:32

answered Jan 24 '13 at 8:23



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115



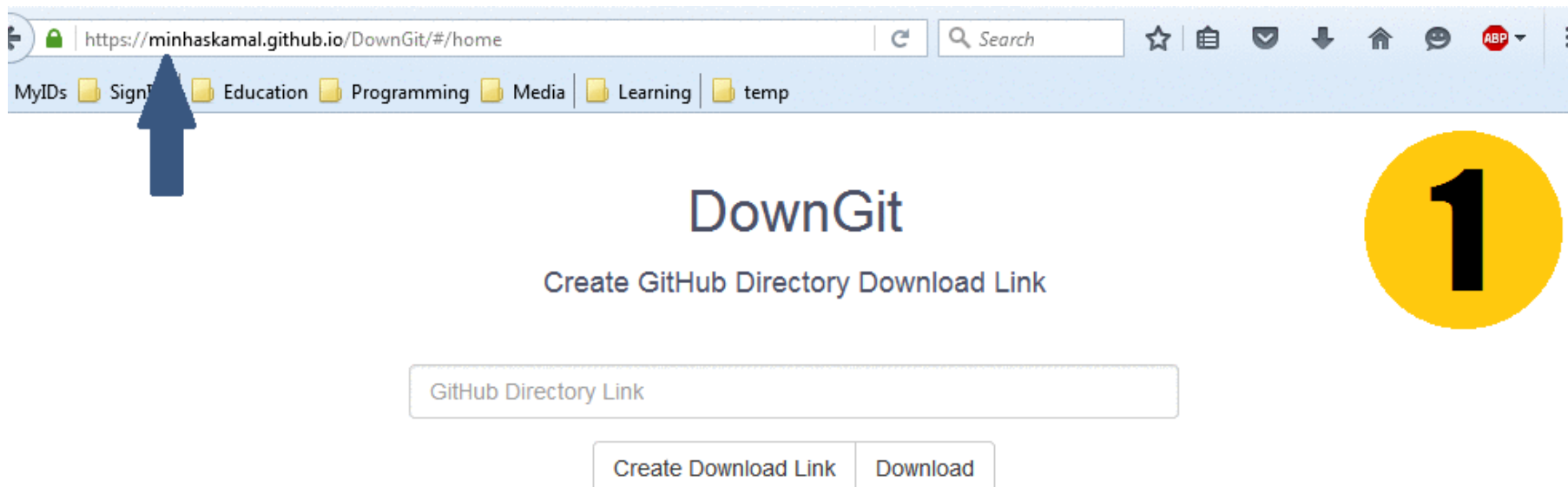
Manish Shrivastava

19.7k 13 82 96

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▲ Go to [DownGit](https://minhaskamal.github.io/DownGit/#/home) > Enter Your URL > Download!

419 Now, you can **DIRECTLY DOWNLOAD** or create **DOWNLOAD LINK** for any GitHub public directory or file (*specially large file*) from [DownGit](https://minhaskamal.github.io/DownGit/#/home)! Here is a simple demonstration-



go to minhaskamal.github.io/DownGit

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edited Jan 9 '18 at 5:03

answered Aug 10 '16 at 17:13



Minhas Kamal

7,066 3 32 45

-
- 2 Bro,I mean how create project like DownGit you created. – [Muhammad Younus](#) Aug 20 '16 at 9:44
-
- 9 The base method is- 1. take the directory link (used [angular-route](#)), 2. go to [GitHub API](#), 3. search through the directory and download all files, 4. create a zip file with it (I have used [jszip](#)) & save it as file (used [filesaver](#) for this). For clear understanding I would suggest to take a look in [my project](#). – [Minhas Kamal](#) Aug 20 '16 at 10:06
-
- 1 thanx Bro for detailed instructions,I am very thankful to you if you suggest any tutorial or link. – [Muhammad Younus](#) Aug 20 '16 at 12:36
-
- 3 This is cool but it doesn't work with automated tools (like wget) – [Ring](#) Jan 25 '18 at 21:10
-
- 2 Won't work for private repos. – [Burhan Ali](#) Feb 23 '18 at 14:46
-



820

Update Sep. 2016: there are a few tools created by the community that can do this for you:

- [GitZip](#) (Credits to [Kino](#) - upvote his answer [right here!](#))
- [DownGit](#) (Credits to [Minhas Kamal](#) - upvote his answer [right here!](#))

Git doesn't support this, but Github does via SVN. If you checkout your code with subversion, Github will essentially convert the repo from git to subversion on the backend, then serve up the requested directory.

Here's how you can use this feature to download a specific folder. I'll use the popular javascript library `lodash` as an example.

1. **Get the repo URL.** First, copy the URL of the Github repo to your clipboard.



2. **Modify the URL for subversion.** I want to download the folder at `/docs` from the `master` branch, so I will append `trunk/docs`. Full URL is now `https://github.com/lodash/lodash/trunk/docs`. See my note below for a more in-depth explanation of why we must use this URL format.
3. **Download the folder.** Go to the command line and grab the folder with SVN.

```
svn checkout https://github.com/lodash/lodash/trunk/docs
```

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Full URL format explanation:

- If you're interested in `master` branch, use `trunk` instead. So the full path is `trunk/foldername`
- If you're interested in `foo` branch, use `branches/foo` instead. The full path looks like `branches/foo/foldername`
- Protip: You can use `svn ls` to see available tags and branches before downloading if you wish

That's all! Github [supports more subversion features](#) as well, including support for committing and pushing changes.

edited Oct 26 '17 at 19:51

answered Aug 12 '13 at 18:54



[nick](#)

9,664

1

17

30

139 Awesome, just replace `tree/master` with `trunk` and you can get the specific folder. – [Sérgio Michels](#) Dec 6 '13 at 17:18

6 Thanks [@user1146881](#) and [@SérgioMichels](#), you have to replace `tree/master` with `trunk`. This information should be added in answer. – [baptx](#) Dec 18 '13 at 17:25

7 I modified this to use `svn export`, as I didn't want a Subversion working copy. Then I added the resulting folder in Git. (I somehow lost a large piece of my directory tree, so I exported from the repo I forked.) – [Grault](#) Dec 18 '13 at 18:34

4 [@num3ric](#)- sorry for the late reply, but you should be able to replace "trunk" with "branches/yourbranch" – [nick](#) Oct 25 '14 at 21:49

2 [@ElijahLynn](#) Thanks for the edit, I should have included that info! 2 things though- I accepted your edit but rolled back some of my own (was meaning to do this anyways, it felt too messy). Additionally I changed your `branch` path to `branches`, which I *think* is correct; if not, go ahead and change it back. – [nick](#) Oct 20 '15 at 1:53

For a Generic git Repo:

63 If you want to download files, not clone the repository with history, you can do this with `git-archive`.

`git-archive` makes a compressed zip or tar archive of a git repository. Some things that make it special:

1. You can choose which files or directories in the git repository to archive.
2. It doesn't archive the `.git/` folder, or any untracked files in the repository it's run on.
3. You can archive a specific branch, tag, or commit. Projects managed with git often use this to generate archives of versions of the

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```
# in terminal
$ git archive --format tar --remote ssh://server.org/path/to/git HEAD docs/usage >
/tmp/usage_docs.tgz
```

More information in [this blog post](#) and the [git documentation](#).

Note on GitHub Repos:

[GitHub doesn't allow](#) `git-archive` [access](#). ☹️

edited Apr 18 '17 at 16:50

answered Apr 13 '13 at 1:17



RobW

7,071 3 35 37

1 `git archive --format tar` format is not tar.gz, but tar. – [yukihane](#) Apr 17 '18 at 6:10

This should be the best answer – [Felipe Costa](#) Aug 3 '18 at 8:18

1 I think this is the best answer but keep note that git archive command doesn't work with https protocol. – [bitfox](#) Mar 8 at 13:00

I use linux so , put this in `~/.bashrc` , called even `:D $HOME/.bashrc`

4

```
git-downloadfolder(){
a="$1"
svn checkout ${a/tree\}/master/trunk}

}
```

then refresh the shell with

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

then use it with `git-downloadfolder blablabla :D`

answered Jan 15 '17 at 15:54

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I work with CentOS 7 servers on which I don't have root access, nor git, svn, etc (nor want to!) so made a python script to download any github folder: <https://github.com/andrrrl/github-folder-downloader>

3

Usage is simple, just copy the relevant part from a github project, let's say the project is <https://github.com/MaxCDN/php-maxcdn/>, and you want a folder where some source files are only, then you need to do something like:

```
$ python gdownload.py "/MaxCDN/php-maxcdn/tree/master/src" /my/target/dir/
(will create target folder if doesn't exist)
```

It requires [lxml](#) library, can be installed with `easy_install lxml`

If you don't have root access (like me) you can create a `.pydistutils.py` file into your `$HOME` dir with these contents:

```
[install]
```

```
user=1
```

And `easy_install lxml` will just work (ref: <https://stackoverflow.com/a/33464597/591257>).

edited May 23 '17 at 12:18



Community ♦

1 1

answered Oct 10 '16 at 15:47



[aesede](#)

4,235 2 28 31

13

1. Click on this link <http://kinolien.github.io/gitzip/>

2. Paste link of Github folder you want to download.

3. Click on search it will show all files for downloading.

Note:-Using search there is no need to enter token key ;)..keep it simple(y)

answered Jul 28 '16 at 17:53



[Muhammad Younus](#)

499 7 13

1 It works perfect than above Minhas Kamal link – [sriman reddy](#) Jan 29 '17 at 7:42

Another specific example:

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9 <https://github.com/alokc83/APRESS-Books-Source-Code-/tree/master/%20Pro%20iOS%20Geo>

and I can do so via

```
svn checkout https://github.com/alokc83/APRESS-Books-Source-Code-/trunk/%20Pro%20iOS%20Geo
```

Note **trunk** in the path

Edited: (as per Tommie C's comment)

Yes, using **export** instead of **checkout** would give a clean copy without extra git repository files.

```
svn export https://github.com/alokc83/APRESS-Books-Source-Code-/trunk/%20Pro%20iOS%20Geo
```

Edited: If tree/master is not there in url then Fork it and it will be there in Forked url.

edited Jul 5 '16 at 21:20

answered Jun 3 '15 at 6:29



[zeeawan](#)

4,502 1 39 43

2 Just need to change checkout to export if you just want to download a copy of the folder rather than checkout. – [Tommie C.](#) Sep 13 '15 at 0:14

Thank you for your answer, can we dive a branch ? let's say I want to download feature1 branch's aaa folder – [hsafarya](#) Nov 10 '16 at 14:05

▲ If you have `svn` , you can use `svn export` to do this:

152

`svn export https://github.com/foobar/Test.git/trunk/foo`

▼ Notice the URL format:

- The base URL is `https://github.com/`
- `/trunk` appended at the end

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```
svn ls https://github.com/foobar/Test.git/trunk/foo
```

edited Feb 21 '16 at 11:43

answered Aug 19 '13 at 23:00



janos

96k 18 155 180

Does this still work? Tried this with TortiseSVN and I get a permission error, asking me to supply credentials. – john Sep 4 '15 at 14:23

- 2 @john I'm sure this is too late to be of much help, but do you have 2-factor authentication enabled on your GitHub account? If so, I *think* I read somewhere you'll have to use a pre-generated key for the password (which you'll need to find in the GitHub settings). – nick Oct 23 '15 at 3:07

Regarding the URL formatting, you can keep the `.git` extension. You can use the full project link, and start by using `svn ls` followed by the project full path. Example: `svn ls https://github.com/RobTillaart/Arduino.git` . To export just one folder, you just add the `/trunk` followed by the desired path, like `svn export https://github.com/RobTillaart/Arduino.git/trunk/libraries/DHTlib` . It is easier to keep the project path intact. – jgrocha Feb 21 '16 at 11:33

@jgrocha I'm not sure it worked that way back in 2013, but it does now, so thanks, updated the post – janos Feb 21 '16 at 11:44

- 1 An example: to download the content in `https://github.com/miguelgrinberg/python-socketio/tree/master/examples/wsgi` , run `svn export https://github.com/miguelgrinberg/python-socketio.git/trunk/examples/wsgi` . A directory called `wsgi` will be created under the current working directory. Only source files, nothing else. No `.git` , no subversion related files. – Rockallite Mar 10 '17 at 7:20 ✎

Our team wrote a bash script to do this because we didn't want to have to install SVN on our bare bones server.

3

<https://github.com/ojbc/docker/blob/master/java8-karaf3/files/git-download.sh>

It uses the github API and can be run from the command line like this:

```
git-download.sh https://api.github.com/repos/ojbc/main/contents/shared/ojb-certs
```

answered Jan 11 '16 at 23:14



Yogesh Chawla

1,103 13 14

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2

For example, to export the directory from the following URL:

```
https://github.com/liferay/liferay-plugins/tree/master/portlets/sample-hibernate-portlet
```

run the following command:

```
svn export https://github.com/liferay/liferay-plugins/trunk/portlets/sample-hibernate-portlet
```

edited Sep 23 '15 at 20:43



Martijn Pieters ♦
746k 158 2687
2418

answered Sep 20 '15 at 8:25



Mohsen Abasi
494 5 16



34



I've created an open source project, called [GitHubFolderDownloader](#). It lets you to download a single folder of a repository without cloning or downloading the whole repository.

answered Jun 17 '15 at 10:16



VahidN
12.9k 6 51 95

Works great if you only need to download folders from GitHub. It only needs a **Github Token** to download the desired folder. More upvotes could give this answer some prominence. – [Alex Essilfie](#) Nov 19 '15 at 7:31

1 What if we are working on linux? – [Fredrick Gauss](#) May 31 '18 at 6:40



4



Just to amplify the answers above, a real example from a real GitHub repository to a local directory would be:

```
svn ls https://github.com/rdcarp/playing-cards/trunk/PumpkinSoup.PlayingCards.Interfaces
```

```
svn export https://github.com/rdcarp/playing-cards/trunk/PumpkinSoup.PlayingCards.Interfaces /temp/SvnExport/Washburn
```

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answered Dec 11 '14 at 21:59

[John Washburn](#)

430 1 3 10

If you need to do it programatically and you don't want to rely on SVN, you can use GitHub API to download all the contents recursively.

1 For inspiration, here's my ruby gist: <https://gist.github.com/cvengros/b2a7e82f66519d423b6f>

answered Nov 15 '14 at 1:37

[pcV](#)

1,457 16 21

You cannot; unlike Subversion, where each subdirectory can be checked out individually, Git operates on a whole-repository basis.

16 For projects where finer-grained access is necessary, you can use submodules -- each submodule is a separate Git project, and thus can be cloned individually.

It is conceivable that a Git front-end (e.g. GitHub's web interface, or gitweb) could choose to provide an interface for you to extract a given folder, but to my knowledge none of them do that (though they do let you download individual files, so if the folder does not contain too many files, that is an option)

Edit - GitHub actually offers access via SVN, which would allow you to do just this (as per comment). See <https://github.com/blog/1438-improved-svn-here-to-stay-old-svn-going-away> for latest instructions on how to do this

edited Dec 19 '13 at 7:20

answered Aug 18 '11 at 10:41

[michel-slm](#)

6,336 3 26 30

is there any thing via github API? – [g_inherit](#) Aug 18 '11 at 10:47

alas, no; see develop.github.com/p/repo.html – [michel-slm](#) Aug 18 '11 at 10:54

3 you can use SVN with Github stackoverflow.com/a/18194523/1176454 – [baptx](#) Dec 18 '13 at 17:35

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-2

If the directoy you want to download is a separated library, it's better to create an other git repo, and then to use the git submodule function.



Of course, you have to be the owner of the initial repo you want

answered Jan 24 '13 at 9:29



Asenar

5,005

2

27

42



13



If you truly just want to just **"download"** the folder and not **"clone"** it (for development), the easiest way to simply get a *copy* of the most recent version of the repository (and therefore a folder/file within it), without needing to clone the whole repo or even install git in the first place, is to download a zip archive (for any repo, fork, branch, commit, etc.) by going to the desired repository/fork/branch/commit on GitHub (e.g. `http(s)://github.com/<user>/<repo>/commit/<Sha1>` for a copy of the files as they were after a specific commit) and selecting the `Downloads` button near the upper-right.

This archive format contains none of the git-repo magic, just the tracked files themselves (and perhaps a few `.gitignore` files if they were tracked, but you can ignore those :p) - that means that if the code changes and you want to stay on top, you'll have to manually re-download it, and it also means you won't be able to use it as a git repository...

Not sure if that's what you're looking for in this case (again, "download"/view vs "clone"/develop), but it can be useful nonetheless...

edited Aug 18 '11 at 14:02

answered Aug 18 '11 at 13:56



johnny

2,983

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18

29

- 9 If you don't see a download link, make sure you're on a main repo page (not a child directory.) Seems like you can only download a zip of the entire repo. Also, [this github help page](#) might be useful. – [JD Smith](#) Sep 5 '13 at 16:07
- 2 Easy point-and-click access. Easy to get a prior release. Easy to pull the desired folder out of the downloaded zip. Thank you. – [Andy Thomas](#) Apr 9 '15 at 21:33
- 1 The generic URL to get download from in `tar.gz` : `https://github.com/${owner}/${repo}/archive/${hash}.tar.gz` – [Krisztian](#) Aug 12 '17 at 19:04

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5

```
git archive --remote git@github.com:foobar/Test.git HEAD:foo | tar xf -
```

But if you mean to check it out, and be able to do commits and push them back, no you can't do that.

answered Aug 18 '11 at 11:19



[araqnid](#)

87.4k 18 132 113

Invalid command: 'git-upload-archive 'foobar/Test.git"' You appear to be using ssh to clone a git:// URL. Make sure your core.gitProxy config option and the GIT_PROXY_COMMAND environment variable are NOT set. fatal: The remote end hung up unexpectedly tar: This does not look like a tar archive tar: Exiting with failure status due to previous errors – [g_inherit](#) Aug 18 '11 at 11:57

as @g_inherit observes you get a git-upload-archive error – [Hedgehog](#) Feb 6 '12 at 8:55

@g_inherit I can reproduce this issue. Although this might be the right direction, this answer is invalid. – [Uli Köhler](#) Nov 5 '14 at 15:31

despite so many down votes this is the only advice that worked for me. – [bhaskarc](#) Dec 21 '14 at 0:05

protected by [jtbandes](#) Aug 18 '16 at 5:56

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