

How to create .gitignore file

I need to add some rules to my `.gitignore` file, however, I can't find it in my project folder. Isn't it created automatically by Xcode? If not, what command allows me to create one?

966

[git](#) [xcode4.3](#) [gitignore](#)


252

edited Feb 6 '15 at 9:50

asked May 24 '12 at 19:48



Unknown

3,349 3 35 59



Luca

7,224 15 43 66

49 echo 'xxx' > `.gitignore` – [ybdesire](#) Jun 26 '15 at 5:26

6 [gitignore.io](#) – [Ivan Aracki](#) Jul 12 '16 at 15:19

9 Copy the `.gitignore` file from one of your existing projects. – [Suragch](#) Feb 5 '17 at 22:25

how about migrating the question to superuser? – [Makan Tayebi](#) Aug 3 '17 at 7:50

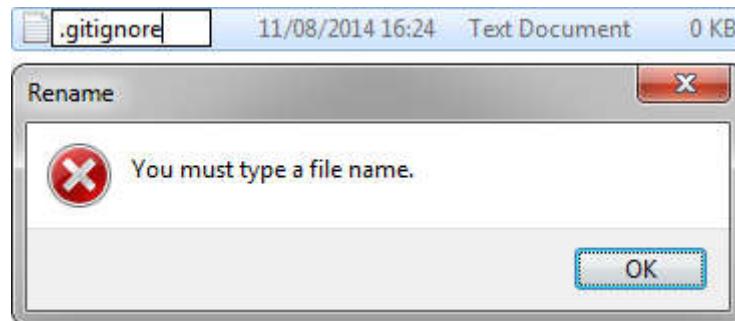
So they fixed [this apparently!](#) – [spottedmahn](#) Feb 24 at 2:49

37 Answers

1 [2](#) [next](#)



1547



To get around this I used the following steps

1. Create the text file `gitignore.txt`
2. Open it in a text editor and add your rules, then save and close
3. Hold SHIFT, right click the folder you're in, then select **Open command window here**
4. Then rename the file in the command line, with `ren gitignore.txt .gitignore`

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You can get around this Windows Explorer error by appending a dot to the filename without extension: `.gitignore`. will be automatically changed to `.gitignore`

edited Oct 4 '17 at 16:06



Martin Smith

357k 60 596 709

answered Sep 6 '12 at 10:59



ajcw

20.3k 5 25 47

-
- 20 To do this on a mac, simply CD to the project directory and "touch `.gitignore`" you will have to also make sure you can see hidden files – [Jameo](#) Dec 17 '12 at 21:37
 - 7 After creating the `gitignore.txt` file "ren" did not work for me. However I just opened the Git Bash on the directory and was able to use the linux "`mv`" command like normal. – [gweller](#) Feb 22 '13 at 16:46
 - 463 You can get around this Windows Explorer error by appending a dot to the filename without extension: `.gitignore`. will be automatically changed to `.gitignore` (Win7 x64) – [HenningCash](#) May 10 '13 at 12:11
 - 35 Funny thing that the OP is using XCode which means he's running OS X. And ya all upvoting an answer targeted on Windows?!! – [Corstian Boerman](#) Sep 9 '14 at 13:51
 - 11 Its funny how google disagrees, a google search "`.gitignore` on windows" leads to this page as a first result :) – [Ateik](#) Feb 2 '16 at 13:35
-

As simple as things can (sometimes) be: Just add the following into your preferred command line interface (GNU Bash, Git Bash, etc.)

447

`touch .gitignore`

testmenow

~~Update: Tested with Windows CMD and it does not work on Win 8.1+. Nevertheless it does work using Git Bash which you should have installed in Windows if you are using Git.~~

Update: As @Wardy pointed out in the comments, `touch` works on Windows as well as long as you provide the full path. This might also explain why it does not work for some users on Windows: The `touch` command seems to not be in the `$PATH` on some Win versions per default.

C:\> "c:\program files (x86)\git\bin\touch.exe" `.gitignore`

edited Jun 21 '15 at 11:58

answered Feb 20 '13 at 11:55



kaiser

15.2k 15 74 97

-
- 7 this didn't work for me, it said touch isn't a program – [Jim Jones](#) Jul 22 '14 at 4:49
 - 2 I just tried it both in `cmd` and `powershell` in Windows 7 without a problem. Then tried it again on the 8.1 machine of a colleague and can confirm that (the Cmdlet isn't present). You will have to search up the problem
-

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2 Works in command line if you specify the full path for touch ... C:\> "c:\program files (x86)\git\bin\touch.exe"
.gitignore – War Jun 20 '15 at 16:40

1 It works for me - windows 8.1. – Boris Jul 1 '16 at 8:49

287

The easiest way to create the .gitignore file in Windows Explorer is to create a new file named .gitignore. . This will skip the validation of having a file extension, since it actually has an empty file extension.

edited Aug 20 '15 at 14:40

answered Jul 24 '13 at 14:31



chos

3,001 1 8 6

- 12 Definitely the easiest way, if you want to stay in pure Windows style. . . – Raj Jan 21 '14 at 4:59
- 5 This, is the best way for the laziest among us :D – JochemQuery Mar 18 '14 at 21:29
- 6 This worked great for me. Windows actually removed the last . so the file name was changed to just .gitignore when I saved the change. – JoBaxter Feb 23 '15 at 16:58
- 2 This works with folders as well – Christopher Haws Feb 24 '15 at 7:27
- 2 This is the real answer to what appears to be a bug in windows explorer... although I assume the original question is osx – Greg Woods May 8 '15 at 13:45

166

The .gitignore file is not added to a repository by default. Use vi or your favorite text editor to create the .gitignore file then issue a git add .gitignore followed by git commit -m "message" .gitignore . The following commands will take care of it.

```
> .gitignore
git add .gitignore
git commit -m "message" .gitignore
```

edited Jul 23 '18 at 6:14

answered May 24 '12 at 19:51



Wilder Pereira

1,508 1 16 24



sully6768

1,999 1 8 12

- 3 Hi, thanx for your reply :), actually, i have created a .gitignore file, but when performing this command line: git add .gitignore , i got this message: fatal: pathspec '.gitignore' did not match any files , although, i make sure the .gitignore file does exist on my project folder, am i wrong ? – Luca May 24 '12 at 20:04

If git says the file doesn't exist - the file you've created has a different name. you can see all files in a folder with ls -la . Add to the question what you did (details) if you're still struggling – AD7six May 24 '12 at 20:28

My .gitignore file was existing already. I just added a rule to ignore eclipse.prefs and .log files Committed it. Will it start working immediately? – R11G Sep 12 '13 at 7:40

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In case of 'fatal: pathspec..' error, I simply ran git fetch then tried again git commit and push. It worked. – Santosh Kumar Arjunan Jun 11 at 10:29 

===== In WINDOWS =====

91

1. Open notepad.
2. Add the contents of your gitignore file.
3. Click "Save as" and select "all files".
4. Save as .gitignore .

===== Easy peasy! No command line required! =====

[edited Oct 13 '14 at 17:11](#)

community wiki

[2 revs](#)

[user3083619](#)

11 NotePad++ is happy with this also for those that use it. – Liam Dec 19 '14 at 14:43

43

On Windows you can use cmd echo "" >.gitignore

Or use Git Bash cmd touch .gitignore , this useful for Linux and Mac System

[answered May 17 '16 at 1:05](#)



seay

449 5 6

echo > .gitignore works well. To continue to append the files to ignore, we can do echo "*.*obj" >> .gitignore – ozkary Nov 13 '16 at 16:38

I would be careful about using this approach. On my computer, running Windows 10, using echo to create .gitignore resulted in a UTF 16LE formatted file, which Git apparently did not parse correctly. Creating the file through Windows Explorer resulted in an ANSI formatted file, which worked correctly with Git. – jlspublic Jun 19 '18 at 2:30

MacOS / Linux one-liner

43

An easy way to get a default git ignore without messing about with create/copy/paste is to use the curl command from the terminal. First cd into your projects root directory and then run the command by replacing MY_API_NAME with your API name from one of the following two sources:

aitianore.io

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You can find your API name by searching from the list [here](#) and clicking Generate.

Java Example:

```
curl -o .gitignore https://www.gitignore.io/api/java
```

[GitHub](#)

Alternatively you can use the ones at GitHub. Find the filename for your API [here](#).

```
curl -o .gitignore
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/github/gitignore/master/MY_API_NAME.gitignore
```

Java Example:

```
curl -o .gitignore
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/github/gitignore/master/Java.gitignore
```

Windows

Here are some similar alternatives for Windows.

- [How do I install/set up and use cURL on a Windows?](#)
- [Wget/cURL alternative native to Windows?](#)

But honestly setting that up looks like more trouble than it is worth. If I had Windows then I would just create an empty file called `.gitignore` in my project's root folder and then copy and paste the default text from gitignore.io or GitHub.

edited Jul 24 '17 at 3:51

answered Sep 23 '16 at 5:34



Using Git Bash console.

35

-Navigate to your project -Type "touch .gitignore"

the `.gitignore` file will be created for you.

```
MINGW64:/c/Personal/ft
$ touch .gitignore
rrodriguez@rrodriguez-t450 MINGW64 /c/Personal/ft (master)
```

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Roberto Rodriguez
1,232 14 22

I want my contribution as well. This time, animated one :)

30 VIM (mini tutorial):

```
i - start editing  
ESC - get back to normal mode  
:w - save  
:q - quit
```

edited Jun 2 '17 at 12:36

answered Jun 2 '17 at 12:29

 Oo.oO
5,728 3 12 26

nice move! Like the animation! :) – [Alex Cio](#) Aug 5 '17 at 16:03

.oOo. thanks! ;) .oOo. – [Oo.oO](#) Aug 5 '17 at 18:14

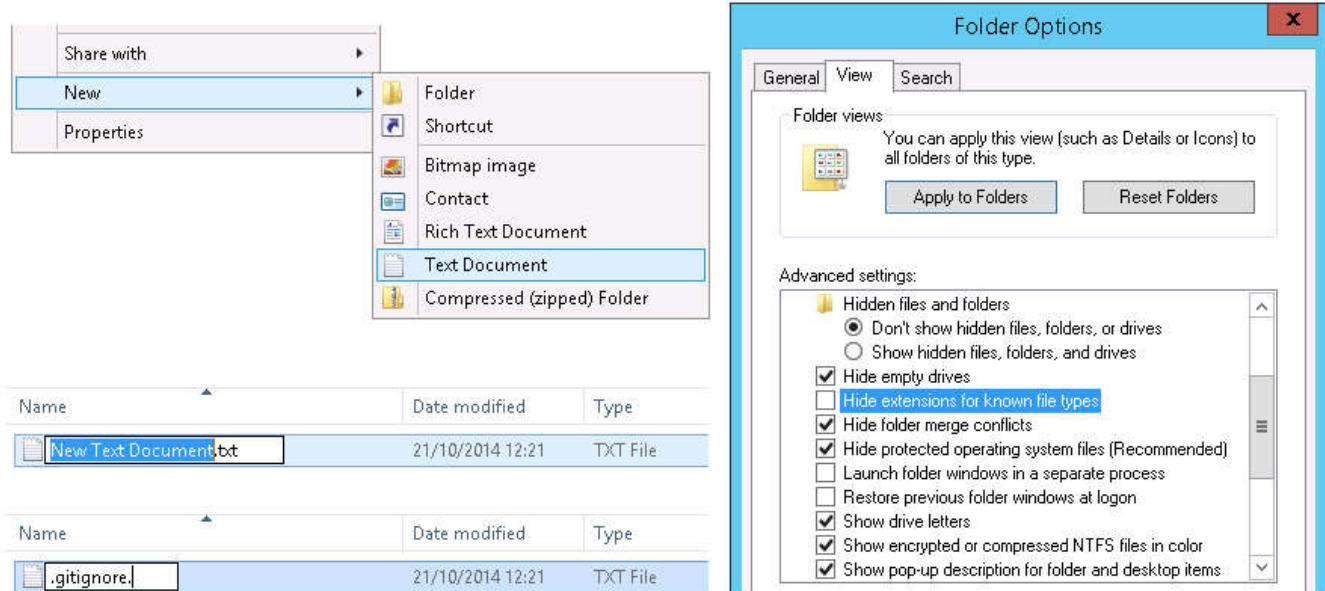
Here a nice tip under Windows:

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- You end up with a .gitignore file :)

Tested under Windows 7 and 8.

This tip assumes that your Windows Explorer displays the file extensions.



answered Oct 21 '14 at 10:36

 **tanguy_k** 6,441 2 31 40

My contribution is aimed at those on a mac, it can be applied to not only those working on an iOS project (as implied by the question mentioning Xcode), but any type of project.

19

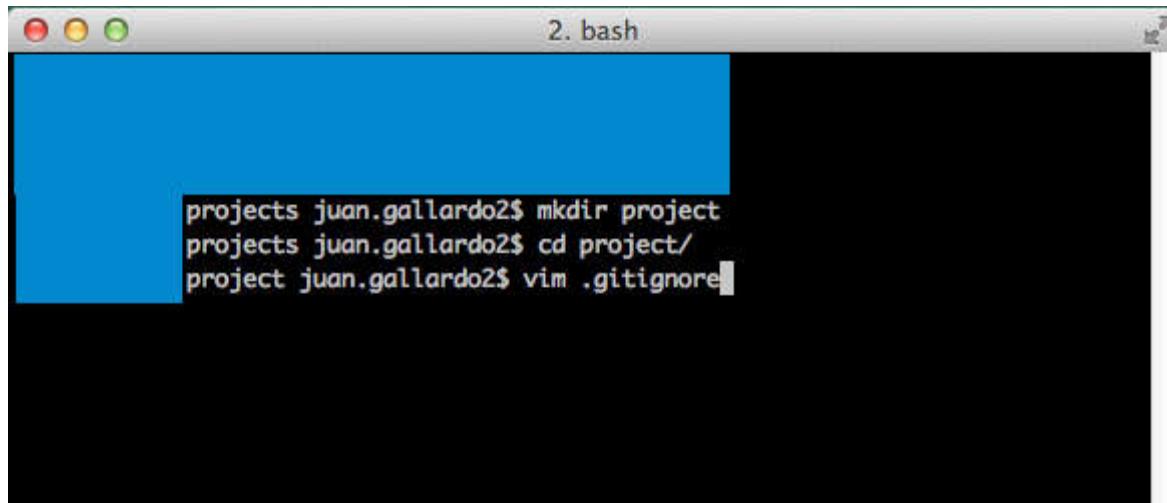
The easy way that I do it is to go into the terminal and run `vim .gitignore` and then add the files. Usually you can just copy what you need from one of the templates on Github at <https://github.com/github/gitignore>

Step 1

While in your project run

```
vim .gitignore
```

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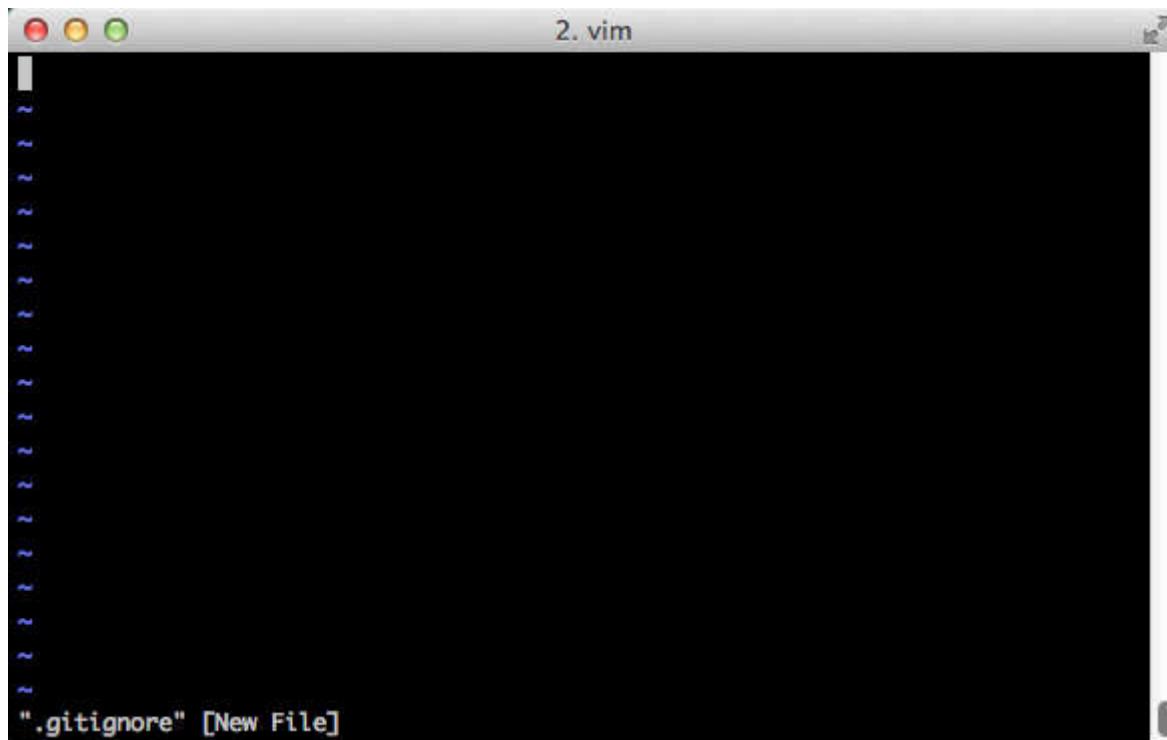


A screenshot of a terminal window titled "2. bash". The window has a blue header bar and a black body. In the header bar, there are three colored circles (red, yellow, green) on the left and a close button on the right. The terminal body shows the following command history:

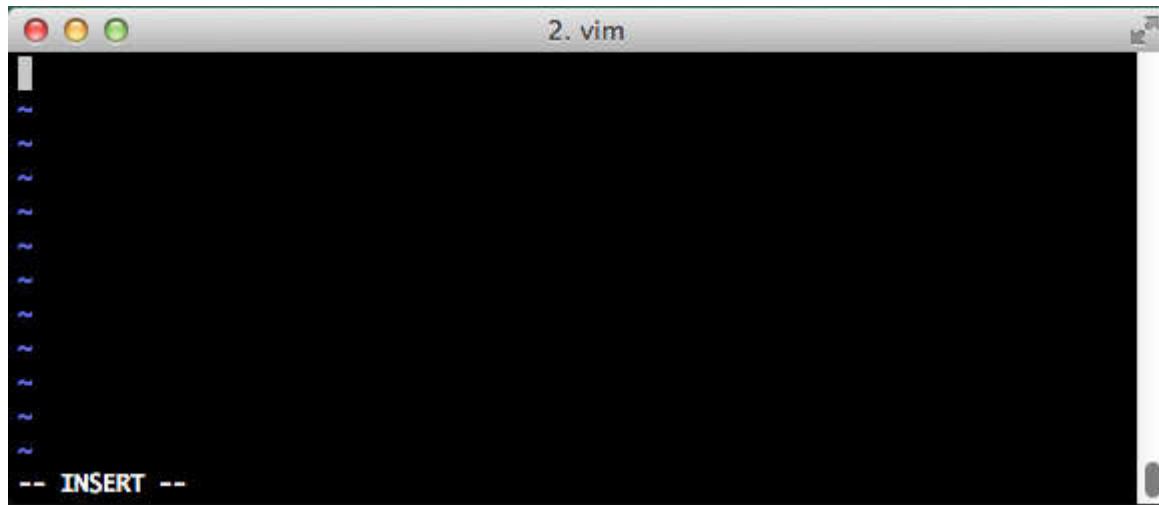
```
projects juan.gallardo2$ mkdir project
projects juan.gallardo2$ cd project/
project juan.gallardo2$ vim .gitignore
```

Step 2

You now have your file open with [vim](#).



Press `i` to insert text. You will see that the file is ready when you see the **--INSERT--** at the bottom.



Step 3 (option 1)

For Objective-C projects, you can copy from

<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/github/gitignore/master/Objective-C.gitignore> and paste it into your .gitignore

```

# Xcode
#
build/
*.pbxuser
!default.pbxuser
*.mode1v3
!default.mode1v3
*.mode2v3
!default.mode2v3
*.perspectivev3
!default.perspectivev3
xcuserdata
*.xccheckout
*.moved-aside
DerivedData
*.hmap
*.ipa
*.xcuserstate

# CocoaPods
#
# We recommend against adding the Pods directory to your .gitignore. However
# you should judge for yourself, the pros and cons are mentioned at:
# http://guides.cocoapods.org/using/using-cocoapods.html#should-i-ignore-the-pods-directory-in-source-control
#
# Pods/█
~
~
~
~
~
-- INSERT --

```

Then press `esc` then type in `:wq` then press `return`. Which saves the file.

Step 3 (option 2)

Add whatever files apply to your project.

If you are not sure what to add, the best keywords to use in your search engine would be to include your project type and text editor. For example, if you use Sublime you would want to add

```
*.sublime-workspace
```

And if you are working with a Cordova project in Dreamweaver you would want to add

```
_notes
dwsync.xml
```

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Create a .gitignore file to include all files and directories that you don't want to commit.

13

Ex:

```
#####
## Eclipse
#####

*.pydevproject
.project
.metadata
.gradle
bin/
tmp/
target/
*.tmp
*.bak
*.swp
*~.nib
local.properties
.classpath
.settings/
.loadpath

# External tool builders
.externalToolBuilders/

# Locally stored "Eclipse launch configurations"
*.launch

# CDT-specific
.cproject

# PDT-specific
.buildpath

#####
## Visual Studio
#####

## Ignore Visual Studio temporary files, build results, and
## files generated by popular Visual Studio add-ons.

# User-specific files
*.suo
*.user
*.sln.docstates

# Build results

[Dd]ebug/
[Rr]elease/
x64/
.../
```

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```
[Tt]est[Rr]esult*/
[Bb]uild[Ll]og.*

*_i.c
*_p.c
*.ilk
*.meta
*.obj
*.pch
*.pdb
*.pgc
*.pgd
*.rsp
*.sbr
*.tlb
*.tli
*.tlh
*.tmp
*.tmp_proj
*.log
*.vpscc
*.vsscc
.builds
*.pidb
*.log
*.scc

# Visual C++ cache files
ipch/
*.aps
*.ncb
*.opensdf
*.sdf
*.cachefile

# Visual Studio profiler
*.psess
*.vsp
*.vspx

# Guidance Automation Toolkit
*.gpState

# ReSharper is a .NET coding add-in
_ReSharper*/
*[Rr][Ss]harper

# TeamCity is a build add-in
_TeamCity*

# DotCover is a Code Coverage Tool
*.dotCover

# NCrunch
*.ncrunch*
.*crunch*.local.xml

# Installshield output folder
[Ee]xpress/

# Delphi/DCC is a documentation generator add-in
```

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```
DocProject/Help/*.hhk  
DocProject/Help/*.hhp  
DocProject/Help/Html2  
DocProject/Help/html  
  
# Click-Once directory  
publish/  
  
# Publish Web Output  
*.Publish.xml  
*.pubxml  
  
# NuGet Packages Directory  
## TODO: If you have NuGet Package Restore enabled, uncomment the next line  
#packages/  
  
# Windows Azure Build Output  
csx  
*.build.csdef  
  
# Windows Store app package directory  
AppPackages/  
  
# Others  
sql/  
*.Cache  
ClientBin/  
[Ss]tyle[Cc]op.*  
~$*  
*~  
*.dbmdl  
*[Pp]ublish.xml  
*.pfx  
*.publishsettings
```

answered Oct 28 '13 at 1:33

 Anderson Lopes
534 5 10

in windows, open a dos prompt(cmd) windows, use command line:

13 type > .gitignore

answered Nov 26 '13 at 7:16

 caoglish
960 15 27

I have another simple idea

Let's use the echo command in cmd ,

13

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or simply

console :

```
echo .gitignore notepad.exe
```

to instantly edit gitignore.

If you dont know which files are should be gitignored for your IDE or Operating System just goto www.gitignore.io

gitignore.io - here it will generate the gitignore commands or text for you just say your api or os that's it! Just copy and paste into your file, simple!

edited Jun 2 '17 at 12:16

answered Aug 23 '16 at 4:57



NIKHIL C M

1,300 12 20

Here's my personal favorite, <http://help.github.com/ignore-files/>

12

Also just in case you wanted to ignore xcode files, refer to this answer
<https://stackoverflow.com/a/49488/126235>

edited May 23 '17 at 12:34

answered May 24 '12 at 19:53



Community ♦

1 1



Sivakumar Kailasam

349 1 5 20

<http://gitignore.io> is an open source utility that can help you create useful .gitignore files for your project. There is also a command line API that you can access via a `gi` command:
<http://gitignore.io/cli>

11

1. Install `gi` command for OSX:

```
$ echo "function gi() { curl http://gitignore.io/api/\$@ ;}" >> ~/.bash_profile && source ~/.bash_profile
```

2. View .gitignore file contents (Output: <http://gitignore.io/api/xcode,osx>):

```
$ gi xcode,osx
```

3. You should see output on the terminal, if you want to append the results to a new .gitignore file.

```
$ gi xcode,osx >> .gitignore
```

edited Oct 18 '13 at 13:56

answered Oct 18 '13 at 13:50



Joe

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Few ways to create .gitignore using cmd:

10

- With `copy con` command:

- open **cmd** and say `cd` to your git repository
- say `copy con .gitignore` and press **Ctrl+Z**.

```
C:\Users\y.belyaeva>cd "Documents\Visual Studio 2013\Projects\EntityTrying"
C:\Users\y.belyaeva\Documents\Visual Studio 2013\Projects\EntityTrying>copy con
.gitignore
^Z
```

- With `start notepad .gitignore` command:

- open **cmd** and say `cd` to your git repository
- say `start notepad .gitignore` and press **Yes** button in opened notepad dialog box.

```
C:\Users\y.belyaeva>start notepad .gitignore
```

- With `edit .gitignore` command (Windows x86 only):

- open **cmd** and say `cd` to your git repository
- say `edit .gitignore` and close opened edit editor.

edited Apr 29 '15 at 8:57

answered Apr 28 '15 at 15:04



Yuliia Ashomok

4,443 1 40 50

The following works in Powershell and Command Prompt

9

```
echo '*.ignore_me' > .gitignore
```

I ran into a weird issue where git effectively wouldn't read the .gitignore file. I then deleted .gitignore file and created one using vim which worked fine.

To add additional files to ignore, just call the following command:

```
echo 'another_file_to_ignore' >> .gitignore
```

It will append further files to the existing .gitignore file.

edited Jan 10 '15 at 16:14

answered Feb 1 '14 at 21:07

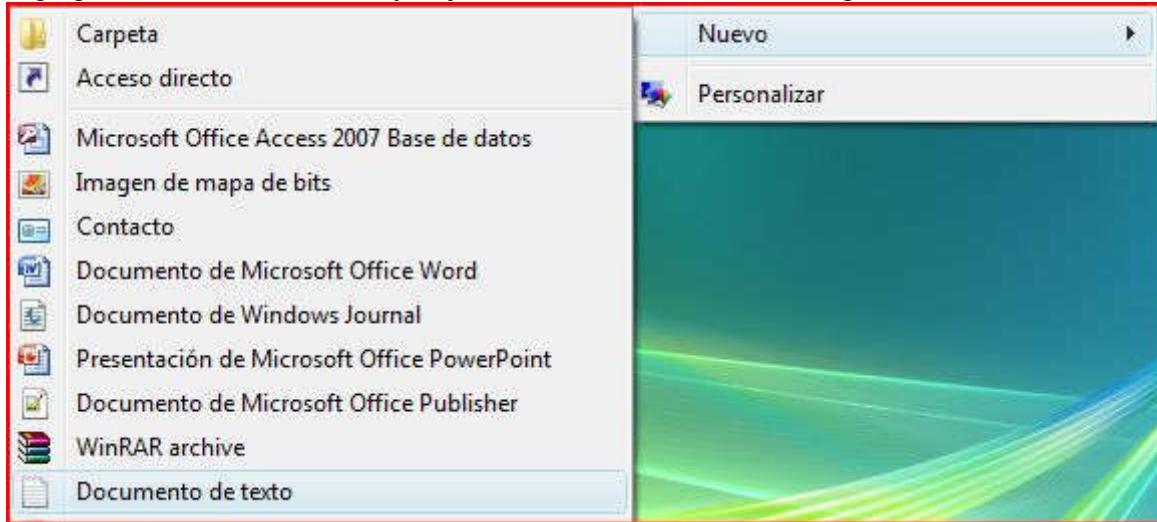
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- 1 I had the same weird issue. Turns out to be the encoding, so be sure to save the file as utf-8. – aw04 Sep 16 '15 at 15:44

1) create a .gitignore file, so to do that, you just create a .txt file and change the extention as

8

following:



then you have to change the name writing the following line on the cmd:

```
rename git.txt .gitignore
```

where git.txt is the name of the file you've just created.

Then you can open the file and write all the files you don't want to add on the repository. For example mine looks like this:

```
#OS junk files
[Tt]humbs.db
*.DS_Store

#Visual Studio files
*.[Oo]bj
*.user
*.aps
*.pch
*.vpsbcc
*.vssbcc
*_i.c
*_p.c
*.ncb
*.suo
*.tlb
*.tlh
*.bak
*.[Cc]ache
*.ilk
*.log
*.lib
```

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```

obj/
[Bb]in
[Dd]ebug*/
[Rr]elease*/
Ankh.NoLoad

#Tooling
_ReSharper*/
*.resharper
[Tt]est[Rr]esult*

#Project files
[Bb]uild/

#Subversion files
.svn

# Office Temp Files
~$*

```

Once you have this, you need to add it to your git repository. You have to save the file where your repository is.

Then in your git bash you have to write the following line:

```
$ git config --global core.excludesfile ~/.gitignore_global
```

If the repository already exists then you have to do the following:

1) git rm -r --cached . 2) git add . 3) git commit -m ".gitignore is now working"

If the step 2 doesn't work then you should write the hole route of the files that you would like to add.

Hope it helps!

answered Feb 17 '15 at 14:12



SomeAnonymousPerson
2,287 15 18

 If you don't want to have your .gitignore interfere with anyone else's repository, you can also use .git/info/exclude . (See <http://help.github.com/ignore-files/>)

7

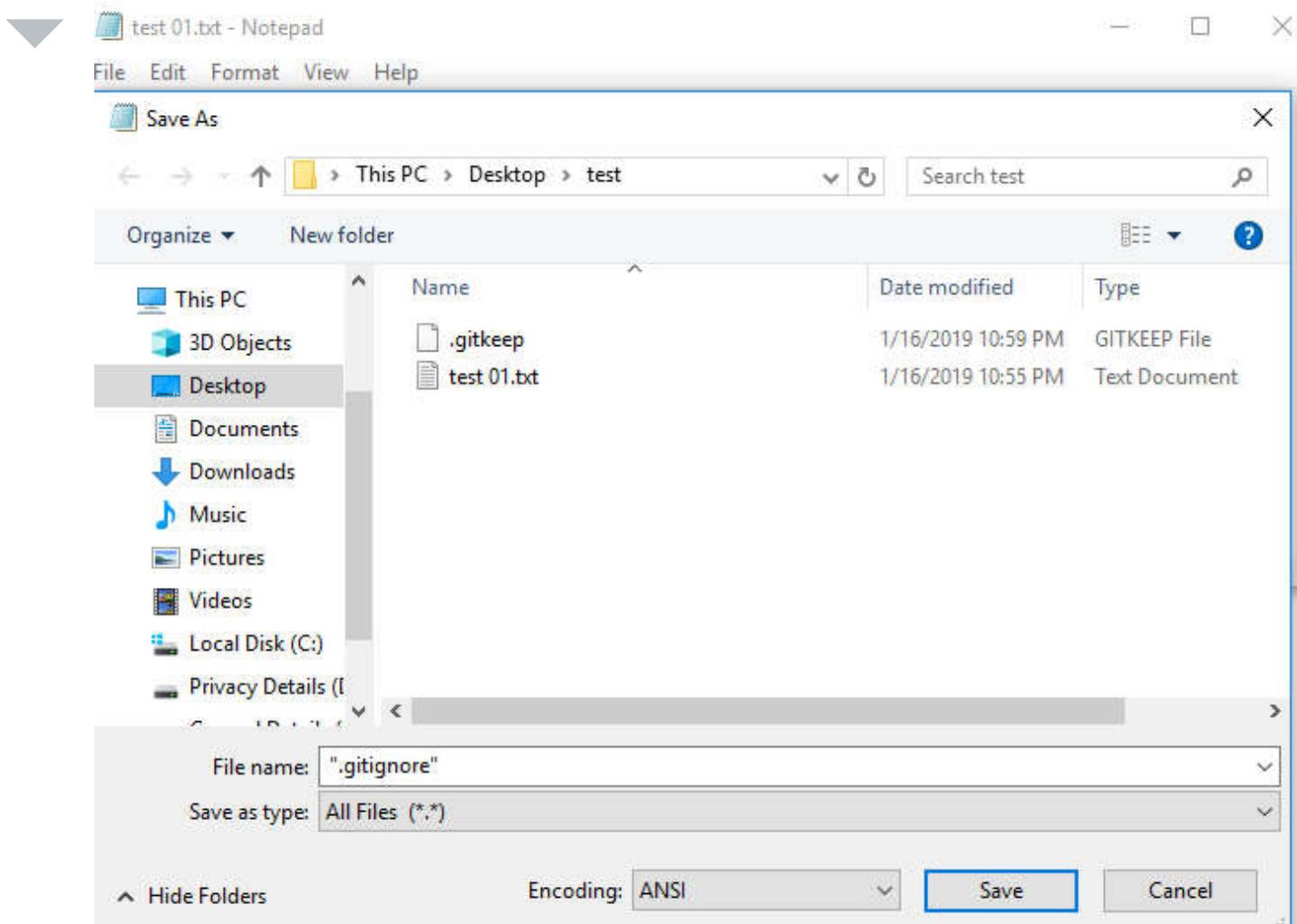
answered May 24 '12 at 23:58



EfForEffort
54.7k 4 26 39

Windows

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File Name : ".gitignore" , Save as type : All Files

answered Jan 16 at 17:45



Ishan Lakshitha

99 1 2

- 6
1. Open git terminal
 2. go to git repository of the project
 3. create a .gitignore file by `touch .gitignore` command
 4. `git add .gitignore` command to add ignore file
 5. set ignore rules in the ignore file
 6. run the command `cat .gitignore`

By running the command in step 3 you will get the .gitignore file in the project directory. Thanks.

answered Feb 20 '15 at 11:05



Rashedul.Rubel

2.042 15 26

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Without using command line

6

1. Open texteditor and add your rules.
2. Click File->Save As
3. Save it as ".gitignore" (include the quotations)

answered Dec 12 '15 at 8:28



Yellow

71 1 11

To force Finder to display hidden files and folders via Terminal:

5

```
Open Terminal
For OS X 10.9 Mavericks, run this command (lower-case finder):
defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles TRUE
For OS X 10.8 Mountain Lion, 10.7, or 10.6, run this command (upper-case Finder):
defaults write com.apple.Finder AppleShowAllFiles true
notice the setting for true
Then run this command: killall Finder
Then exit Terminal
To revert back to Finder's default setting (hide hidden files and folders),
run the opposite command but with the false setting.
```

Then run killall Finder and exit Terminal.

answered Jan 25 '16 at 15:08



Raja Jawahar

4,117 5 32 47

windows: in the commandline:

5

```
.>.gitignore
```

this will show an error but will work

answered Oct 31 '18 at 22:53



Timar Ivo Batis

436 4 9

At work we are on Windows XP, and typing a period at the end of a filename doesn't work. A quick easy way to create a .gitignore file without having the "You must type a filename"error is:

4

1. open a cmd window and type "edit .gitignore".

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answered Oct 1 '12 at 21:26



Mario

1,996 5 32 42

You can type `new-item .gitignore` in Windows Powershell.

4

answered Sep 20 '15 at 15:07



NitoriKawashiro

41 2

You can directly create empty `.gitignore` file , open `cmd` in the location you need to add this file and type this command

4

```
copy con .gitignore
```

press `ENTER` you are now in edit mode of the newly created file, but we do not need to add anything now, just press `F6` and then press `ENTER` Now you have an empty `.gitignore` file, edit your file in whatever editor you have

answered Nov 3 '18 at 10:39



Amado Saladino

384 3 9

To add any file in Xcode go to the menu and navigate to File -> New -> File...

3

For a `.gitignore` file choose Other -> Empty and click on Next. Type in the name (`.gitignore`) into the Save As field and click Create. For files starting with a dot (".") a warning message will pop up, telling you that the file will be hidden. Just click on Use "." to proceed...

That's all.

To fill your brand new `.gitignore` you can find an example for ignoring Xcode file here:

<https://stackoverflow.com/a/12021580/2120348>

edited May 23 '17 at 12:10



Community ♦

1 1

answered Mar 5 '14 at 13:32



Noctis

93 2 6

if you use Sublime as your IDE you can create a new file and save it as `.gitignore`. Simply using `ctrl N` for the new file, and `ctrl S` to save as `".gitignore"`.

2

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1 2 next

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