How to create .gitignore file

▲

961

▼

★

250

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?

git   xcode4.3   gitignore

<table>
<tr><td>edited Feb 6 '15 at 9:50</td><td>asked May 24 '12 at 19:48</td></tr>
<tr><td>Unknown
3,344   3   35   59</td><td>Luca
7,199   15   43   66</td></tr>
</table>

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

▲

1543

▼

If you're using Windows it will not let you create a file without a filename in Windows Explorer. It will give you the error "*You must type a file name*" if you try to rename a text file as **.gitignore**

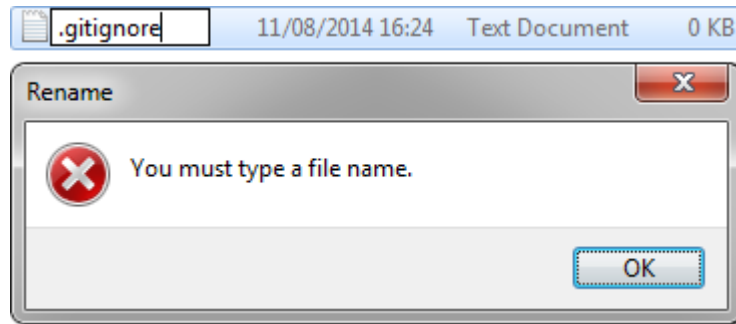| 📄 .gitignore | 11/08/2014 16:24 | Text Document | 0 KB |

Rename ✕

❌ You must type a file name.

OK

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`

Alternatively @HenningCash suggests in the comments

> 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   answered Sep 6 '12 at 10:59

Martin Smith   ajcw
356k   60   596   709   **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. – gwgeller 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

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

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

444

```
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   73   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 for that as this will bite you anyway with other things as well. In short: I'm sorry for you :/ – kaiser Aug 11 '14 at 16:55

5   @SpencerKillen you need to use this command by using git bash. – Teoman shipahi Jan 8 '15 at 16:47

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

---

11   Definitely the easiest way, if you want to stay in pure Windows style. . . – Raj Jan 21 '14 at 4:59

4   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

1   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 ✎

165

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   sully6768
1,508   1   16   24   **1,989**   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

▲

91

▼

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

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

---

following two sources:

gitignore.io

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

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.

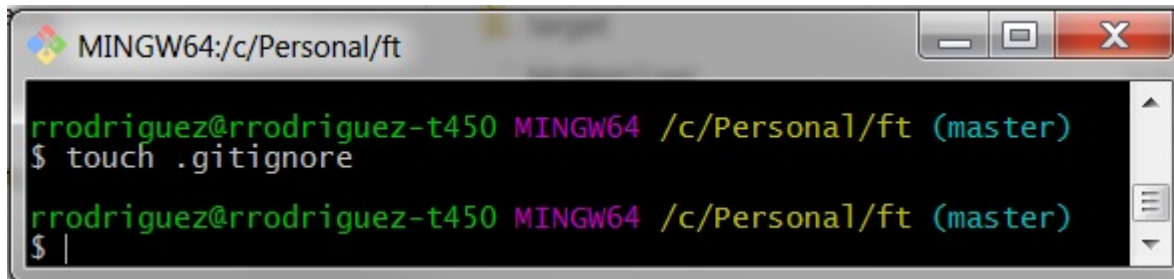- How do I install/set up and use cURL on a Windows?
- Wget/cURL alternative native to Windows?

Using Git Bash console.

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

the .gitignore file will be created for you.

answered May 17 '16 at 0:45

Roberto Rodriguez
1,212   14   22

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

VIM (mini tutorial):

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

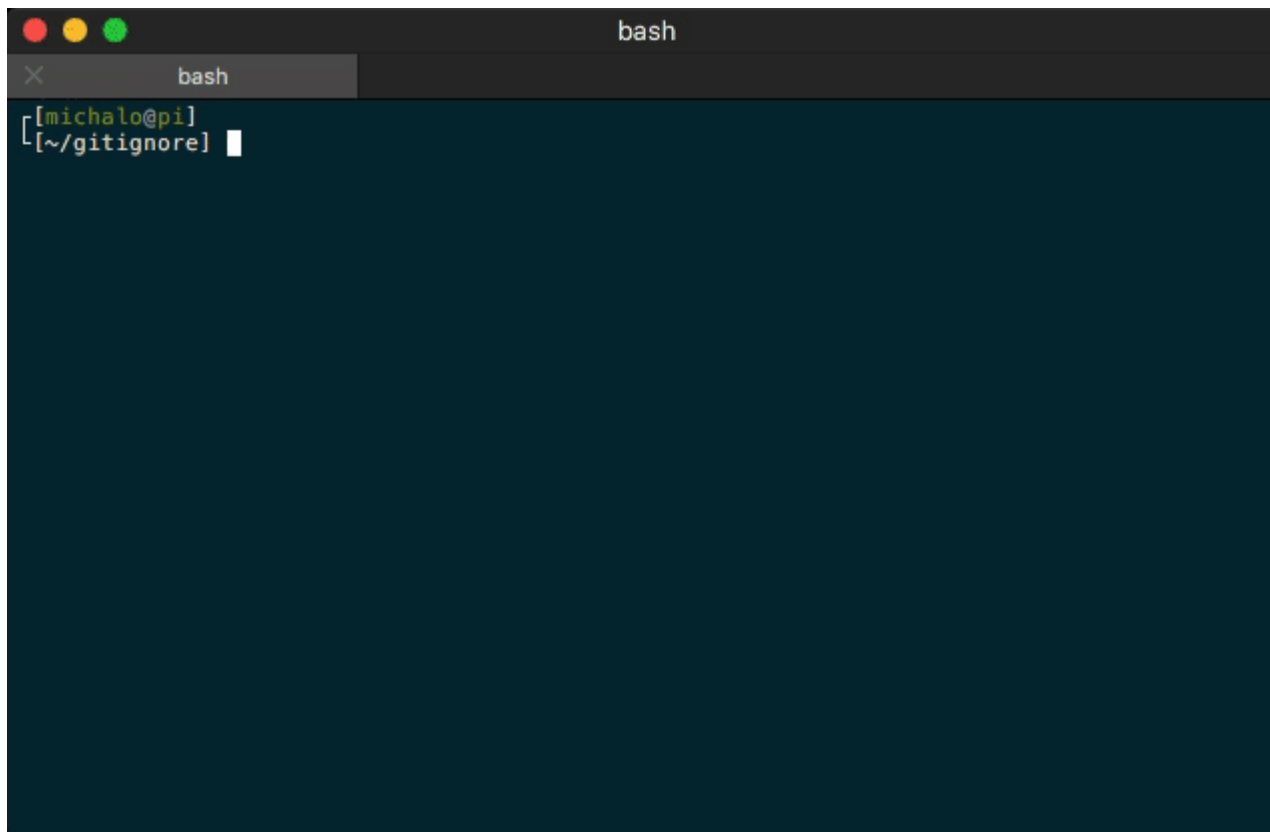**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

```
                                    bash
          bash
[michalo@pi]
[~/gitignore] ▌
```

edited Jun 2 '17 at 12:36

answered Jun 2 '17 at 12:29

Oo.oO

5,645　3　12　25

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:

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.
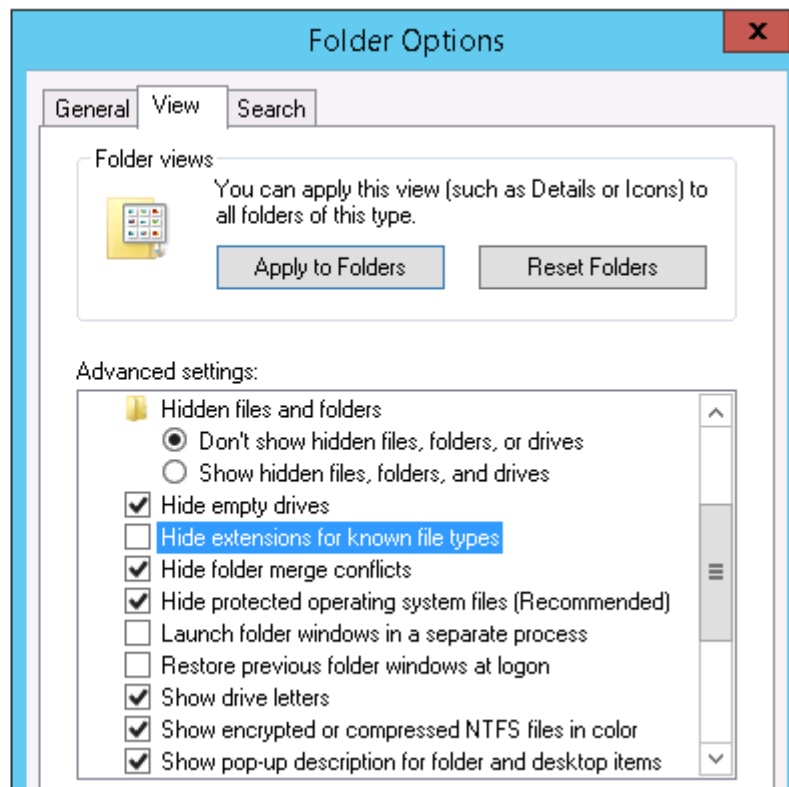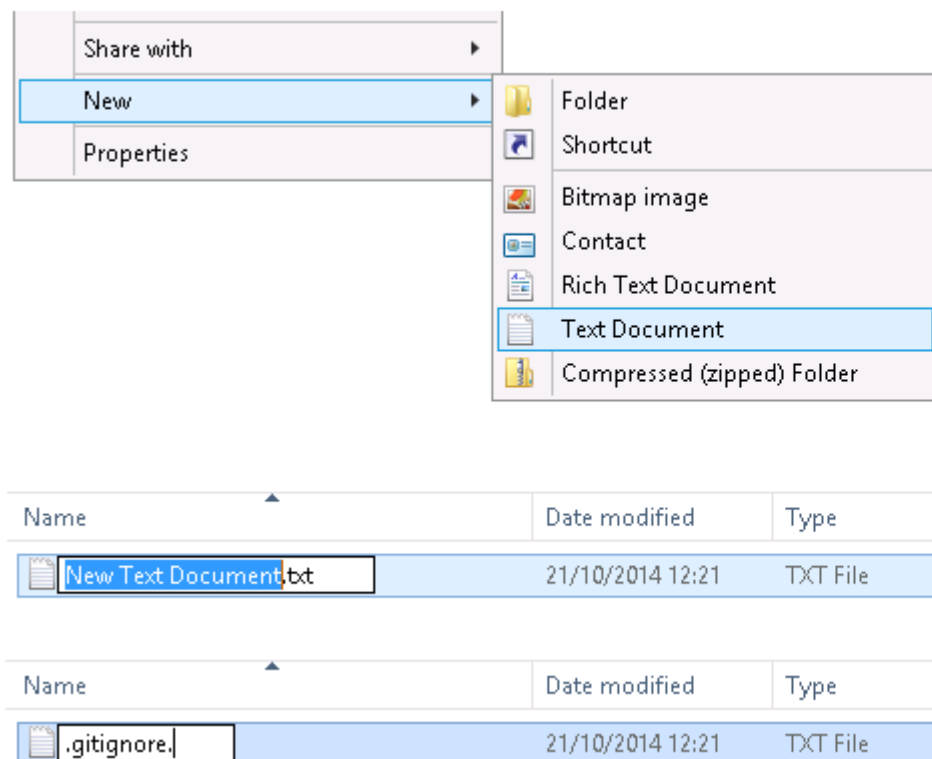
Email Sign Up　　OR SIGN IN WITH　　G Google　　Facebook✕

Tested under Windows 7 and 8.

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

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.

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.
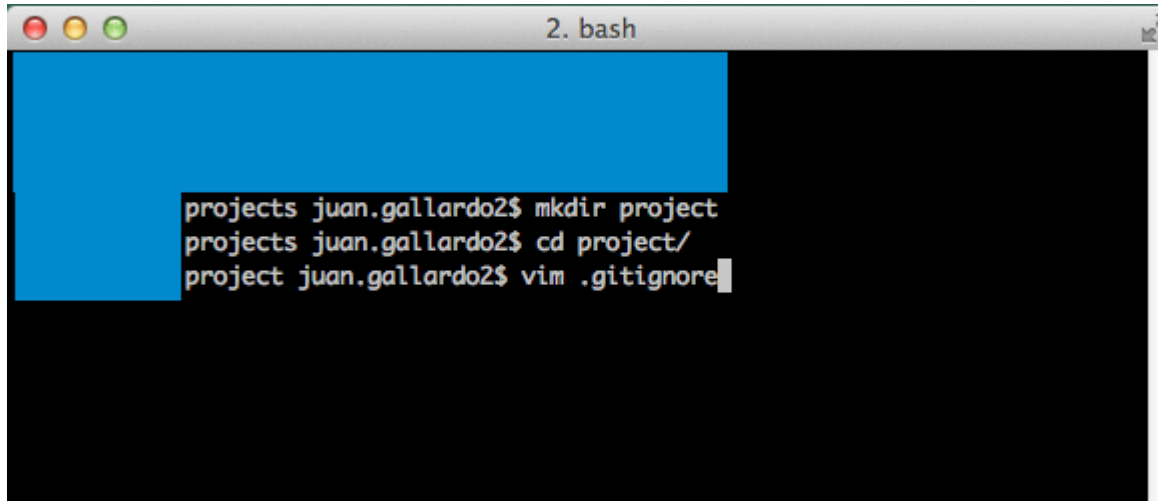
Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

Step 1

While in your project run

```
vim .gitnore
```


Step 2

You now have your file open with [vim](#).
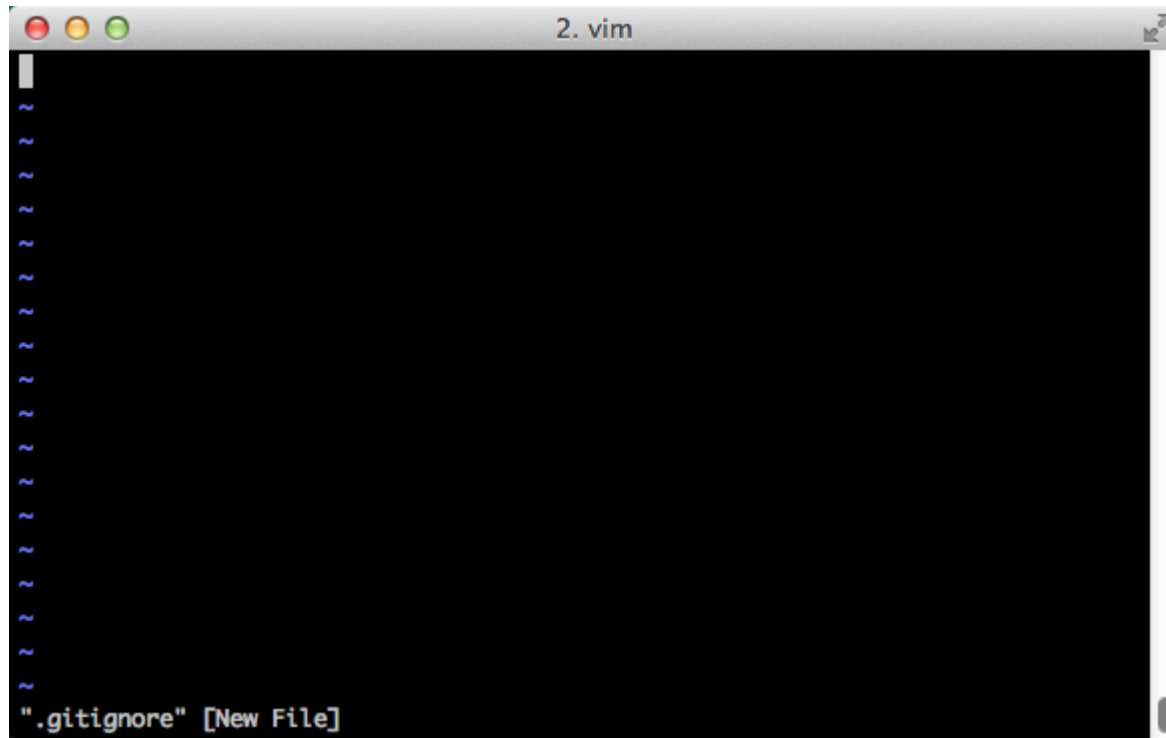
Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.
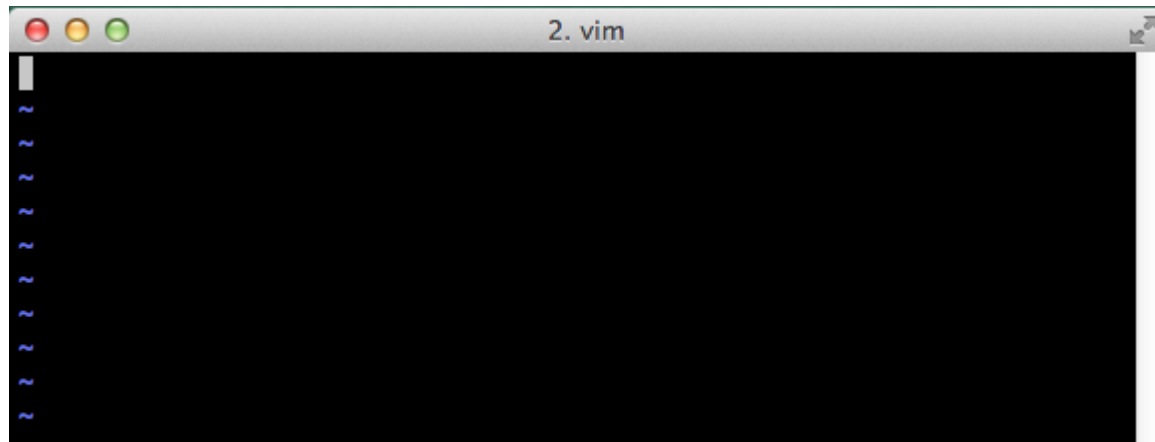
Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

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

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.
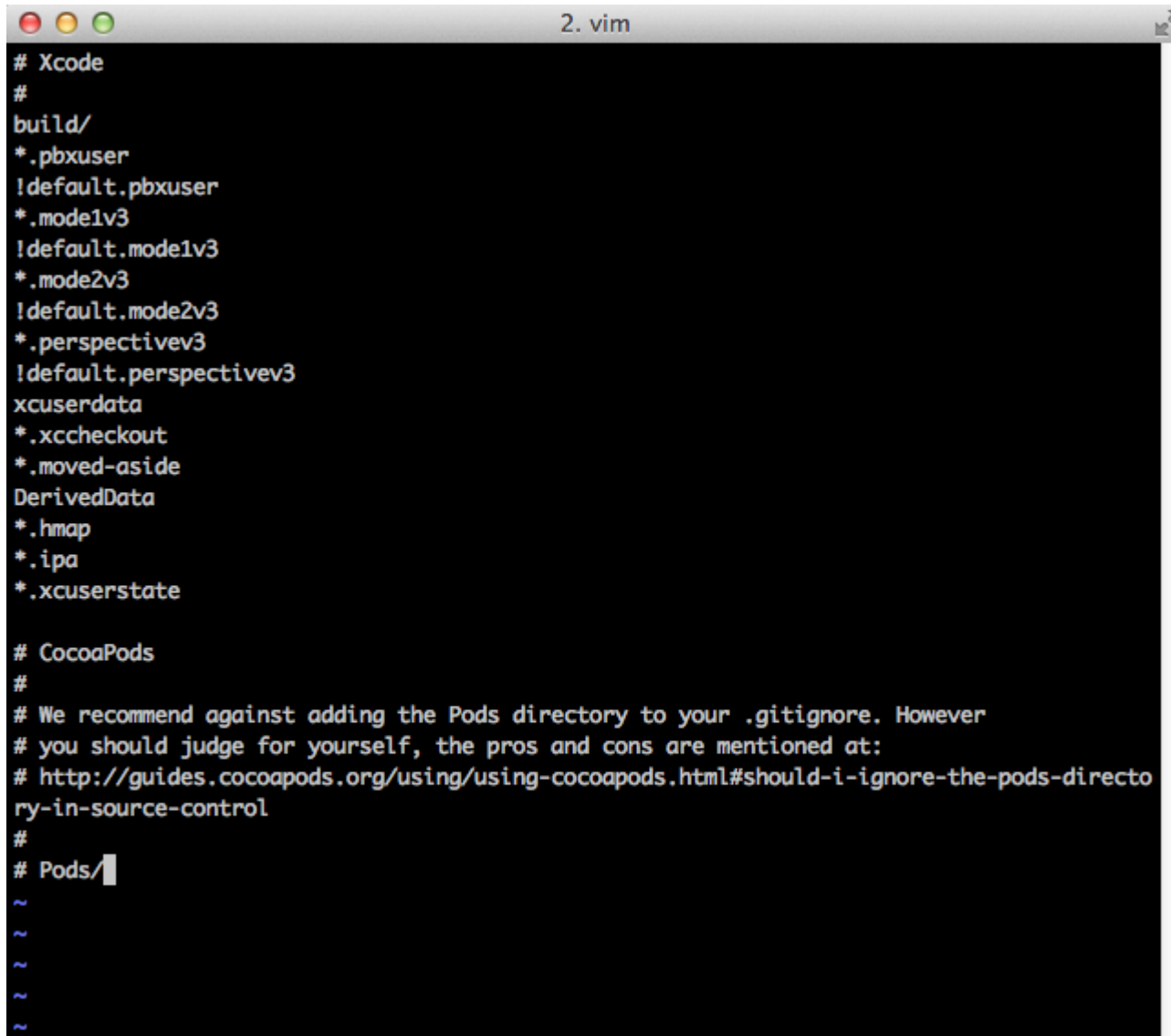
Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

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-directo
ry-in-source-control
#
# Pods/
~
~
~
~
~
```

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up　　　OR SIGN IN WITH　　　G Google　　　Facebook

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
```

answered Jul 16 '14 at 17:45

JGallardo
6,835   4   56   68

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

13

Ex:

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

*.pydevproject
.project
.metadata
.gradle
bin/
tmp/
```

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

```
.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/
build/
[Bb]in/
[Oo]bj/

# MSTest test Results
[Tt]est[Rr]esult*/
[Bb]uild[Ll]og.*

*.i.c
```

```
*.pgc
*.pgd
*.rsp
*.sbr
*.tlb
*.tli
*.tlh
*.tmp
*.tmp_proj
*.log
*.vspscc
*.vssscc
.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]e[Ss]harper

# TeamCity is a build add-in
_TeamCity*

# DotCover is a Code Coverage Tool
*.dotCover
```

```
# DocProject is a documentation generator add-in
DocProject/buildhelp/
DocProject/Help/*.HxT
DocProject/Help/*.HxC
DocProject/Help/*.hhc
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

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

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

```
echo ./idea > .gitignore
```

this will create the .gitignore file having text content "./idea"
you may now manually change data from the file using text editor.

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 wll generate the gitignore commands or text for you just say your api or os thats 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

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

12

edited May 23 '17 at 12:34

Community ♦
1   1

answered May 24 '12 at 19:53

Sivakumar Kailasam
349   1   5   20

11

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

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
1,145   11   8

Few ways to create .gitignore using cmd:

10

- **With** `copy con` **command:**

  1. open **cmd** and say `cd` to your git repository

  2. say `copy con .gitignore` and press **Ctrl+Z**.

- **With `start notepad .gitignore` command:**

    1. open **cmd** and say `cd` to your git repository

    2. say `start notepad .gitignore` and press **Yes** button in opened notepad dialog box.

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

    1. open **cmd** and say `cd` to your git repository

    2. say `edit .gitignore` and close opened edit editor.

edited Apr 29 '15 at 8:57   answered Apr 28 '15 at 15:04

Yuliia Ashomok
4,433   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:

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

edited Jan 10 '15 at 16:14   answered Feb 1 '14 at 21:07

burseaner   MadJangi
695   14   26   **196**   2   6

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 following:

8
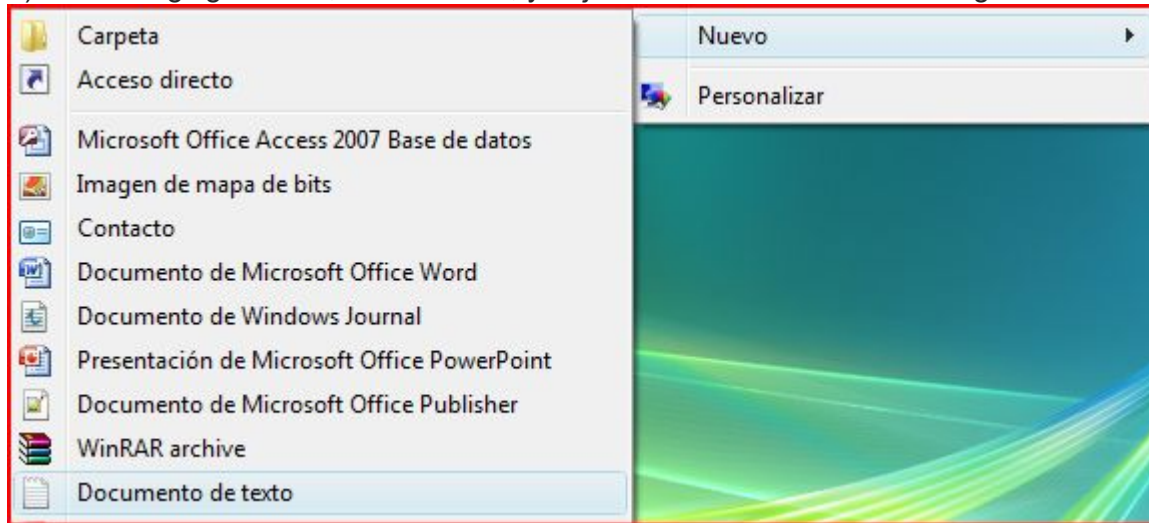
then you have to change the name writing the following line on the cmd:

```
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
```

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

```
*.aps
*.pch
*.vspscc
*.vssscc
*_i.c
*_p.c
*.ncb
*.suo
*.tlb
*.tlh
*.bak
*.[Cc]ache
*.ilk
*.log
*.lib
*.sbr
*.sdf
*.pyc
*.xml
ipch/
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.

If the respository 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 dowsn´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

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

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

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

YellowJ
71   1   11

6
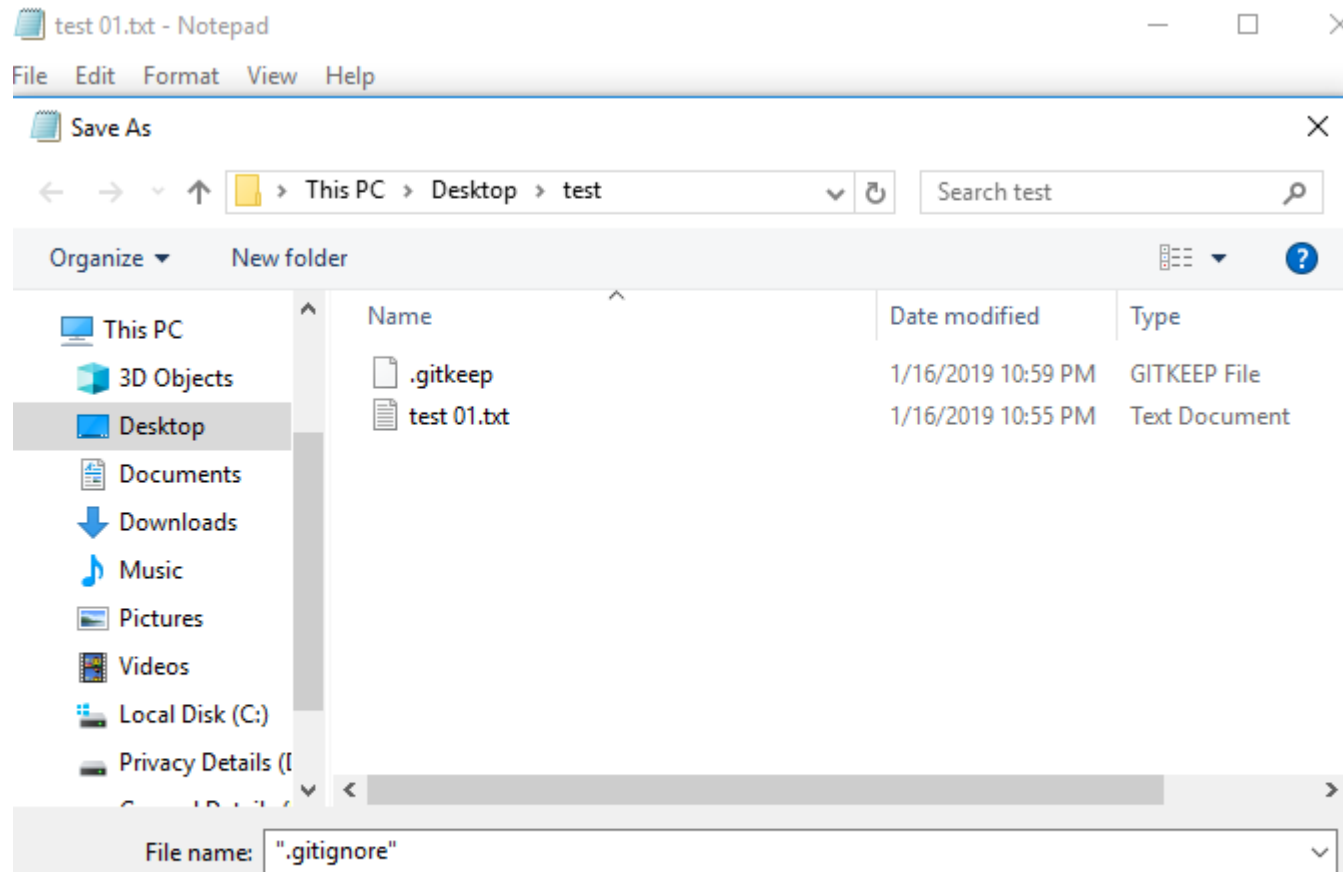
test 01.txt - Notepad

File   Edit   Format   View   Help

Save As   ✕

← → ⌄ ↑ 📁 > This PC > Desktop > test   ⌄ ↻   Search test   🔎

Organize ▾   New folder   ▤ ▾   ?

	Name	Date modified	Type
This PC			
3D Objects	📄 .gitkeep	1/16/2019 10:59 PM	GITKEEP File
Desktop	📄 test 01.txt	1/16/2019 10:55 PM	Text Document
Documents			
Downloads			
Music			
Pictures			
Videos			
Local Disk (C:)			
Privacy Details (D			

File name: ".gitignore"   ⌄

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

answered Jan 16 at 17:45

Ishan Lakshitha
89   1   2

5

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

    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
4,102   5   32   47

5

windows: in the commandline:

```
.>.gitignore
```

this will show an error but will work

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

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".

2. type "Alt (selects file menu), F, S. You now have an empty .gitignore file wherever your cmd prompt is pointing.

You can now populate it with your favorite text editor

answered Oct 1 '12 at 21:26

Mario

1,977   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

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

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   answered Mar 5 '14 at 13:32

Community ♦   Noctis
1   1   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".

3

edited Jun 11 '14 at 0:05   answered Jun 10 '14 at 23:48

mtpultz
5,970   9   72   138

1   2   next

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕