How to add a simple `README.md` file to your GitHub profile

Audience

This guide is aimed at people with general PC proficiency, basic Git and GitHub knowledge.

Prerequisites

- PC/Laptop with Windows

- Internet Connection

- GitHub account

- GitHub repository named after your username

- Git application

Intro

If the repository name matches your GitHub username, GitHub will display its `README.md` on your profile page. This guide explains how to connect to that repository using Git and how to add a `README.md` file with some basic Markdown to it.

Note: This guide doesn't cover the Git installation process, please refer to [official Git install manual](#). For a GitHub repository creation, please see [their official manual](#).

Verifying Git installation and setup

1. Open command line and verify that you have Git installed:

```
git --version
```

Output example:

```
git version 2.49.0.windows.1
```

2. As per GitHub's Git Setup manual, you should setup your username and commit email address in Git.

To verify it has been set up, run the following commands:

```
git config --global user.name
```

```
git config --global user.email
```

The output should display your name and email. If not, refer to the [documentation](#).

Cloning a repository

3. Cloning the repository to your local machine:

```
git clone <REMOTE_URL>
```

`REMOTE_URL` is the link to your repository, for example,
https://github.com/oleh2601/oleh2601 .

After cloning, Git will create a new directory named after your repository.

 4. Open the cloned repository:

```
cd repository-name
```

Creating a `README.md` file

 5. Create a new `README.md` file:

```
notepad README.md
```

 6. Next, add your own text or copy this sample Markdown text inside Notepad:

Sample:

```
### **_Success!_**

I now know how to create simple Markdown files...

> _"I am still learning."_ —Michelangelo
```

Save the file and close Notepad.

Adding a file to a repository

To add the new file to your repository, you need to: 1. Stage the file(tell Git that
we want to include the file in the next update) 2. Commit (confirm the created/changed
file and add a message about the changes) 3. Push to GitHub (send the updated files to
our repository)

 7. Stage the file:

```
git add README.md
```

 8. Commit the change:

```
git commit -m "Adding README.md"
```

`-m` adds a commit message

 9. Push to GitHub:

```
git push origin main
```

You will be prompted to complete authorization.

10. Now if you open your profile in the browser, you will see the newly created README.md file at the very top.

Summary

In this guide, you learned how to:

1. Verify your Git setup

2. Clone a GitHub repository

3. Create and edit a `README.md` file

4. Stage, commit, and push changes

5. Display your README on your GitHub profile

If you are interested in learning more about Markdown:

- checkout its [Wikipedia page](#)
- learn useful Markdown basics at [Markdown Tutorial website](#).