

Introduction to **Git & GitHub**

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Before we start,

Please make sure you have an account on **github.com**, does **not** have to be an enterprise account.

If you are on a windows computer, please download **git** for windows.



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Survey Question

On a scale of 1-5, how familiar are you with linux commands?



LINUX

MIGHT BE USEFUL TODAY

Linux Command Line Cheat Sheet

Directory navigation	File and folder manipulations
cd dir – change directory	touch file – create or update file
cd or cd ~ – change to home	cat > file – create file
pwd – show current directory	mkdir dir – create a directory
hpc – data processing cluster terminal	cp file1 file2 – copy file1 to file2
List files and directories	cp -r dir1 dir2 – copy dir1 to dir2;
ls -l – list files and directories	rm file – delete file
more file – list content of file	rm -r dir – delete directory
tree – list directory hierarchy	rm -f file – force remove file
cat file – list content of file	rm -rf dir – force remove directory
nano -w file – edit file with nano	mv file1 file2 – rename/move file1 to file2
Search files and folders	
find - ./data -name report.txt – search folder "data" for file with name report.txt	
find - ./ -iname "*report*" – search current folder for a file name containing "report"	
find ./ -empty – find empty files and folders	
grep -r "text" – recursively search files for word "text"	
grep "completeness" report.txt – search for word "completeness" in file	
Misc. commands	Bash Terminal Shortcuts
clear – remove all terminal entries	Ctrl+C – stop current command
reset – resets current terminal	Ctrl+R – search history
du -sh * – list size of files and folders	Ctrl+Shift+C – Copy
df -h – list disk usage statistics	Ctrl+Shift+V – Paste
apropos – shell version of "Google"	TAB - autocomplete terminal entry

Disclaimer

Today, we will **not** go over

- forks,
- merge conflicts & resolutions
- stashing
- rebase
- GitHub Desktop (which may be the easier solution for what you need, but would still need to knowledge of foundations of Git)

Goals&/orObjectives

- Make a project folder on your computer, then **push** it to GitHub
- Probably need to make a **key** to allow **push/pull??!**
- Create a new **branch**, open a **pull request**, and merge it into your main branch
- Save your changes as a **commit**
- Undo a change by reverting it
- **Clone** a GitHub repository onto your computer

And learn basic linux commands :)

What is Git?

Git is a distributed **version control system**.

- Runs locally on your computer
- Tracks changes and versions of files for collaboration
- Operate through the command line or a different GUI

What is GitHub?

GitHub is the site or service that **hosts** your git files. (remote location)

Why know Git?

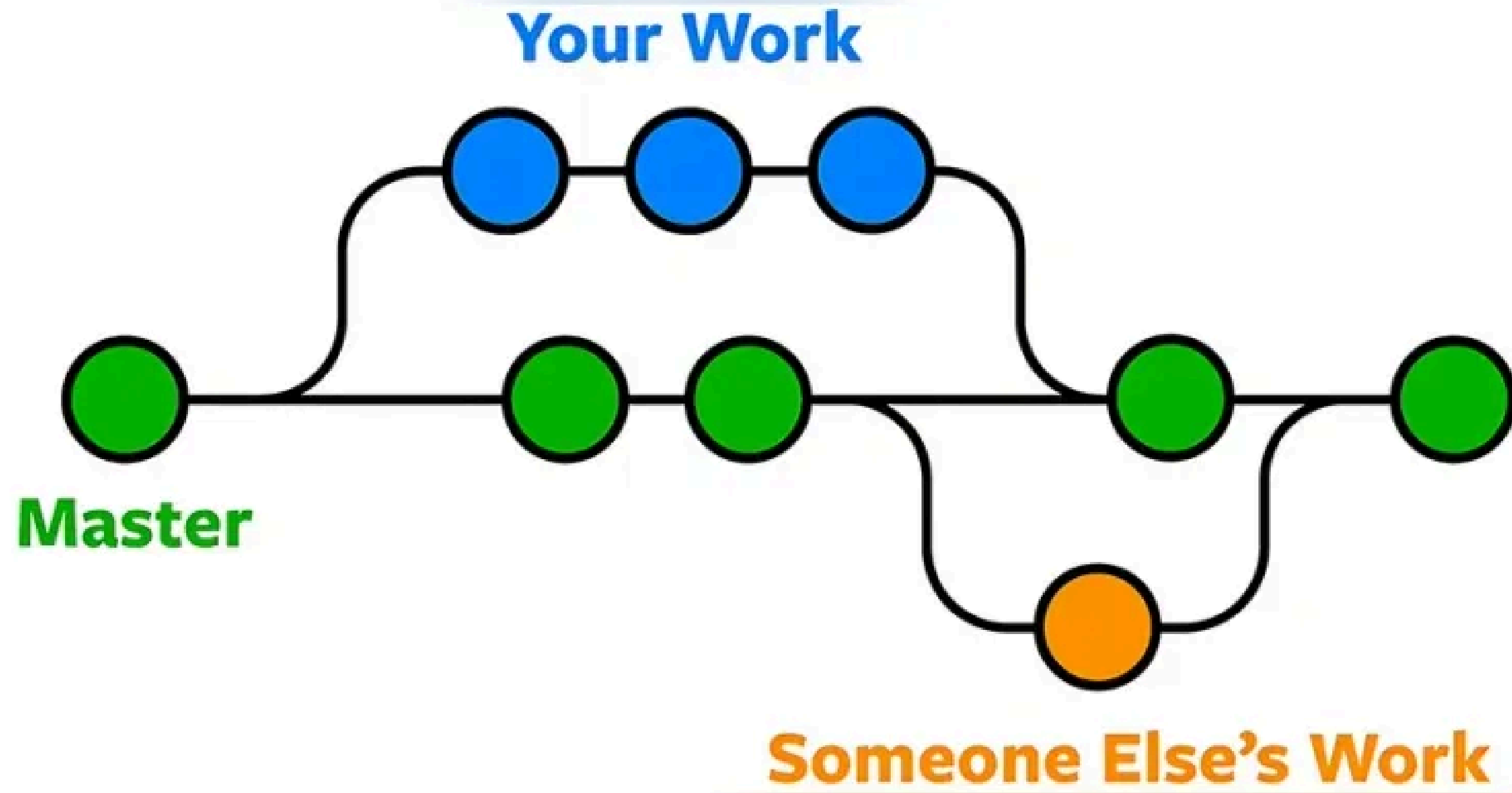
Code should be readable, reliable, and reusable/reproducible.

1. Makes **collaboration** with teammates easier with a standard workflow (workplace standard in most places).
2. Allows you to **build new features safely using branches**, so you don't accidentally break working code.
3. Git **protects** your project with clear “save points” (commits), so you can **track changes and recover** if something goes wrong.

Quick concepts:

- **Repository (repo):** your project directory (files + history)
- **Commit:** a saved snapshot of your changes
- **Staging:** the “ready to commit” area
- **Branch:** a separate line of work
- **Merge:** combine changes from branches
- **Push / Pull:** upload commits to the remote / download updates to your computer
- **Clone:** copy a remote repo onto your computer

Branches



Exercise 1: Create a SSH key on GitHub.

Mac

1. Open **Terminal** and run this script replacing with your email:

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C  
"INSERT_EMAIL_HERE"
```

2. Run this script to copy the contents and **paste** it onto a notes/text app (will need for the next step)

```
pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub
```

Windows

1. Open **Command Prompt** and run this script replacing with your email:

```
type  
%USERPROFILE%\ssh\id_ed25519.pub
```

2. Run this script to copy the contents and **paste** it onto a notes/text app (will need for the next step)

```
type %USERPROFILE%\ssh\id_ed25519.pub | clip
```

Exercise 1: Create a SSH key on GitHub.

1. Log in to **GitHub**
2. Click your **profile picture** → **Settings** → **SSH and GPG keys**
3. **Click New SSH key** (or Add SSH key)
4. Title: name it something like “**MacBook**” or “**PC**”
5. **Key type**: leave as **Authentication** (most common)
6. **Key**: paste your public key (the contents of id_ed25519.pub)
7. Click **Add SSH key**
8. If prompted, confirm your password / 2FA

Exercise 2. Create a new repo on GitHub

1. Create a new repo on your Github account.
 - a. Optional visibility, readme, .gitignore, or license settings


Create a new repository

Repositories contain a project's files and version history. Have a project elsewhere? [Import a repository](#).
Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).

1

General

Owner *

 reginamaee ▾

Repository name *

github_test_2

✔ github_test_2 is available.

Great repository names are short and memorable. How about [scaling-guide](#)?

Description

test

4 / 350 characters

Exercise 2.

2. Create a new repository on command line or prompt

Mac

1. Navigate to the directory in **Terminal** where you want to save this project
2. Run these commands in **Terminal**:


```
git remote add origin *GITHUB LINK HERE*  
echo "# github_test_2" >> README.md  
git init  
git add README.md  
git commit -m "first commit"  
git branch -M main  
git push -u origin main
```




Windows




1. Navigate to the directory in **Powershell** where you want to save this project
2. Run these commands in **Powershell**.

```
git remote add origin *GITHUB LINK  
HERE*  
echo "# github_test_2" >> README.md  
git init  
git add README.md  
git commit -m "first commit"  
git branch -M main  
git push -u origin main
```



Exercise 2.


 **github_test_1** Public



 Pin  Watch 0 

 main  

[Go to file](#) [+](#) [Code](#)

 **reginamaee** first commit 4b80530 · 31 minutes ago 

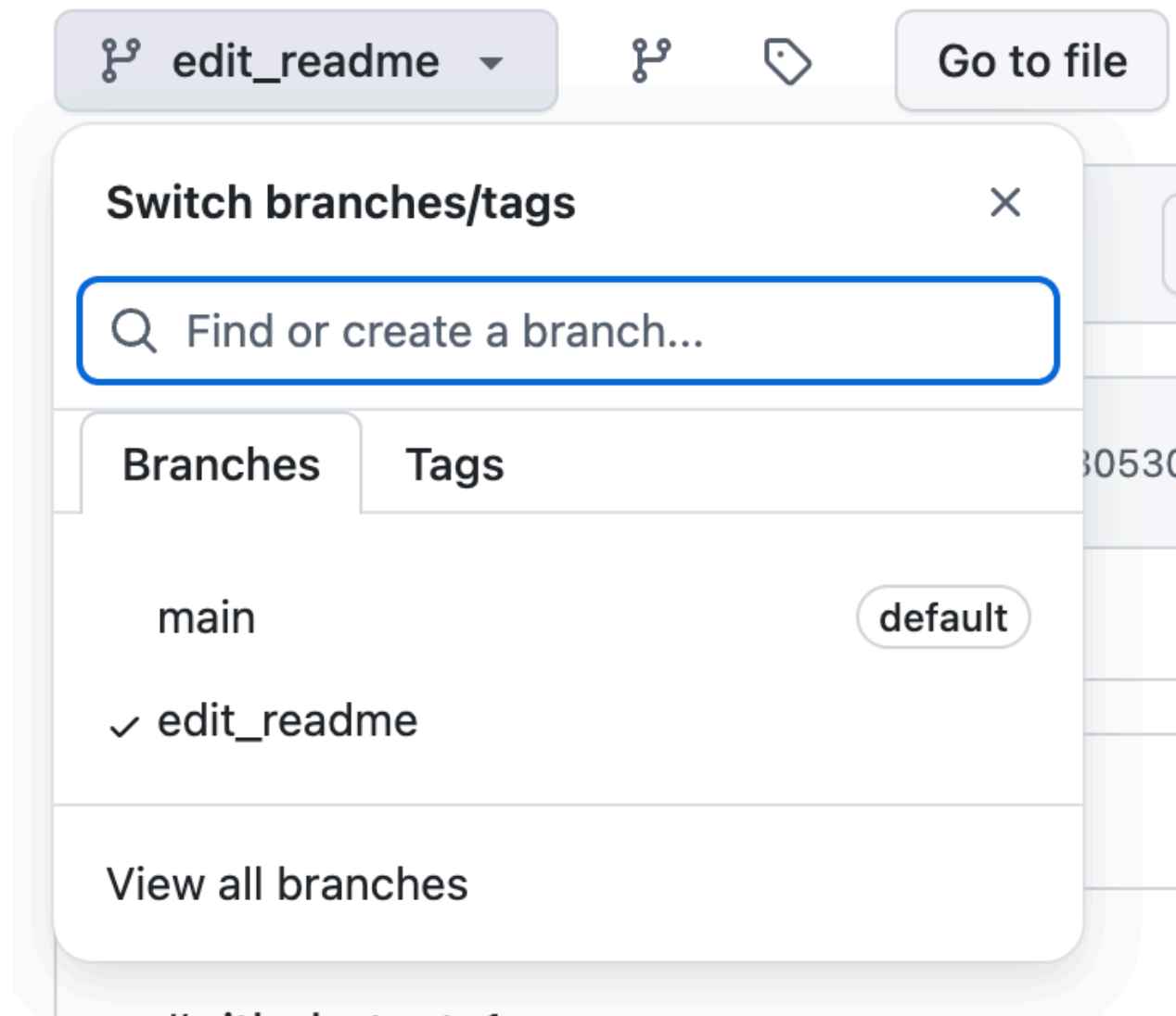
 README.md first commit 31 minutes ago

 **README** 

#github_test_1

Exercise 3. Create a new branch

2. Click **main** to open branch options and create branch “edit_readme”



Exercise 3. Create a new branch & change branches locally

Mac

1. Navigate to the directory where you saved this project locally and run these commands in **Terminal**:

```
git pull  
git checkout edit_readme
```

Windows

1. Navigate to the directory where you saved this project locally and run these commands in **Powershell**:

```
git pull  
git checkout edit_readme
```

Exercise 4. Edit README

1. Open the README.md in a text editor
and add your name in Line 2. Save these edits.

2. Back in **Terminal/Powershell**, navigate to the directory where your README is saved and run

`git status`


```
On branch edit_readme
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/edit_readme'.


Changes not staged for commit:
  (use "git add <file>..." to update what will be committed)
  (use "git restore <file>..." to discard changes in working directory)
        modified:   README.md
```




3. Run `git commit -m "Add name to README"`

4. Push the edits to GitHub by running: `git push`


Exercise 4. Edit README


 **github_test_1** PublicPin Watch 0



 **edit_readme** had recent pushes 20 seconds ago Compare & pull request

 **edit_readme**  **2 Branches**  **0 Tags** t + <> Code

This branch is **1 commit ahead of** **main** Contribute

 **reginamaee** Add name to README 6e619e9 · 2 minutes ago 2 Commits

 **README.md** Add name to README 2 minutes ago

 **README** 

#github_test_1 Regina

Exercise 5. Review changes & create pull request

1. On **GitHub**, navigate to the **Pull requests** tab
2. Click **new pull request**
3. Change **compare** branch to **edit_readme**

Comparing changes

Choose two branches to see what's changed or to start a new pull request. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#) or [learn more about diff comparisons](#).

base: main ← compare: edit_readme ✓ **Able to merge.** These branches can be automatically merged.

Discuss and review the changes in this comparison with others. [Learn about pull requests](#) **Create pull request**

1 commit 1 file changed 1 contributor

Commits on Jan 9, 2026

Add name to README 6e619e9 <>
reginamaee committed 9 minutes ago

Showing 1 changed file with 1 addition and 0 deletions. Split Unified

1 README.md <> ...

```
... @@ -1,2 @@
1 1 #github_test_1
2 + Regina
```

Exercise 5. Review changes & create pull request

4. Review changes and **create pull request**
5. **Merge pull request**
6. **Changes should now appear in the main branch!!**

Exercise 6: Clone an existing repo

1. Navigate to: https://github.com/reginamaee/intro_to_git
2. Click the **green Code button** and copy the **https** link
3. Navigate to a directory on **Terminal/Powershell** to where **you want to save this project locally** and run:

```
git clone *THE COPIED HTTPS LINK*
```