


How to host a website using GitHub

GitHub, Inc. [US] | https://github.com



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Built for developers

GitHub is a development platform inspired by the way you work. From open source to business, you can host and review code, manage projects, and build software alongside millions of other developers.

Username

✓

Email

✓


Password

✓

Use at least one letter, one numeral, and seven characters.

Sign up for GitHub

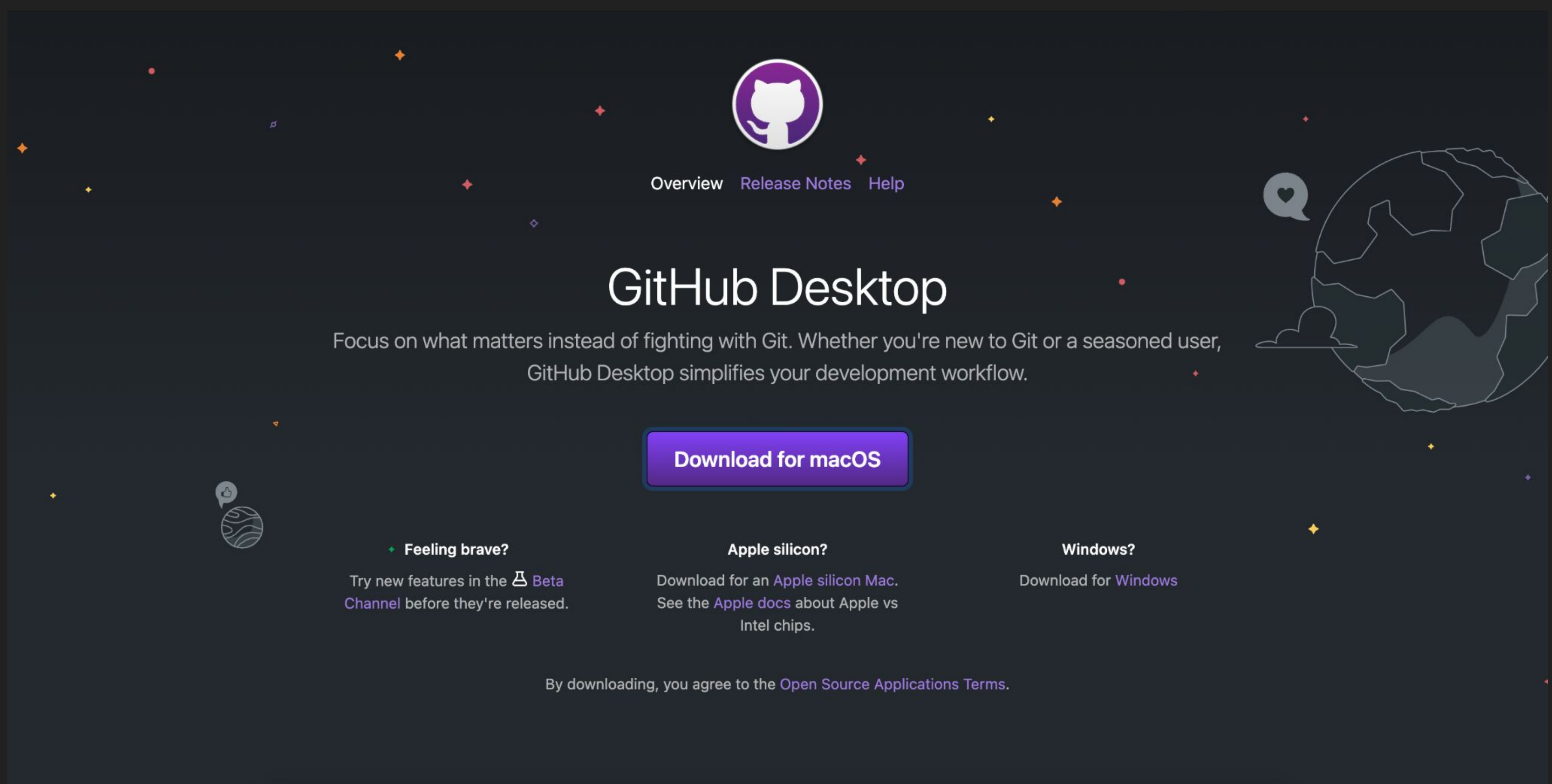
By clicking "Sign up for GitHub", you agree to our [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#). We'll occasionally send you account related emails.

The GitHub logo, known as the Octocat, is a white silhouette of a cat-like creature with eight legs, positioned inside a dark gray circle. The logo is centered on a white background.

Introduction

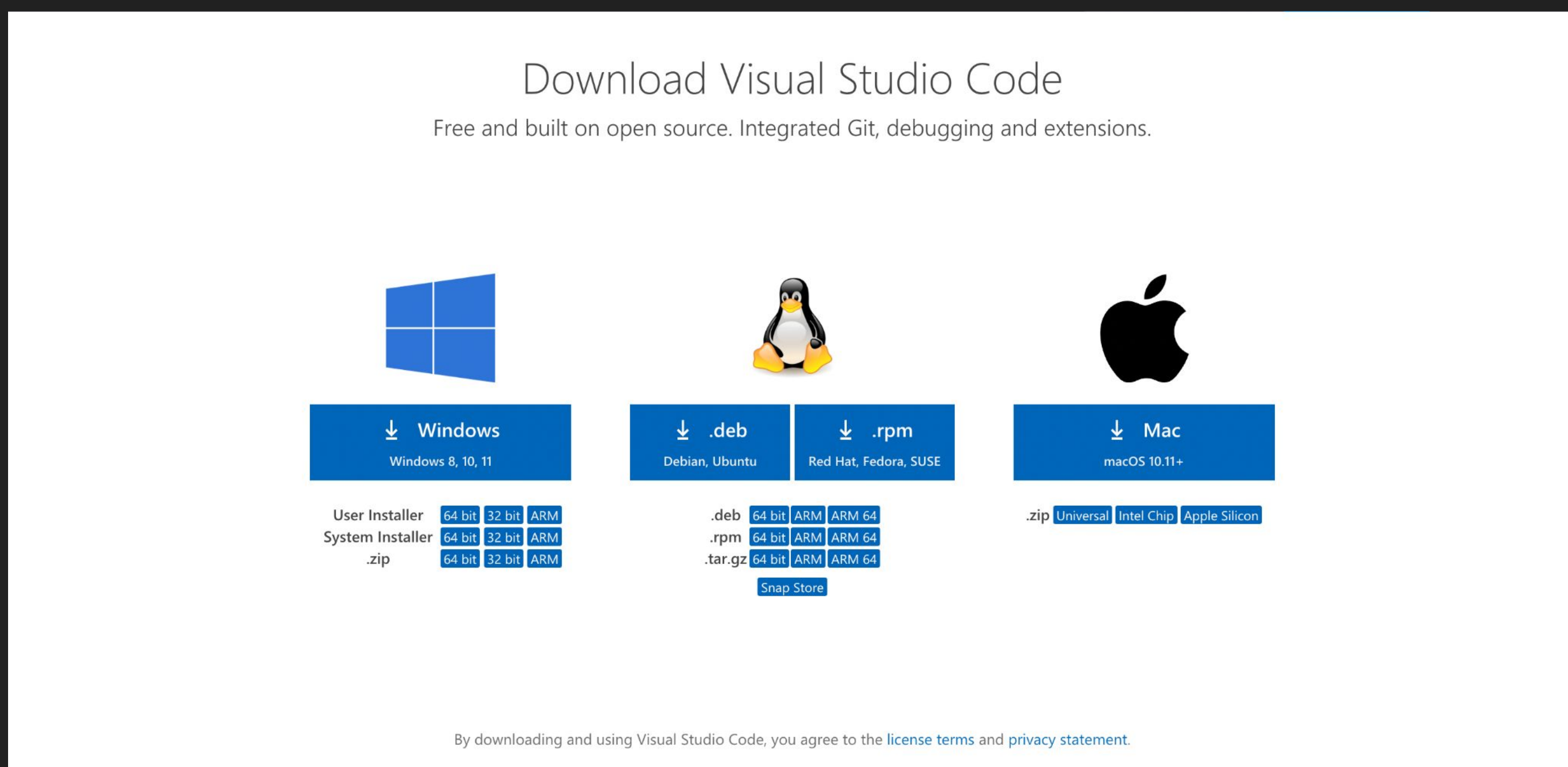
Hosting a website using a typical domain hosting service is costly and unnecessary for web developers just looking to showcase their projects. GitHub is a platform for hosting code and collaborating on code with others. With GitHub, anyone can create an account and use their free website hosting service, GitHub Pages.

GitHub Desktop is a computer application which can be downloaded for free. From there, anyone is able to copy files of code to GitHub, commit the files main to save them, and publish the website. From there, the website will be live in about ten minutes.

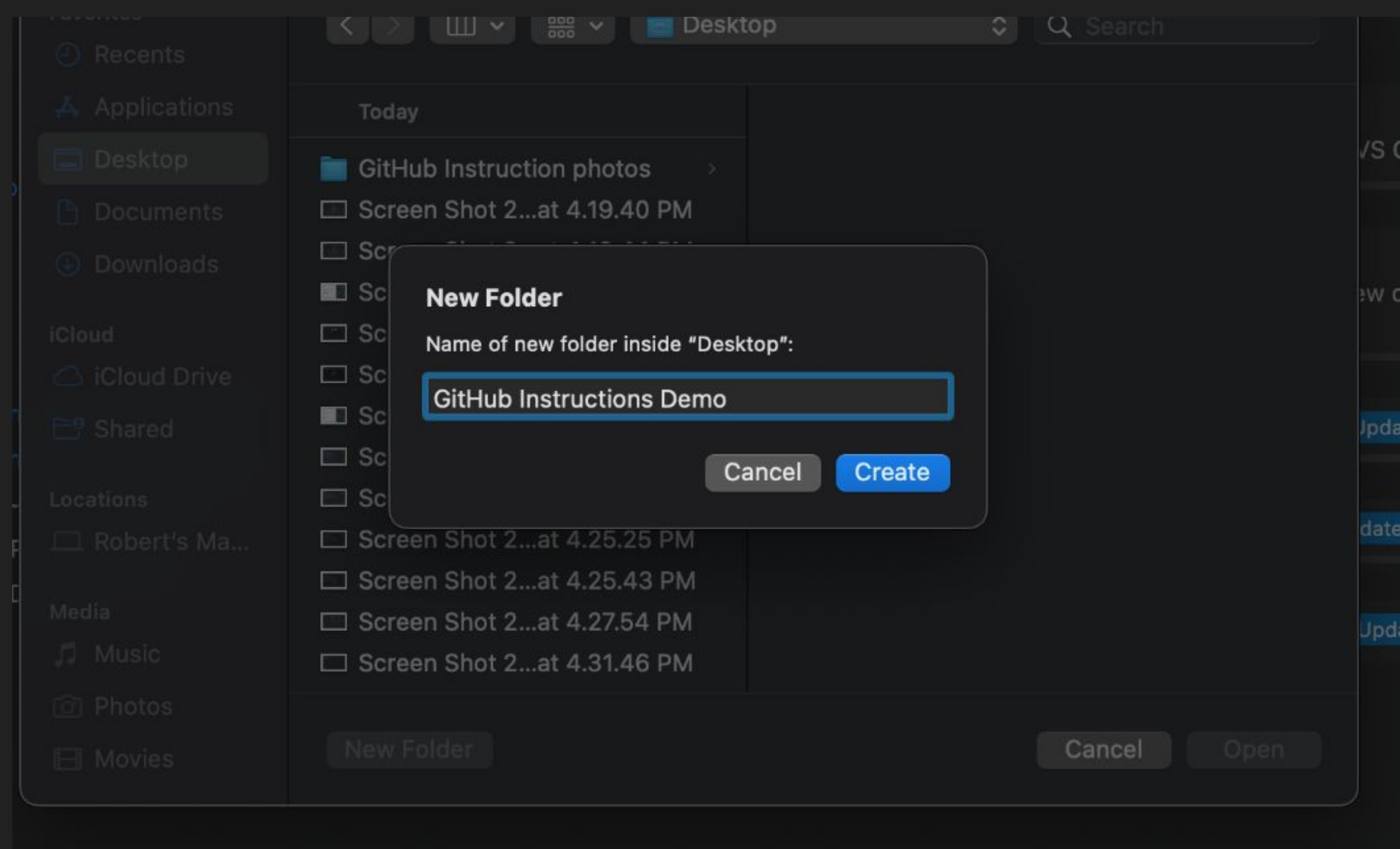


Setting Up

1. Go to <https://code.visualstudio.com/download> and click the download link based on which OS you are running.

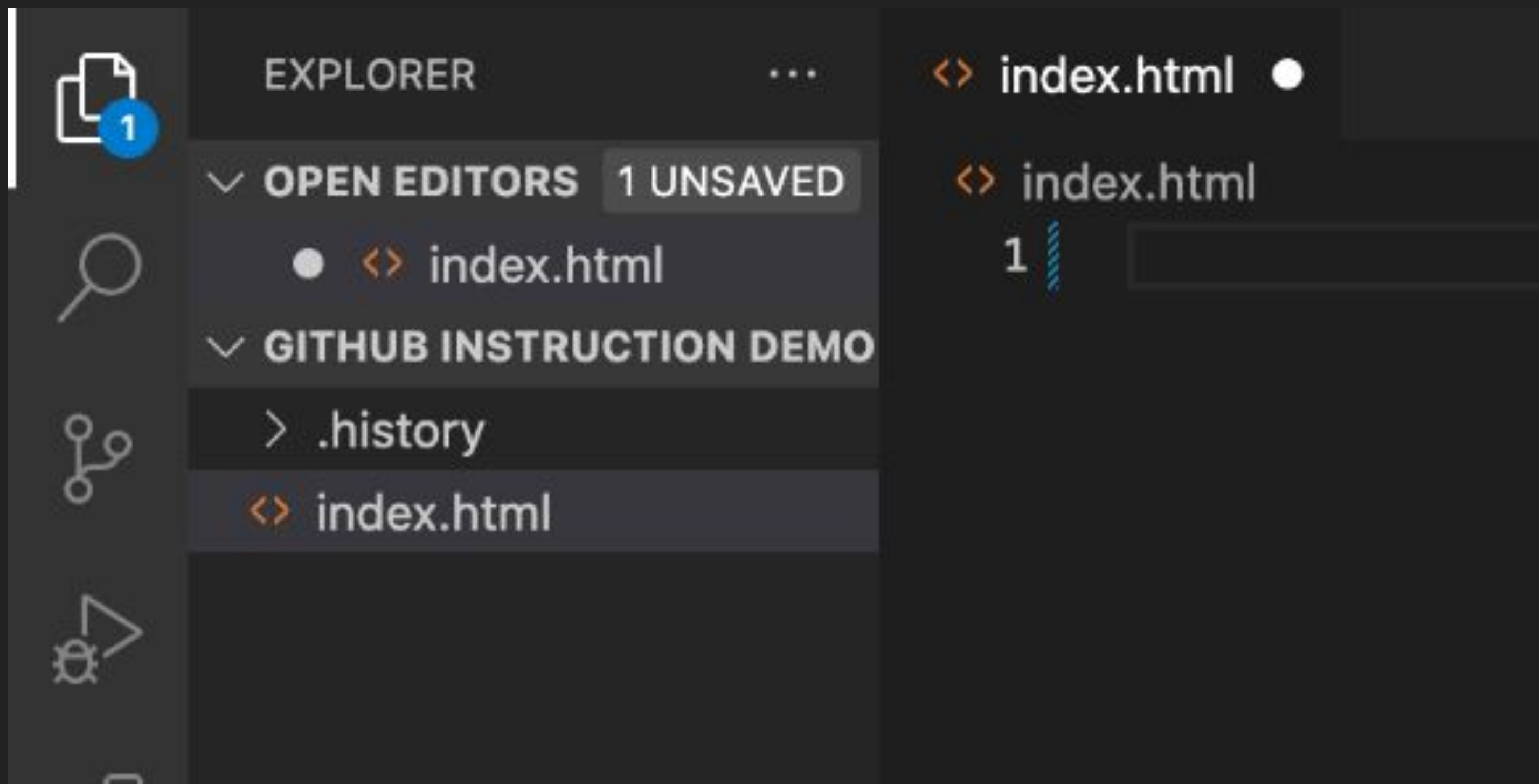


2. Once downloaded, run Visual Studio Code and create a new folder on your computer by going to File > Open > New Folder and giving your folder a name.

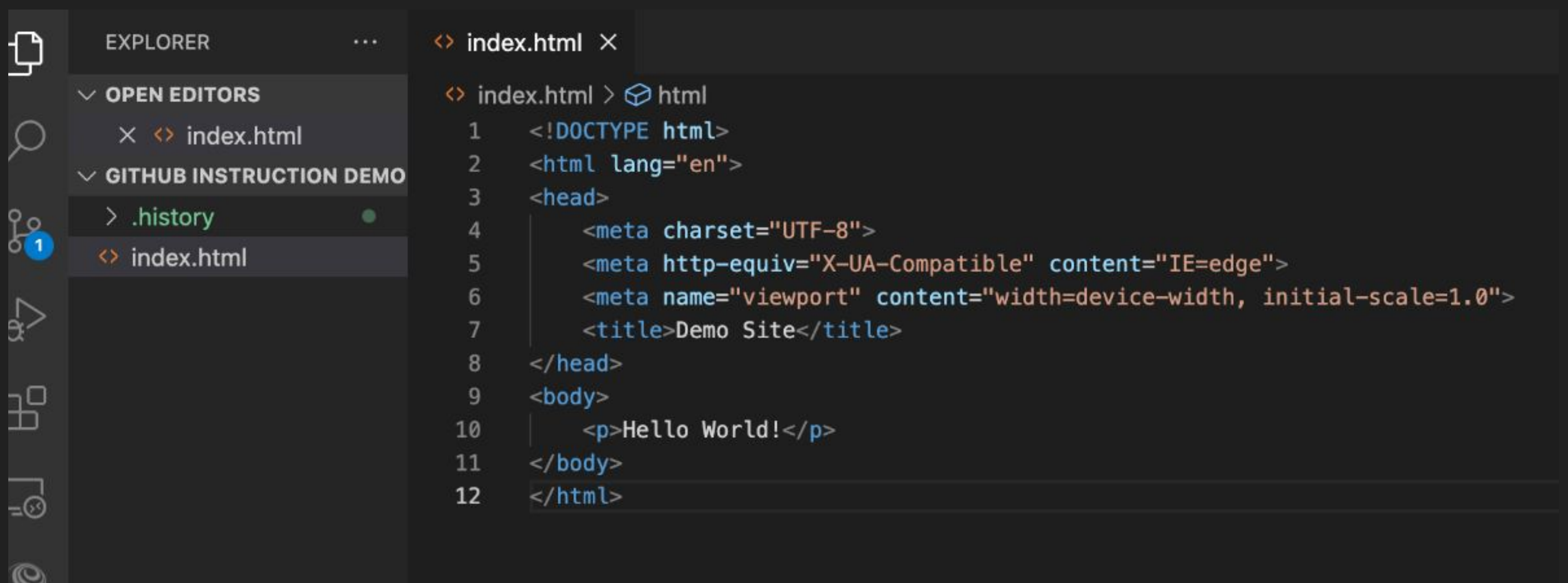


Setting Up

3. Create a new file called “index.html”.



4. Type “!” into index.html and press enter for Emmet Abbreviation, to give us a simple HTML layout.



5. Great! Now we have the files for our webpage.

Troubleshooting

Problem: Web page files not showing up in GitHub repository.

Solution: Check if files are in Documents > GitHub. If they are not, drag and drop the VS Code folder with the HTML file to the GitHub directory on your computer.

Problem: 404 There isn't a GitHub Pages site here error.

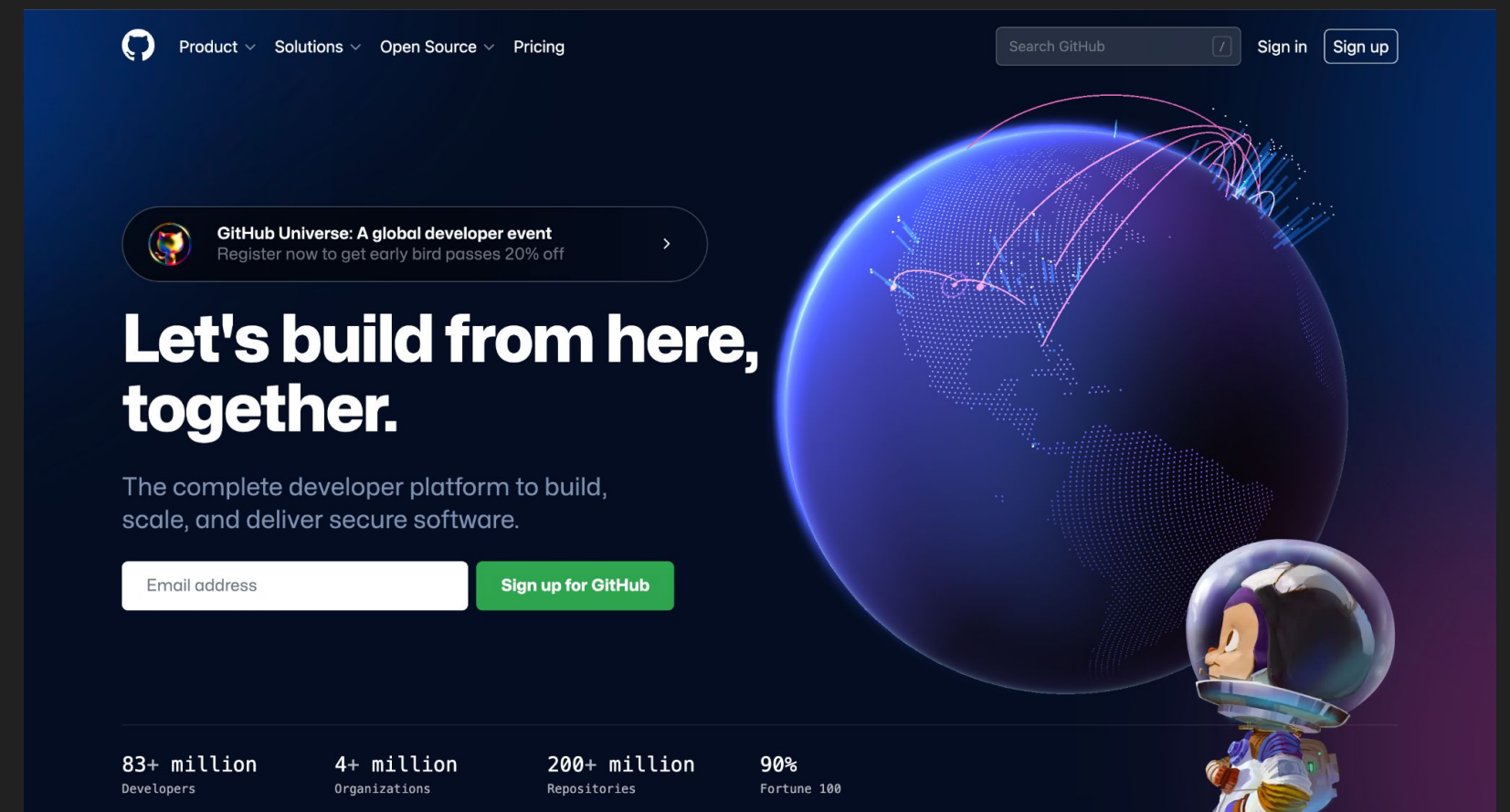
Solution: Turn repository settings from Private to Public.

Problem: Changes being pushed are not being published to the site.

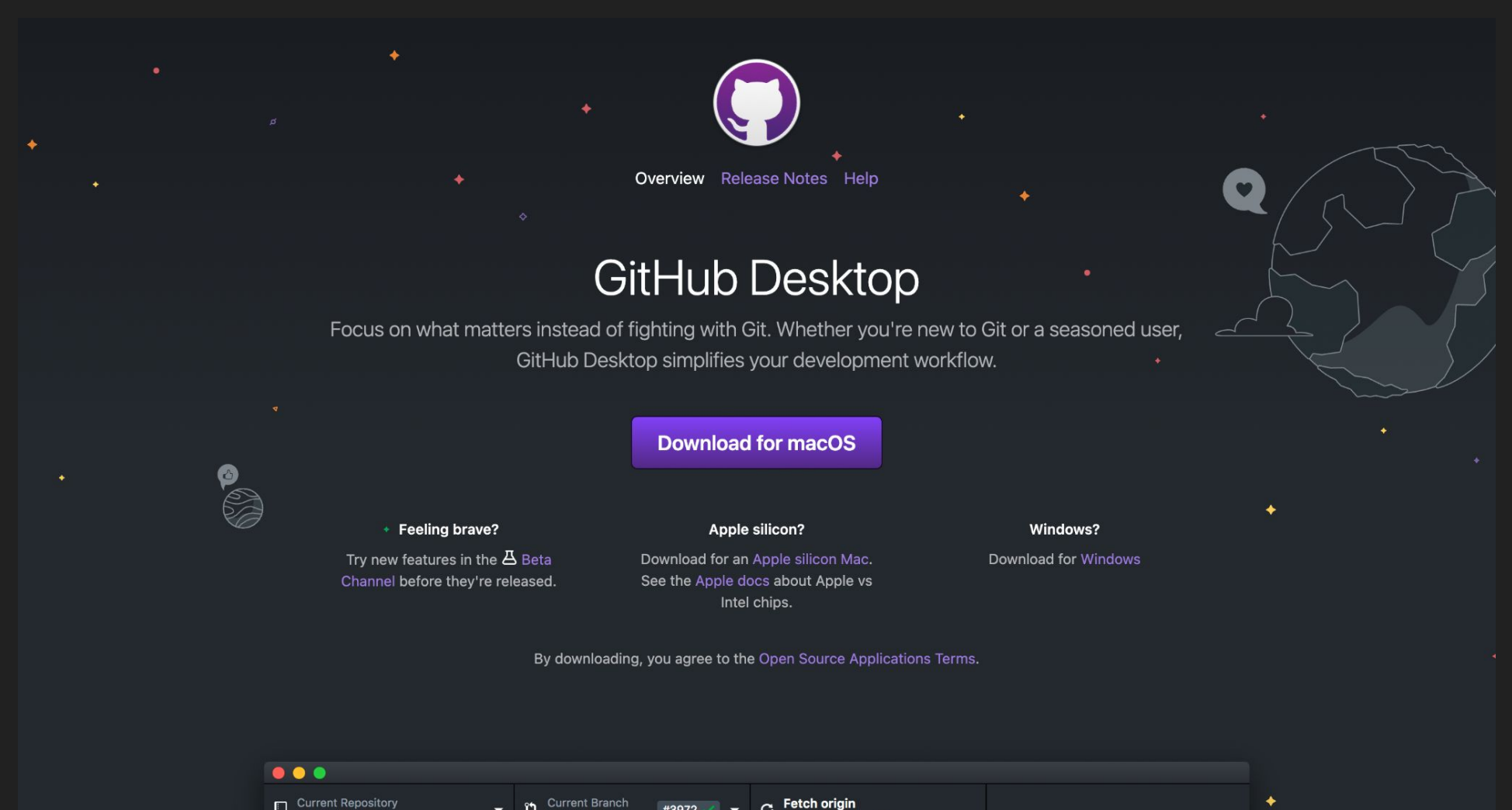
Solution: Verify email address with GitHub.

Quick Start Guide

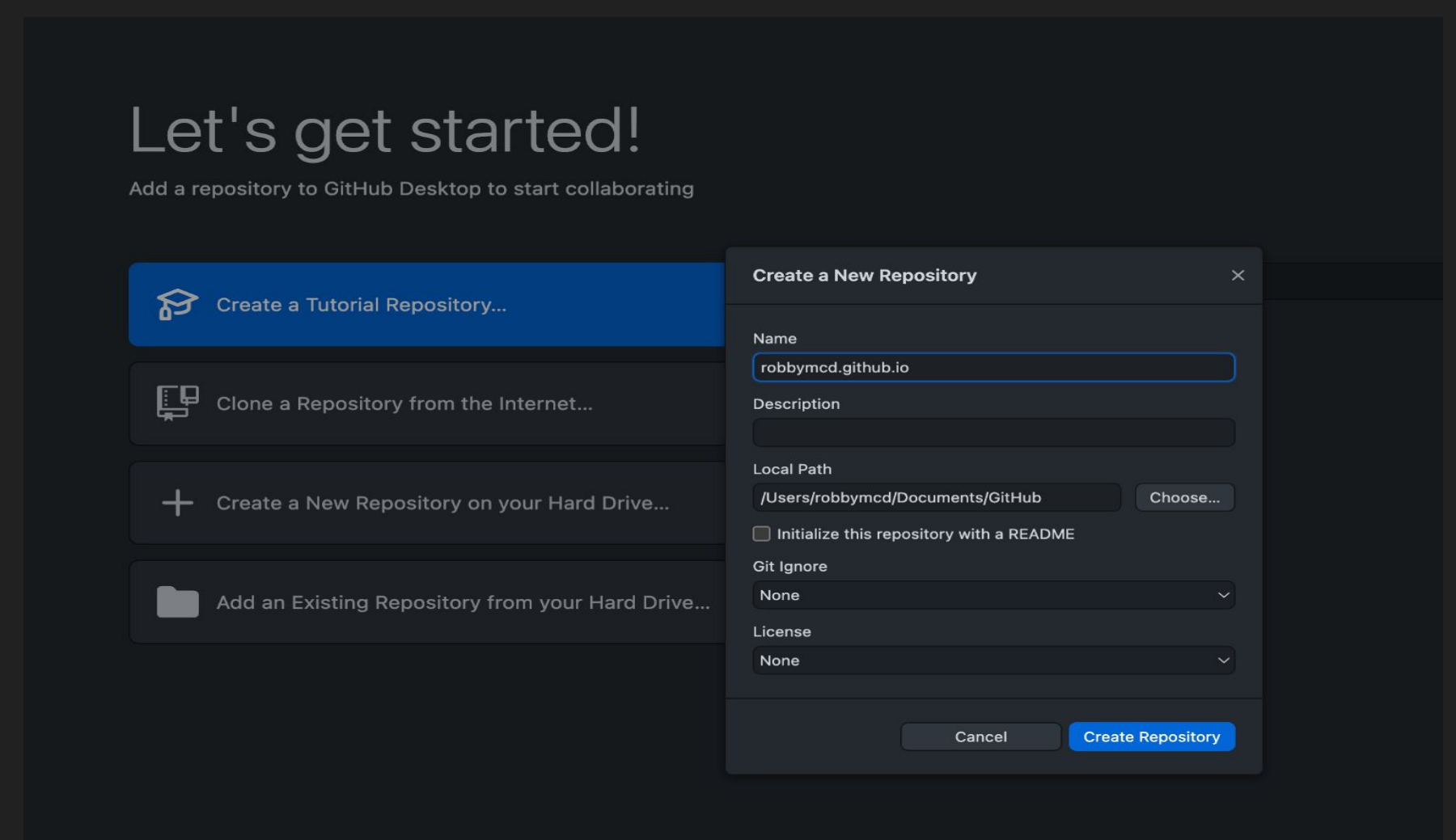
1. Make a GitHub account at <https://github.com/>



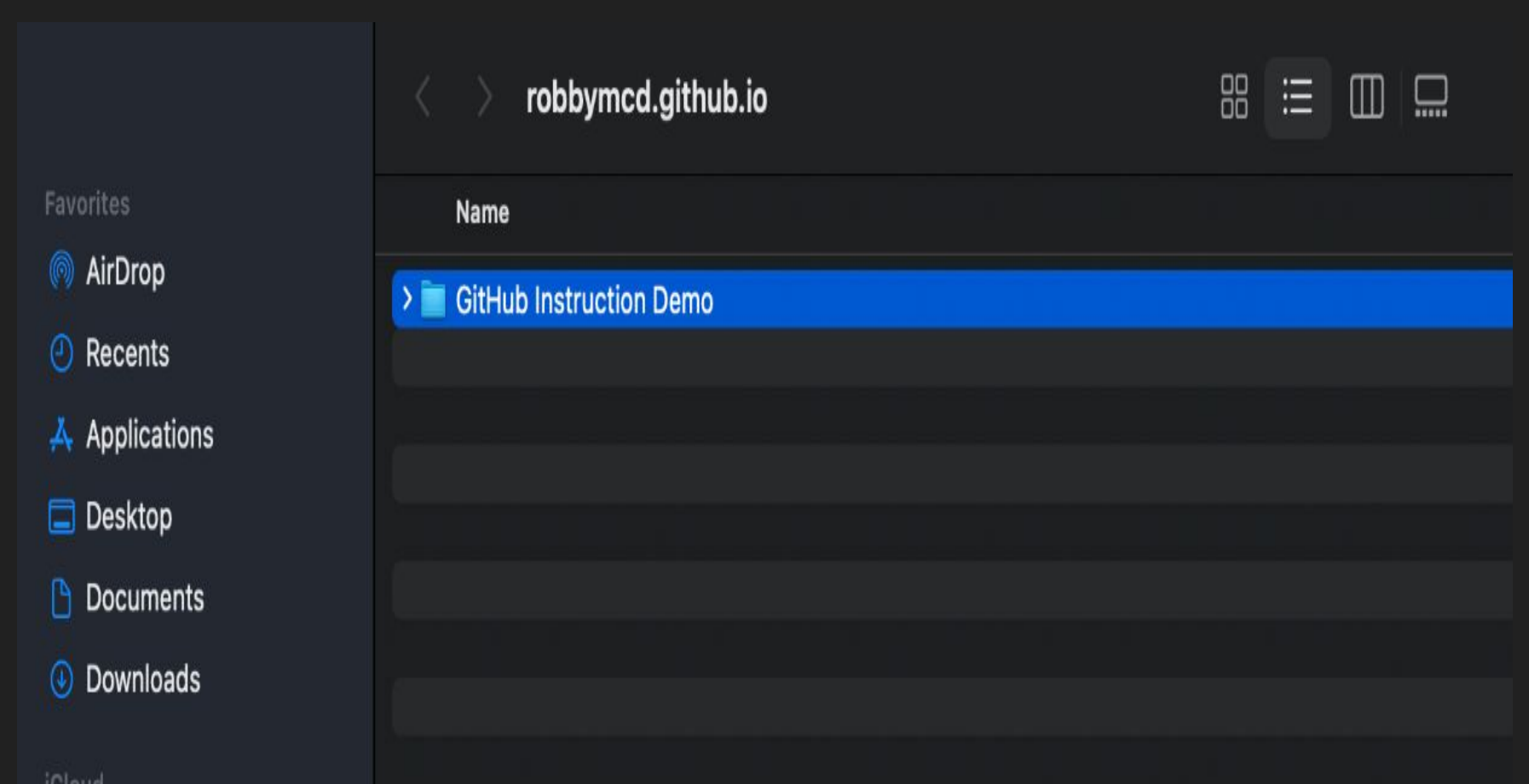
2. Download GitHub Desktop at <https://desktop.github.com/>



3. Open GitHub Pages and create a new repository. Name it username.github.io.

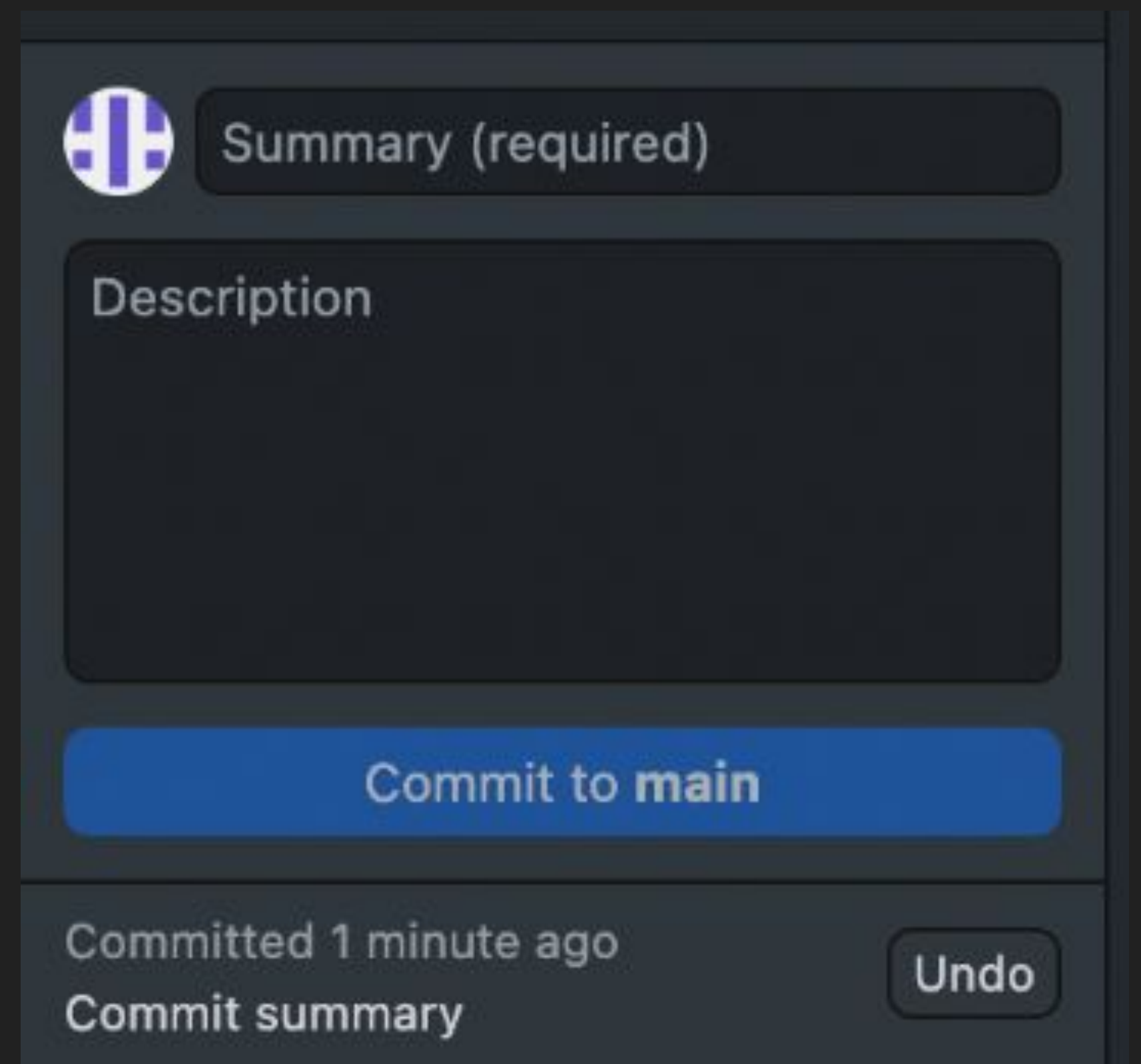


4. Copy folder containing HTML file to Documents > GitHub

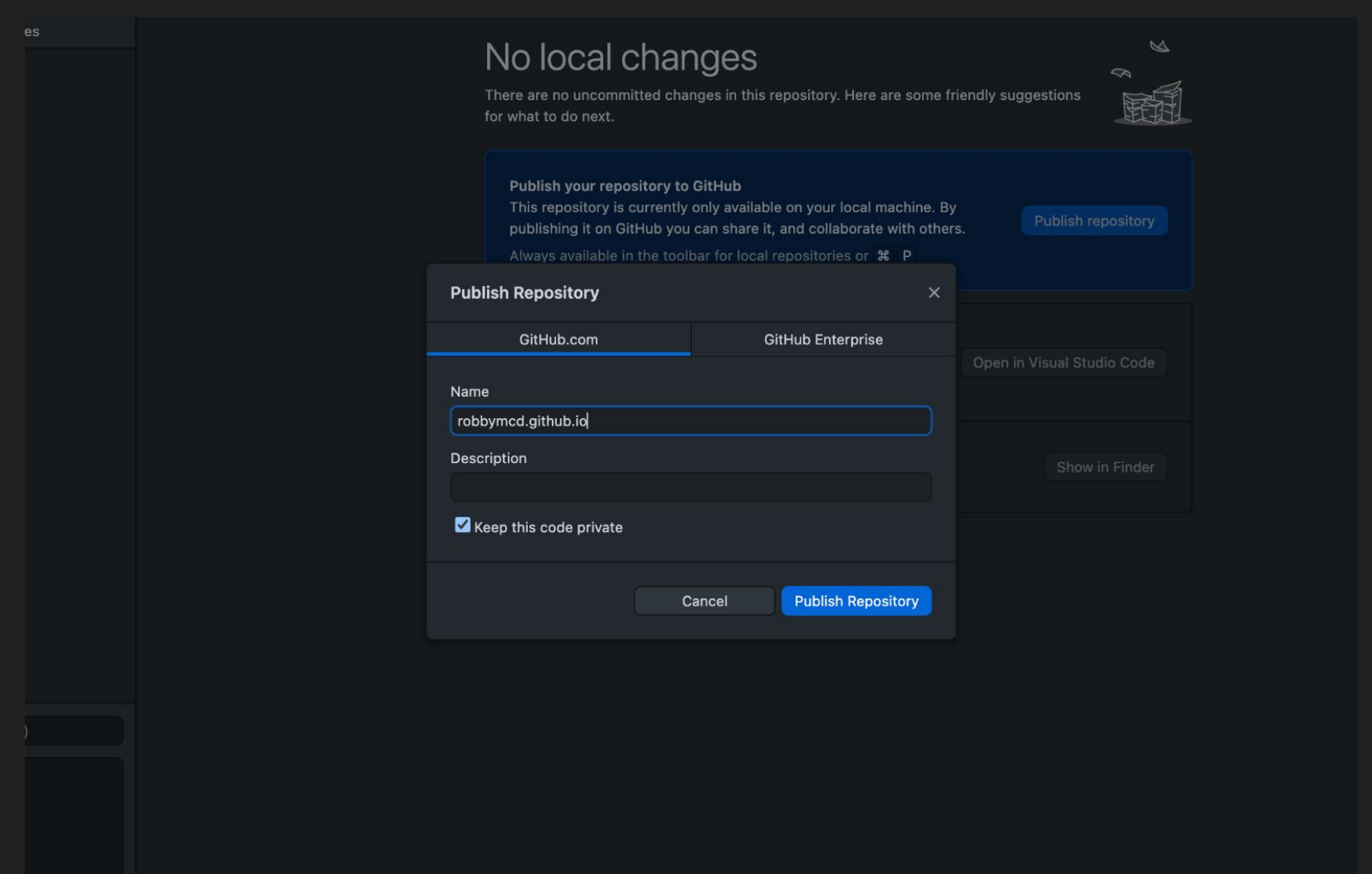


Quick Start Guide

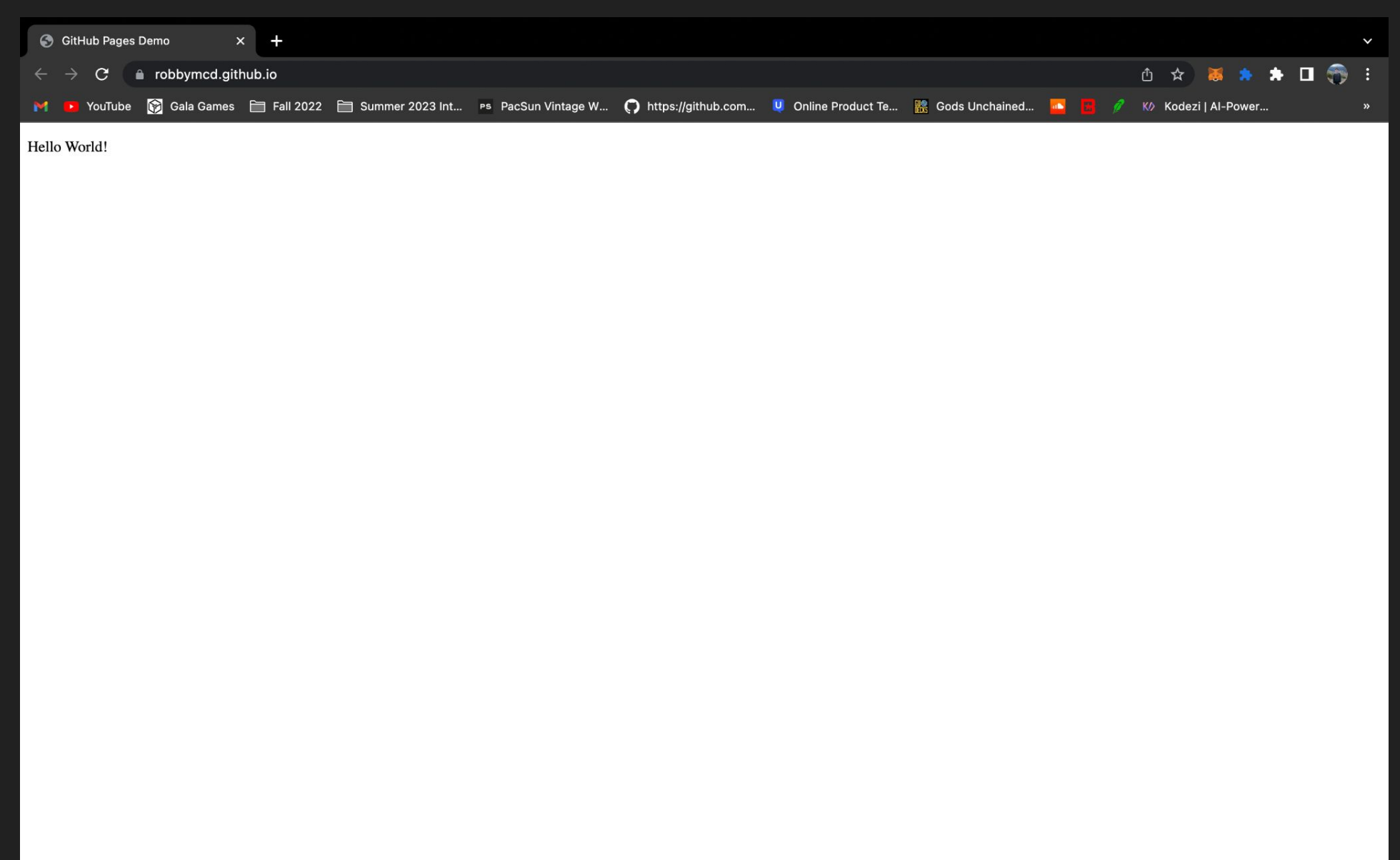
5. Type “Summary” in the required box and select “Commit to main”.



6. Select “Publish Repository” and uncheck the “Keep this code private” box.



7. Now if you type your repository name into your browser, your website should come up.



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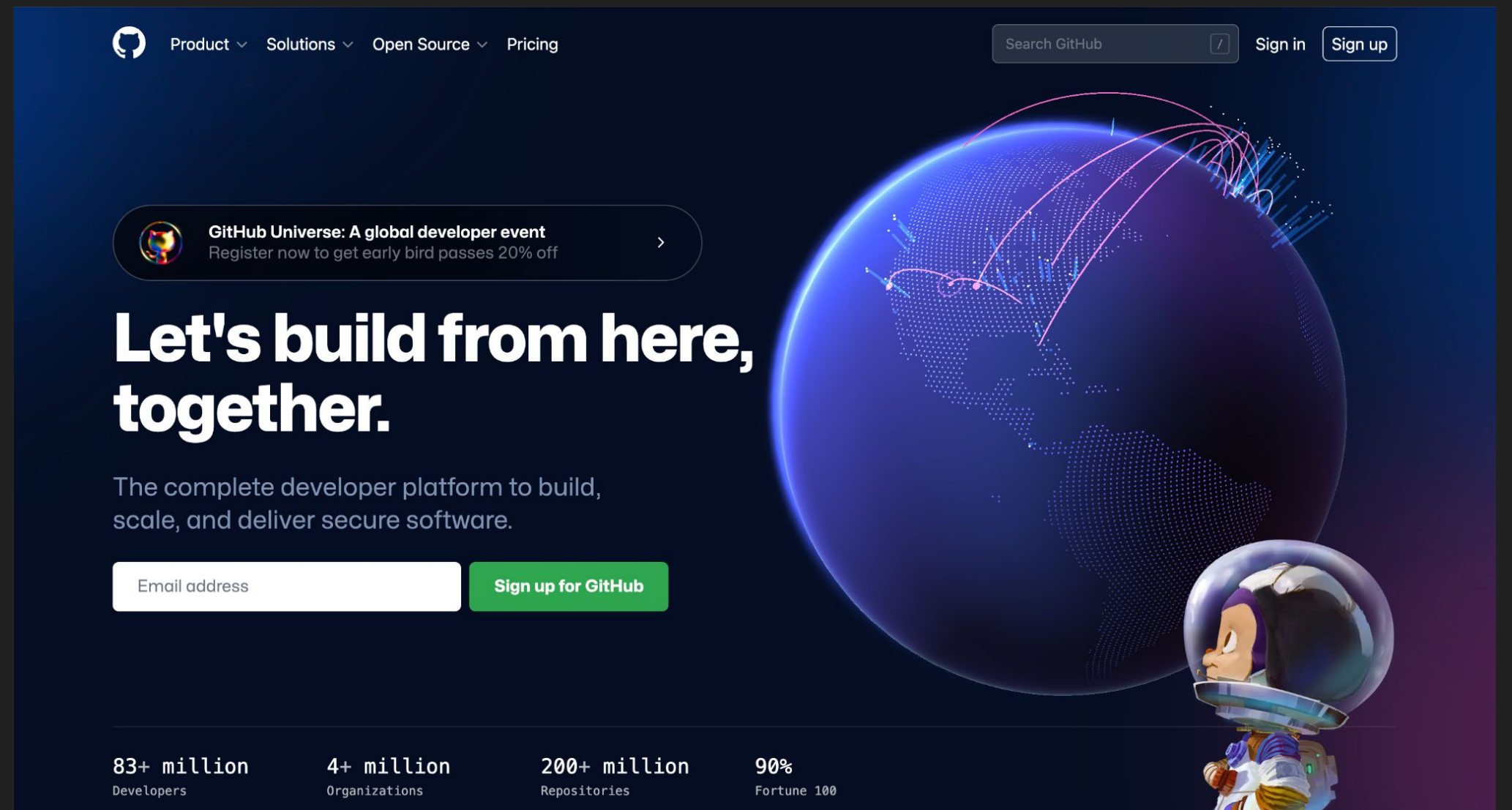
Adding Files

Publishing Website

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Steps: Creating GitHub Account

1. Go to <https://github.com/> and sign up for a GitHub account by using your email and creating a password and username.



2. Complete other sign up steps including whether you want to receive notifications and a verification puzzle.

Welcome to GitHub!
Let's begin the adventure

Enter your email
✓ robbymcdonald@knights.ucf.edu

Create a password
→ [password field] [Continue]

Password is strong
Make sure it's at least 15 characters OR at least 8 characters including a number and a lowercase letter.

3. Finishing signing up by entering the verification code sent to the email you signed up with.

✓ [password field]

Enter a username
✓ robbymcd2

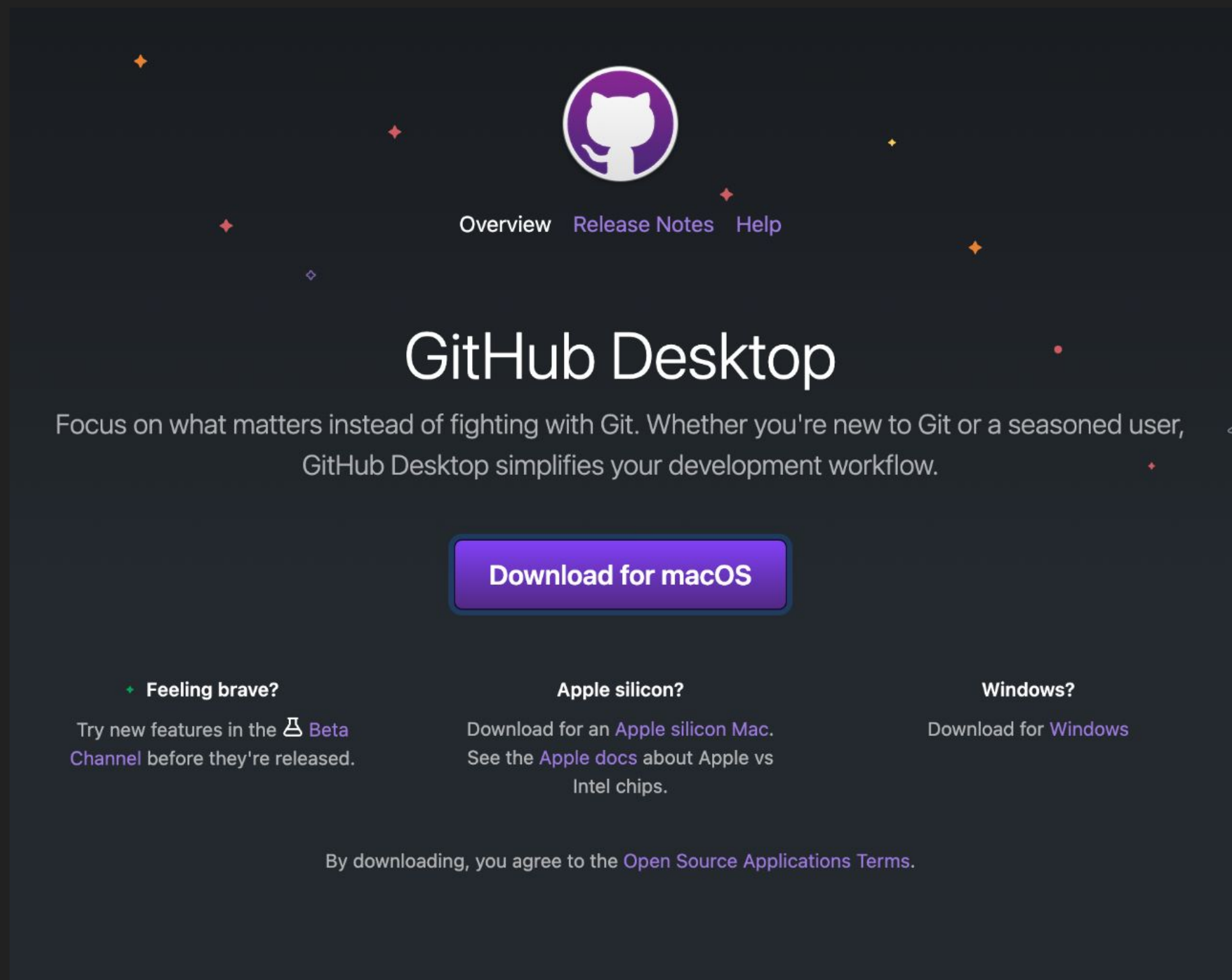
Would you like to receive product updates and announcements via email?
Type "y" for yes or "n" for no
✓ n

Verify your account

[Verification code input field]

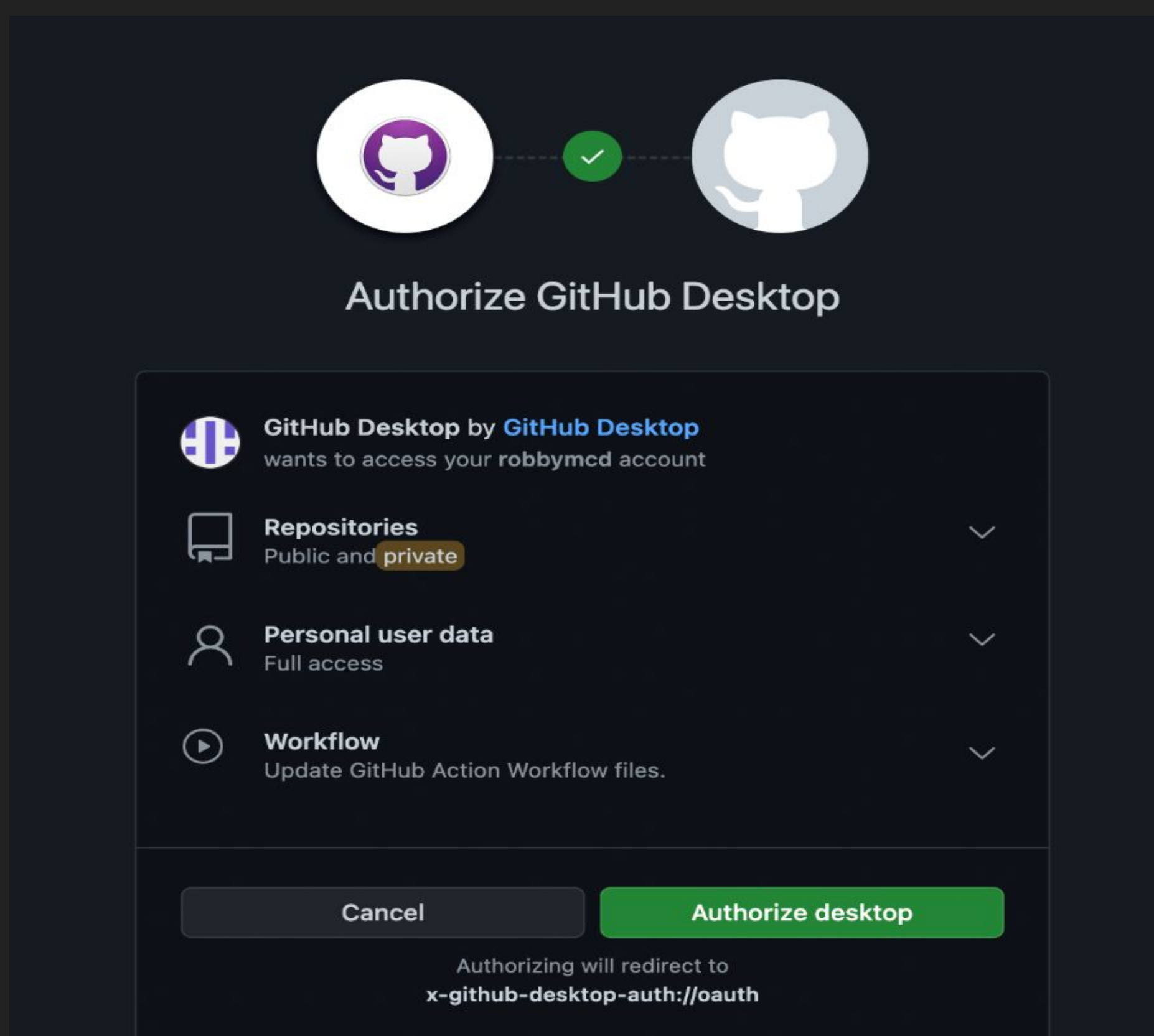
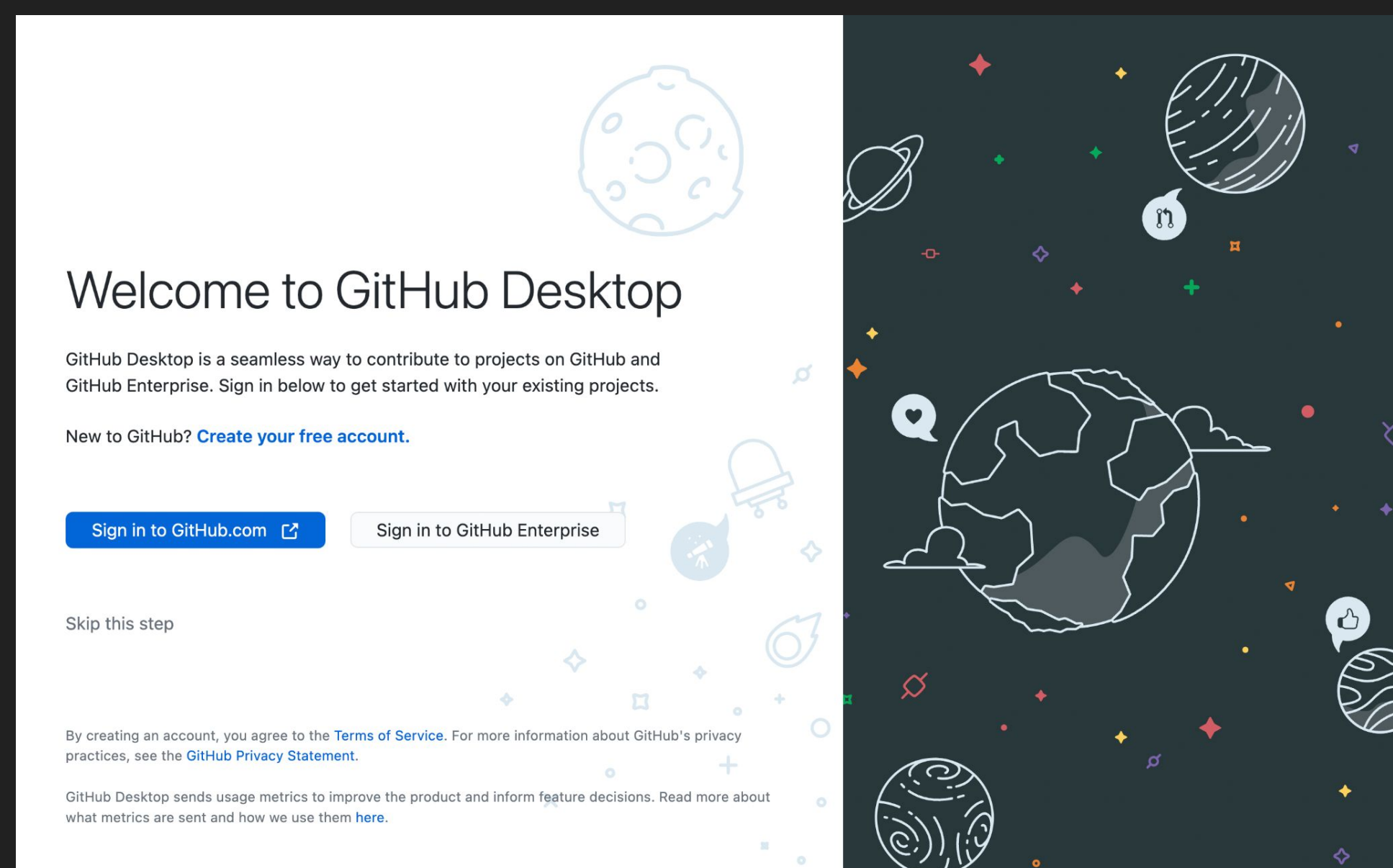
[Create account]

Steps: Downloading GitHub Desktop



4. Go to <https://desktop.github.com> and download GitHub Desktop.

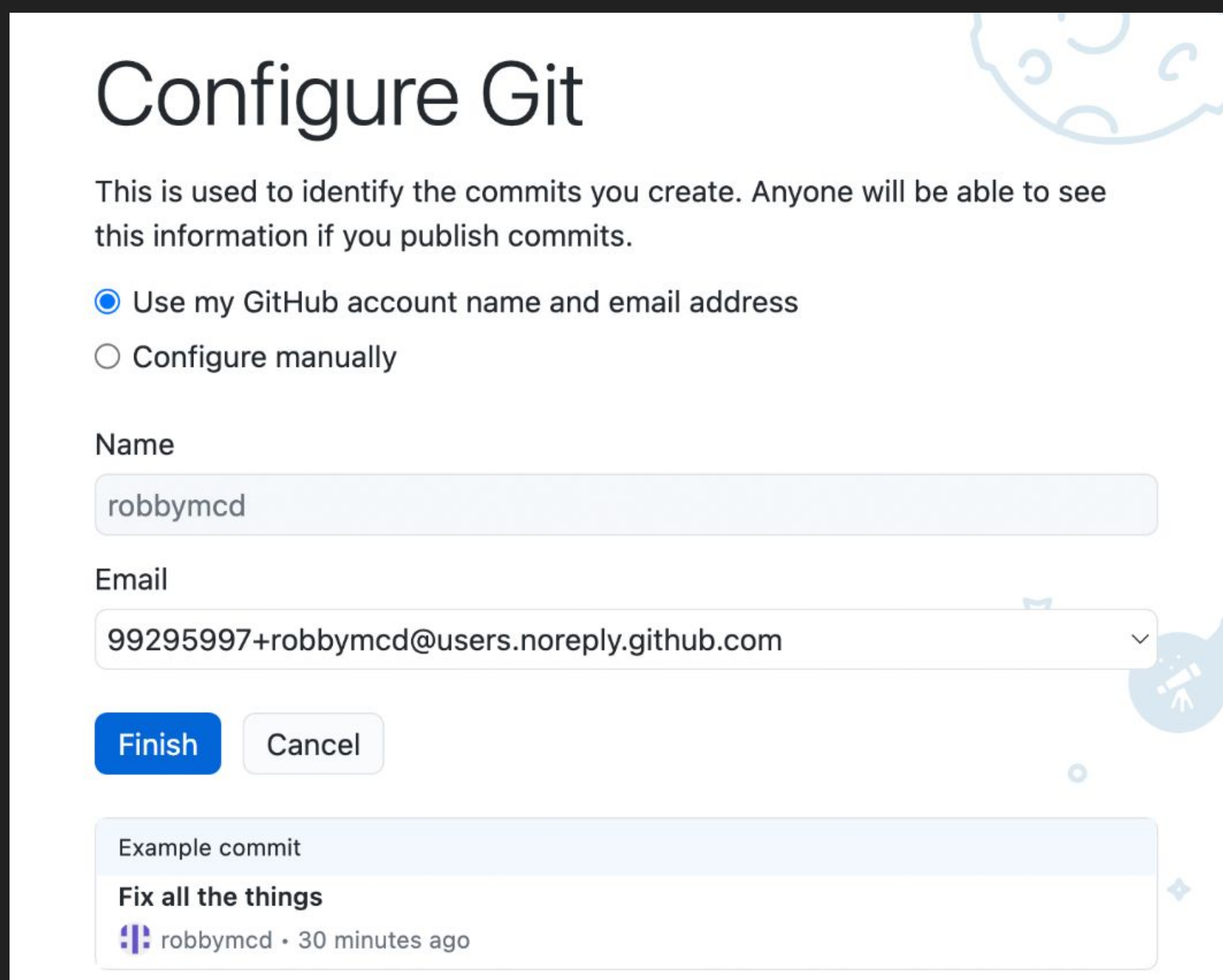
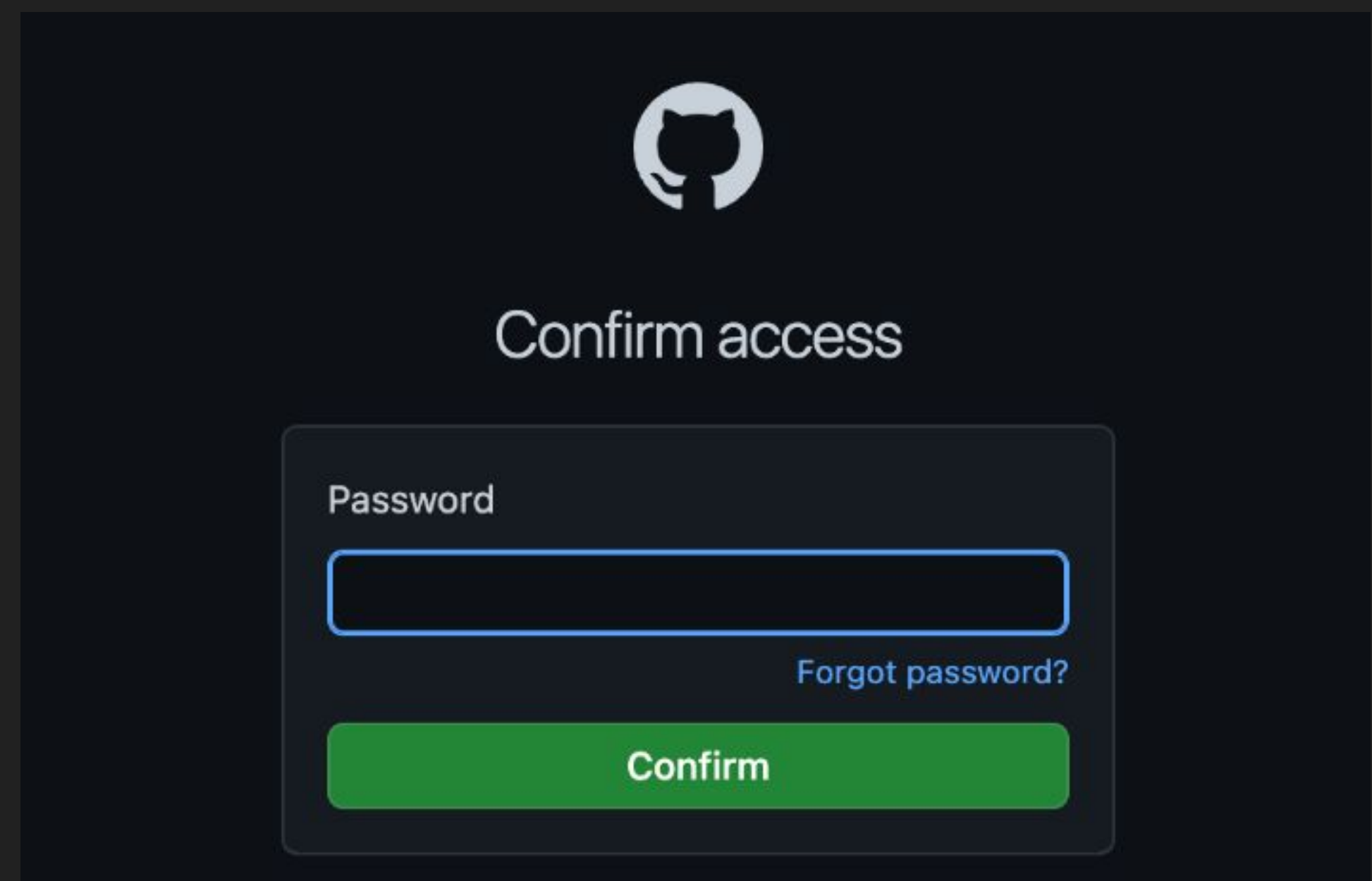
5. Open GitHub Desktop and select “Sign in to GitHub.com”.



6. Authorize GitHub Desktop to your account by selecting “Authorize desktop”.

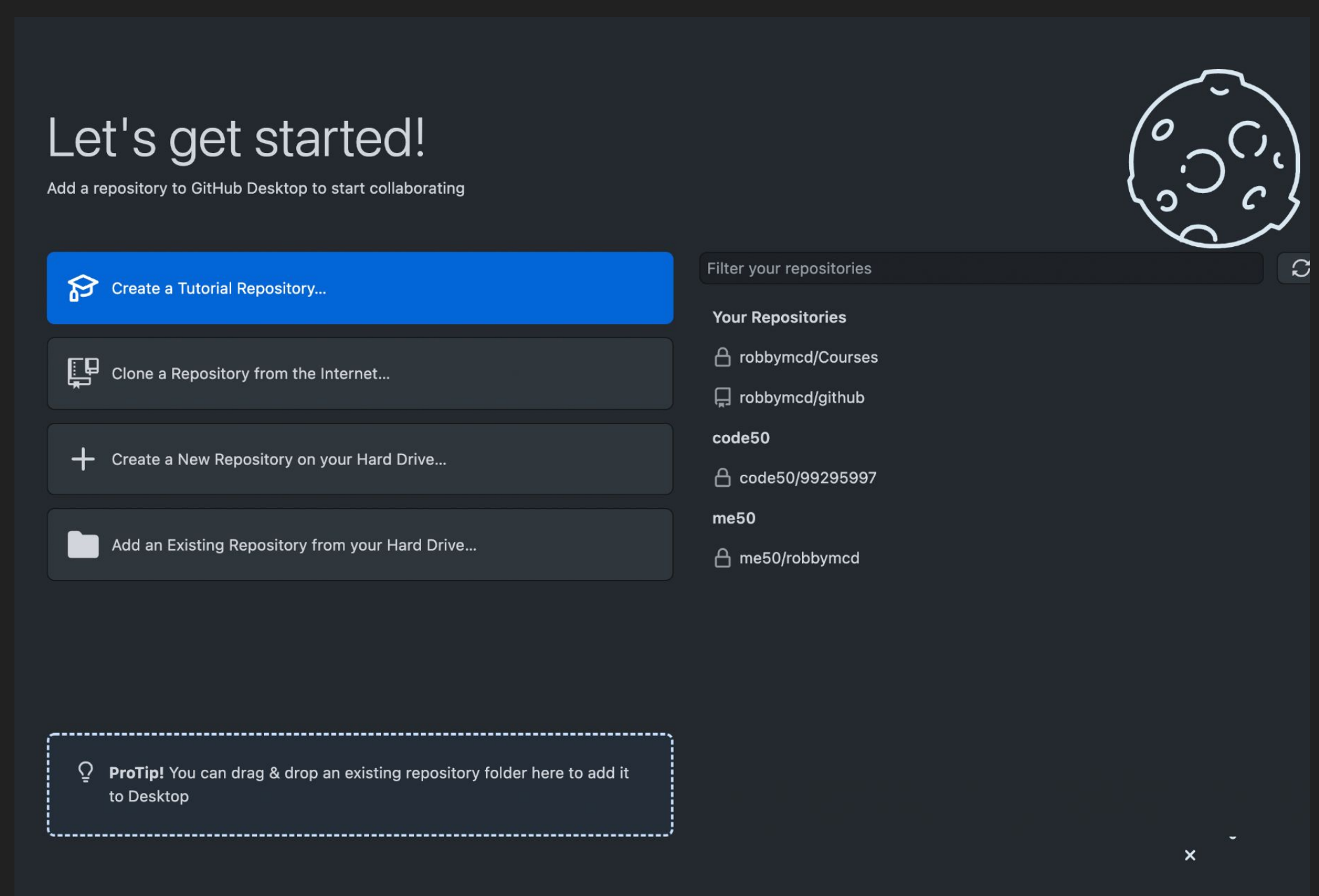
Steps: Downloading GitHub Desktop

7. Confirm access by entering your password into the browser.

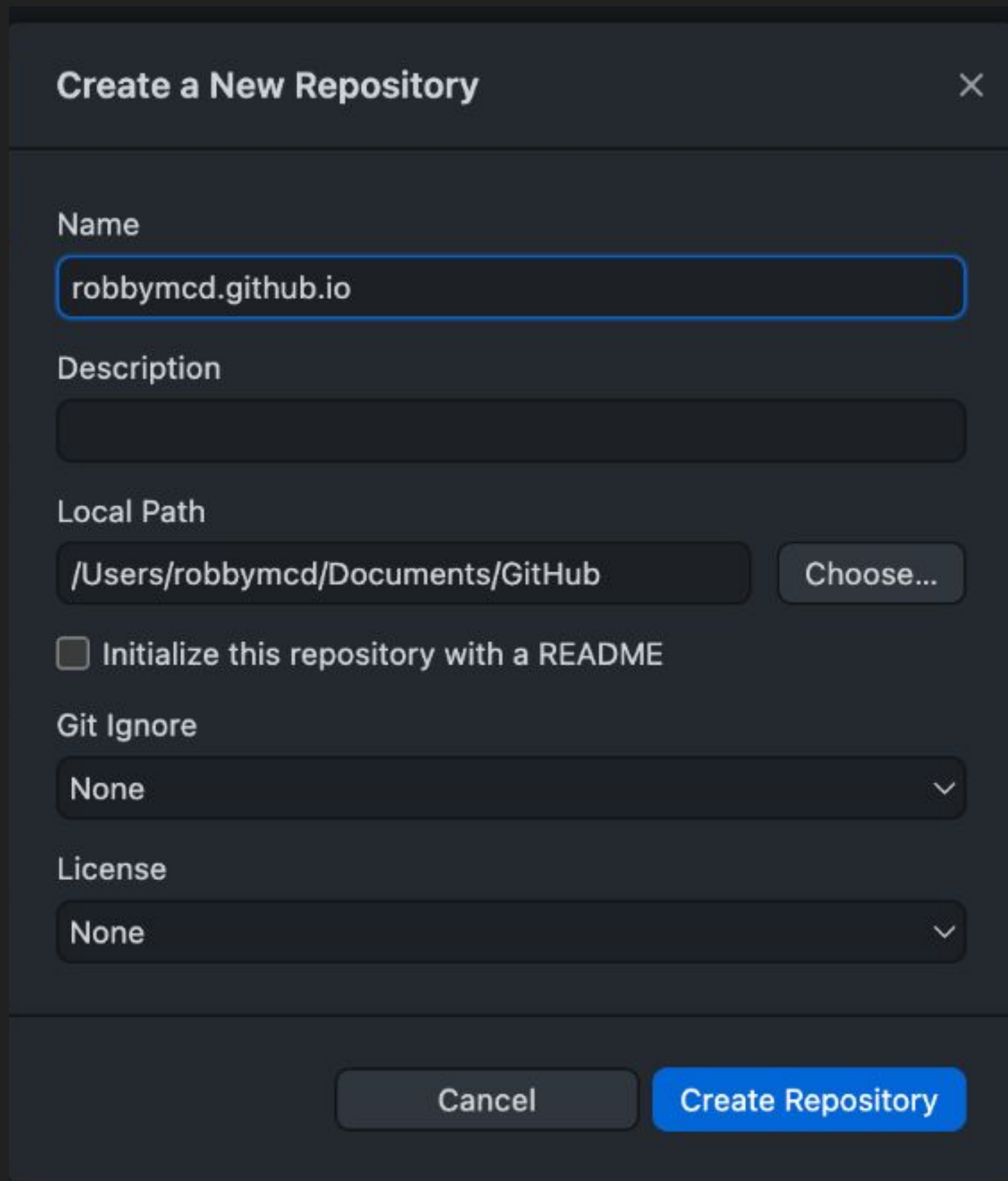


8. Select finish to Configure Git, this will allow you to publish commits.

9. Now that the GitHub Desktop application is all set up, you should see a screen like this.



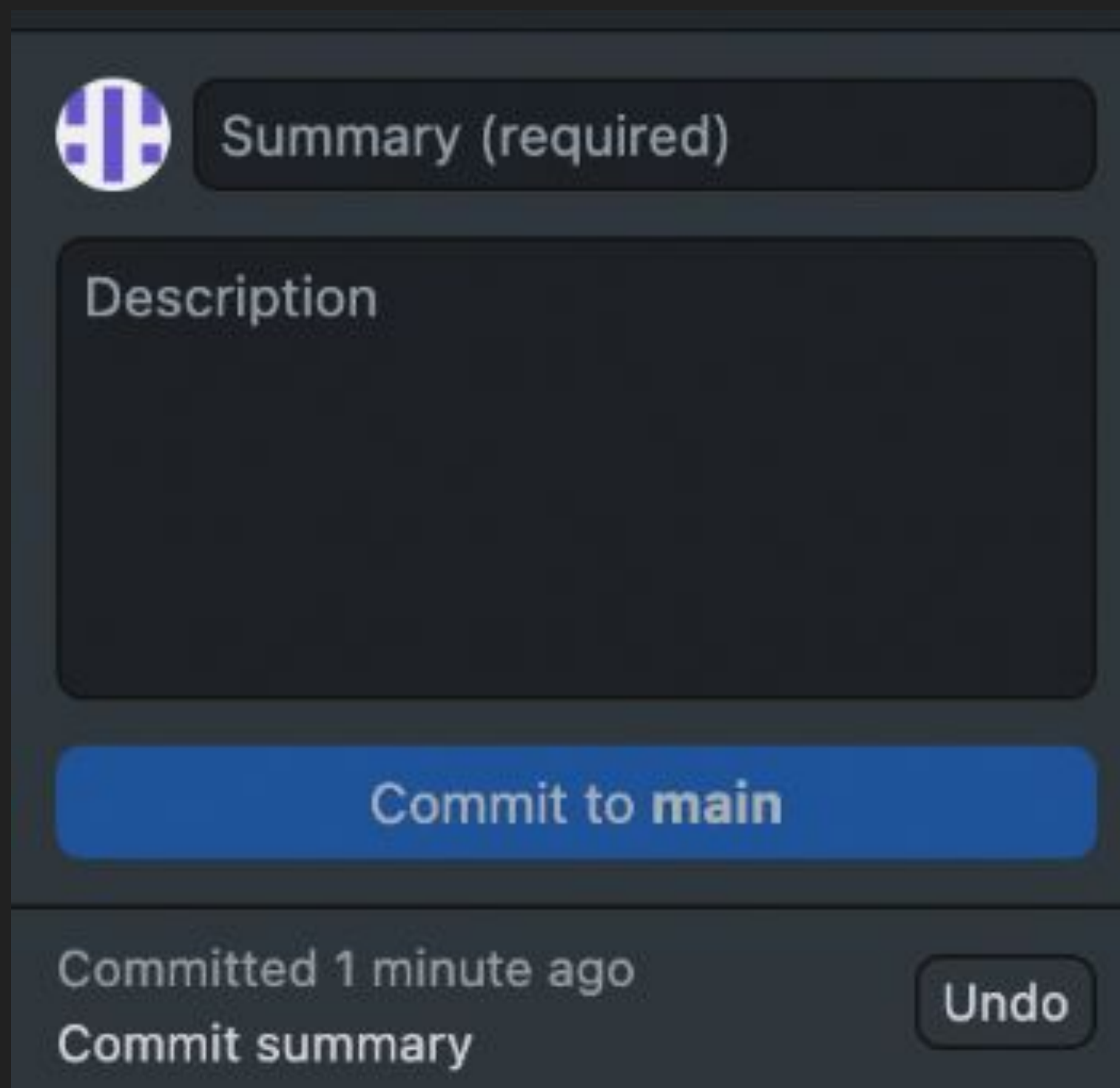
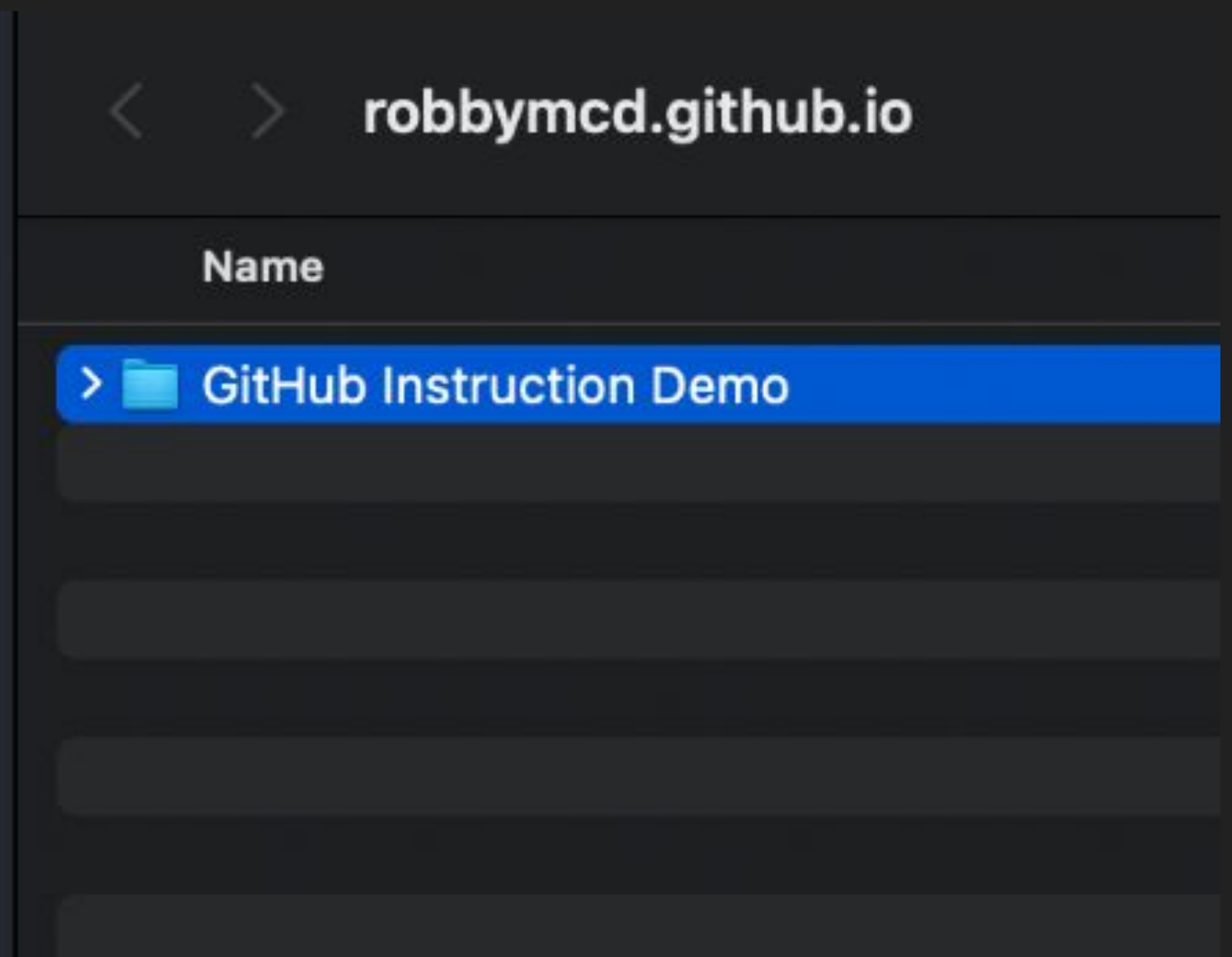
Steps: Creating Repository and Adding Files



The screenshot shows the 'Create a New Repository' dialog box in VS Code. The 'Name' field is filled with 'robbymcd.github.io'. The 'Description' field is empty. The 'Local Path' field is filled with '/Users/robbymcd/Documents/GitHub', and there is a 'Choose...' button next to it. There is a checkbox for 'Initialize this repository with a README' which is unchecked. The 'Git Ignore' dropdown is set to 'None'. The 'License' dropdown is also set to 'None'. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Create Repository' buttons.

10. Select “Create a New Repository on your Hard Drive”. Name the Repository “username.github.io”. Username being your GitHub username.

11. Now that you have created the Repository, you can add the folder containing the HTML file you made in the “Setting Up” section.

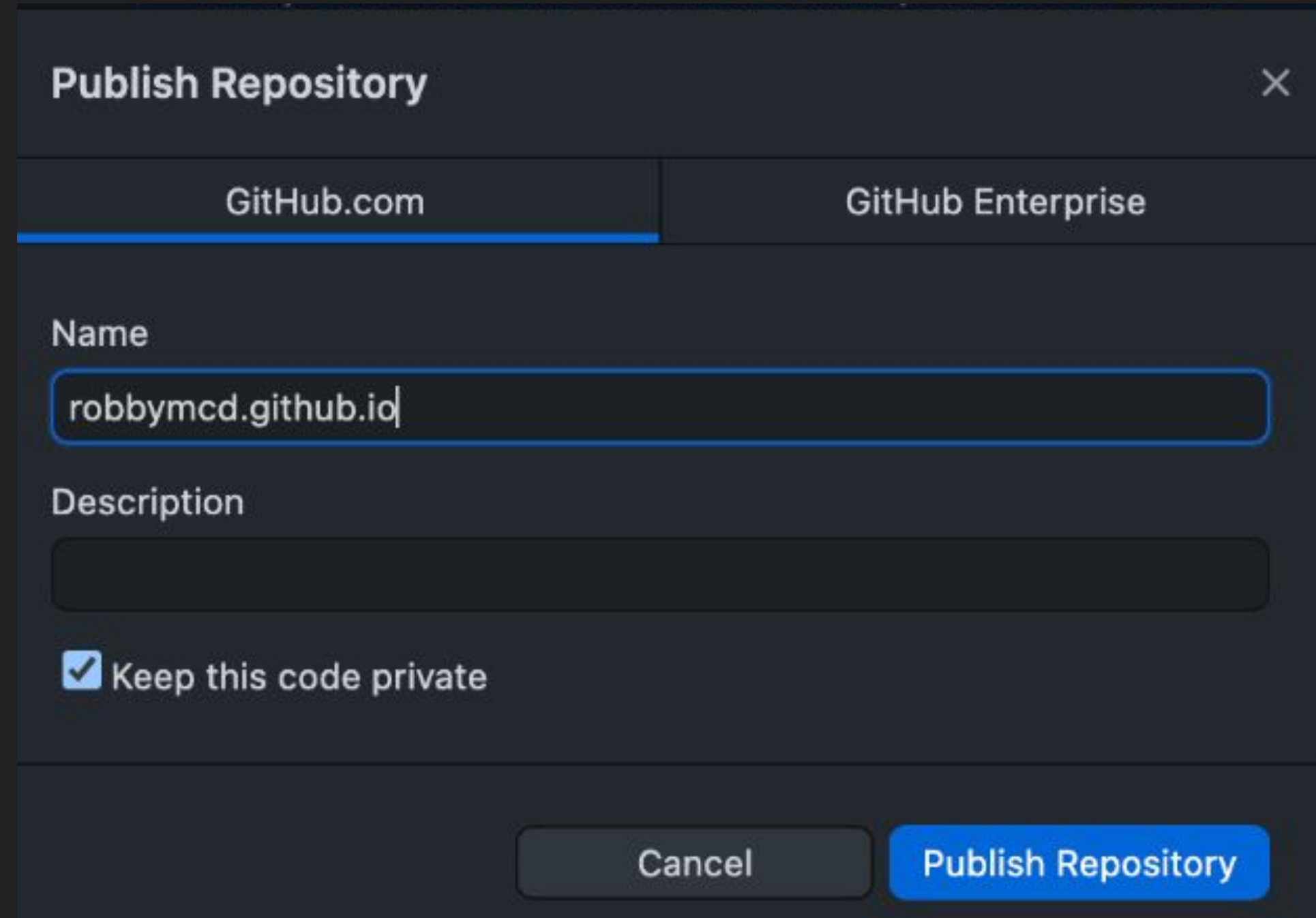


The screenshot shows the commit summary screen in VS Code. The 'Summary (required)' field is empty. The 'Description' field is also empty. At the bottom, there is a 'Commit to main' button. Below that, it says 'Committed 1 minute ago' and 'Commit summary' with an 'Undo' button.

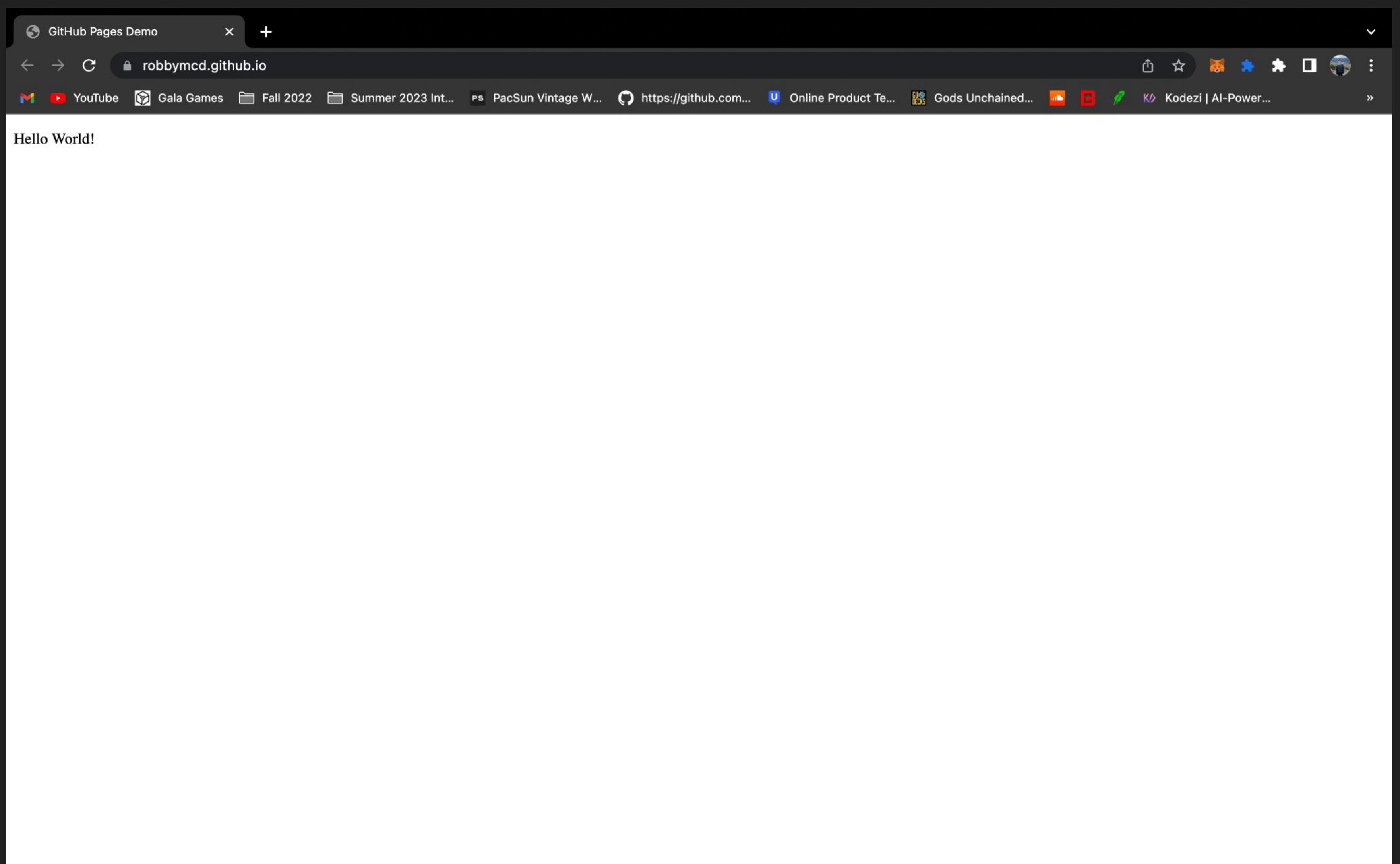
12. You should now see the files added on the left side of the screen. Type “Summary” in the required box and select “Commit to main” to save the files to the repository.

Steps: Publishing Website

13. Select “Publish Repository”, make sure the name is correct (username.github.io), and select “Publish Repository”.

A screenshot of the GitHub 'Publish Repository' dialog box. The dialog has a dark theme. At the top, it says 'Publish Repository' with a close button (X) on the right. Below this, there are two tabs: 'GitHub.com' (selected) and 'GitHub Enterprise'. The 'Name' field contains 'robbymcd.github.io'. The 'Description' field is empty. There is a checkbox labeled 'Keep this code private' which is checked. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Publish Repository'.

14. Congratulations! Just wait about ten minutes for your website to go live and then type your repository name into your browser.



Conclusion

GitHub provides one of the best ways for students to host websites and projects for free using their website hosting service. By getting familiar with the GitHub Desktop Application and website, users will be to host their own website easily.

