Adding a file to a repository from the command line

MAC | WINDOWS | LINUX

You can upload an existing file to a GitHub repository using the command line.

Tip: You can also add an existing file to a repository from the GitHub website.

This procedure assumes you've already:

- Created a repository on GitHub, or are a collaborator on someone else's repository.
- Cloned the repository locally on your computer

Warning: Never `git add`, `commit`, or `push` sensitive information to a remote repository. Sensitive information can include, but is not limited to:

- Passwords
- SSH keys
- AWS access keys
- API keys
- Credit card numbers
- PIN numbers

For more information, see "Remove sensitive data."

1. On your computer, move the file you'd like to upload to GitHub into the local directory that was created when you cloned the repository.
2. Open Git Bash.
3. Change the current working directory to your local repository.
4. Stage the file for the first commit to your repository.

```
$ git add .
# Adds the files in the local repository and stages them for commit. To
unstage a file, use 'git reset HEAD YOUR-FILE'.
```

5. Commit the files that you've staged in your local repository.

```
$ git commit -m "First commit"
# Commits the tracked changes and prepares them to be pushed to a remote
repository. To remove this commit and modify the file, use 'git reset --soft
HEAD~1' and commit and add the file again.
```

6. Push the changes in your local repository to GitHub.

```
$ git push origin master
# Pushes the changes in your local repository up to the remote repository you
specified as the origin
```

Article versions

GitHub.com
GitHub Enterprise 2.5
GitHub Enterprise 2.4
GitHub Enterprise 2.3
GitHub Enterprise 2.2
GitHub Enterprise 2.1

Further reading

"Creating new files"

"Adding an existing project to GitHub using the command line"

Contact a human