



How to contribute to an Open Source project



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What is open source?

Software (OSS)

Code designed to be:

- Publicly accessible
- Modifiable
- Free to redistribute

Collaborative process

- Developed in a decentralized and collaborative way
- Relies on peer review and community production

A movement

Reaches beyond the production of OSS

- Finds new ways to solve problems
- Crosses communities and industries



Source: <https://www.redhat.com/topics/open-source/what-is-open-source>



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Elements of an open source project

- Traditionally volunteer driven
- Community
 - People interested in the project
 - Shared mindset
- Contributors
 - People who participate in the project
- Maintainers
 - Project leaders



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Benefits of getting involved

- Build a public portfolio of work
 - [The Impact GitHub is Having on Your Software Career, Right Now... | by Josh Wulf | Medium](#)
- Learn new skills
 - Git/GitHub, Markdown, writing docs, code languages, scripting, etc.
 - [How to advance your career by contributing to open source projects | Opensource.com](#)
- Grow the community and your network
 - Recognition in the community
 - Improve the product for everyone



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Understanding the project guidelines

Expectations

- Understand your own motivations and desired outcomes

Etiquette - [Open source etiquette - The MDN Web Docs project | MDN \(mozilla.org\)](#)

- Be kind and respectful
- Find out how and where to ask questions
- Add value, not noise
- Be patient and timely

Follow the published style guides & use the same tools

- The styles and tools are designed to produce consistent results



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Getting started in Microsoft Docs

- Create a GitHub account
- Setup Git and VS Code (with extensions)
- Read the contributor docs
 - Docs [Contributor Guide](#)
 - PowerShell-specific [Contributor Guide](#)
- Using the Microsoft Doc Authoring Pack



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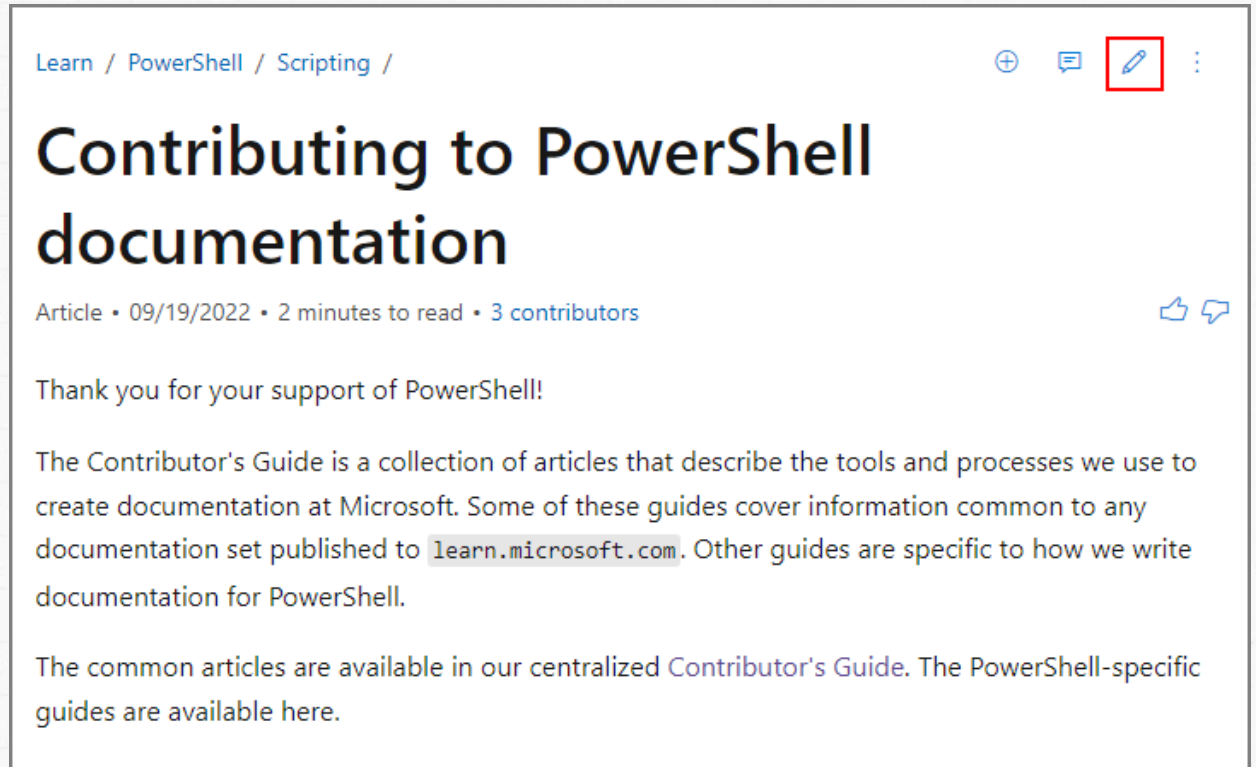
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Making a simple change

- Click the Edit icon on the page
- Use the GitHub web interface to edit
- Good for small changes to a single file
- Use the [full workflow](#) for complex changes and multiple files



Learn / PowerShell / Scripting /

Contributing to PowerShell documentation

Article • 09/19/2022 • 2 minutes to read • 3 contributors

Thank you for your support of PowerShell!

The Contributor's Guide is a collection of articles that describe the tools and processes we use to create documentation at Microsoft. Some of these guides cover information common to any documentation set published to learn.microsoft.com. Other guides are specific to how we write documentation for PowerShell.

The common articles are available in our centralized [Contributor's Guide](#). The PowerShell-specific guides are available [here](#).



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One-time setup steps

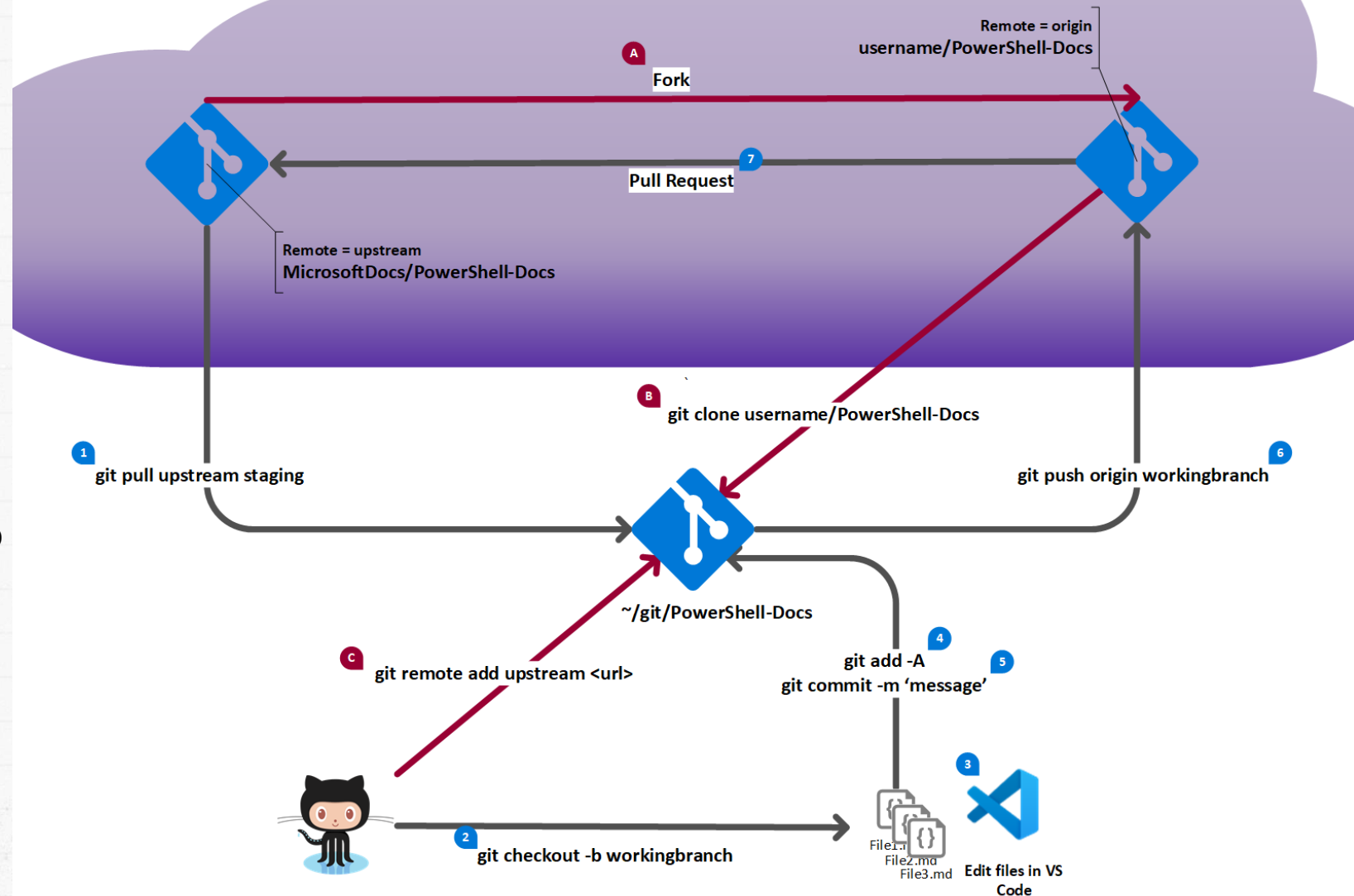
- A. Fork the base repo
- B. Clone your fork
- C. Add an upstream pointer to the base

Normal workflow

1. Pull default branch from base repo
2. Create a working branch
3. Edit your files
4. Add your changes to Git
5. Commit your changes
6. Push the working branch to your fork
7. Create a pull request from your fork to the base repo

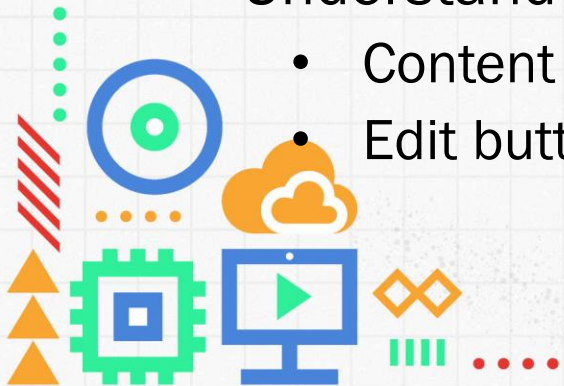


GitHub



Source repositories

- PowerShell repositories
 - Source code – [PowerShell/PowerShell](#)
 - Docs repositories
 - [MicrosoftDocs/PowerShell-Docs](#)
 - [MicrosoftDocs/PowerShell-Docs-DSC](#)
 - [MicrosoftDocs/PowerShell-Docs-Modules](#)
- Azure PowerShell repositories
 - Source code – [Azure/azure-powershell](#)
 - Docs repository – [MicrosoftDocs/azure-docs-powershell](#)
- Understand how the content is organized
 - Content types – reference and conceptual
 - Edit button points to Source repo for cmdlet reference



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Demos

- Markdown
- Microsoft Docs Authoring Pack
- Full GitHub workflow



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Bonus - Another way to contribute

PowerShell Community Blog - Great way to start writing and get free code and content reviews

- GitHub Source - <https://github.com/PowerShell/Community-Blog>
- Blog site - <https://devblogs.microsoft.com/powershell-community/>

Hacktoberfest – <https://hacktoberfest.com/about>

- [Hacktoberfest and Microsoft Learn - Contributor Guide | Microsoft Learn](#)
- List of beginner repositories: <https://up-for-grabs.net>



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Key takeaways

Read the contributor & style guides

- Docs [Contributor Guide](#)
- PowerShell-specific [Contributor Guide](#)
- [Microsoft Style Guide](#)

The process is the same for contributing to any learn.microsoft.com content

- Only difference would be content-specific styling
- PowerShell content is everywhere – Azure, Office, Windows, SQL, etc.



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Resources & Links

Tools

- Visual Studio Code – <https://code.visualstudio.com>
- Vale – [Vale.sh - A linter for prose](#) & VS Code extension – [Vale - Visual Studio Marketplace](#)
- [Docs Authoring Pack - Visual Studio Marketplace](#)

Markdown resources

- [Markdown reference](#)
- [CommonMark Specification](#)

Git/GitHub

- [GitHub Git Cheat Sheet](#)
- [How to write the perfect pull request | The GitHub Blog](#)



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Thank you.



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