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Create Your First Github Project in VSCode

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This post is part of the complete guide on Git and Github

Visual Studio Code (VSCode) is a code editor that helps you to develop, run and debug code with built-in syntax highlighting, code completion and commit features.

In this post, I will show how you create, clone and work with your Github repository in VSCode.

Contenus [masquer]

Install Visual Studio Code

1. If you have not already done so, install VS Code.

2. If you wish, you can also take the additional steps to set-up VSCode with Python.

Install and Activate Git and Github

Before you can use Git and Github in VSCode, you need to :

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1. Create a Github account;
2. Install Git on your computer.

If you want detailed instructions on how you can create and set-up Git and Github, read how to [install and set-up Git in VSCode](#).

If you know how, you can also just go to [Git Download location](#).
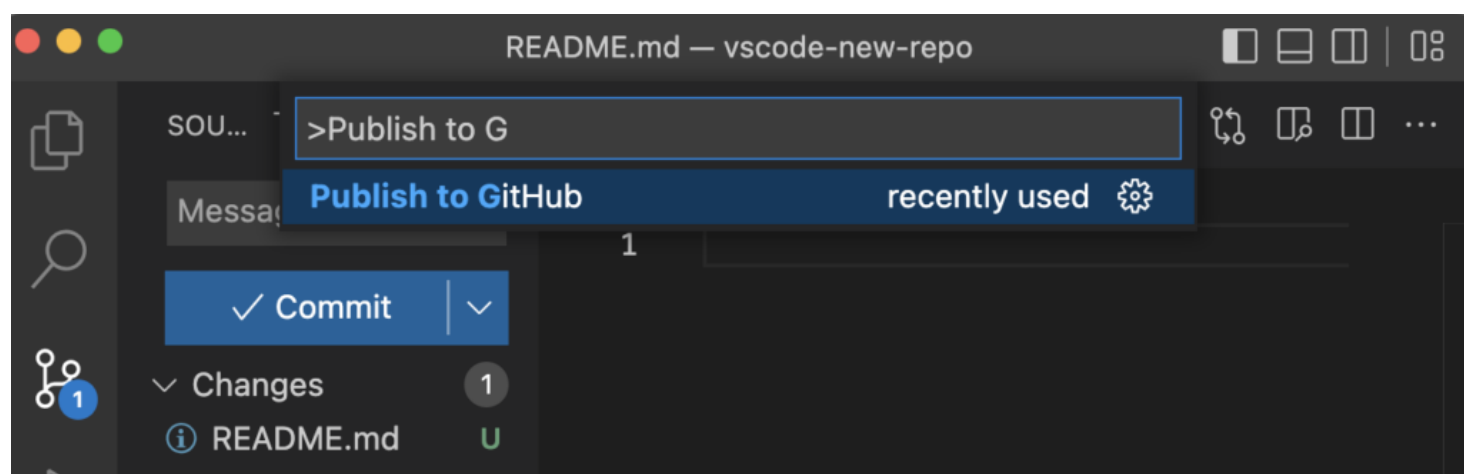
Two Ways of Creating a Github Repository

1. Create a Github Repository From VSCode
2. Create a Github Repository From Github
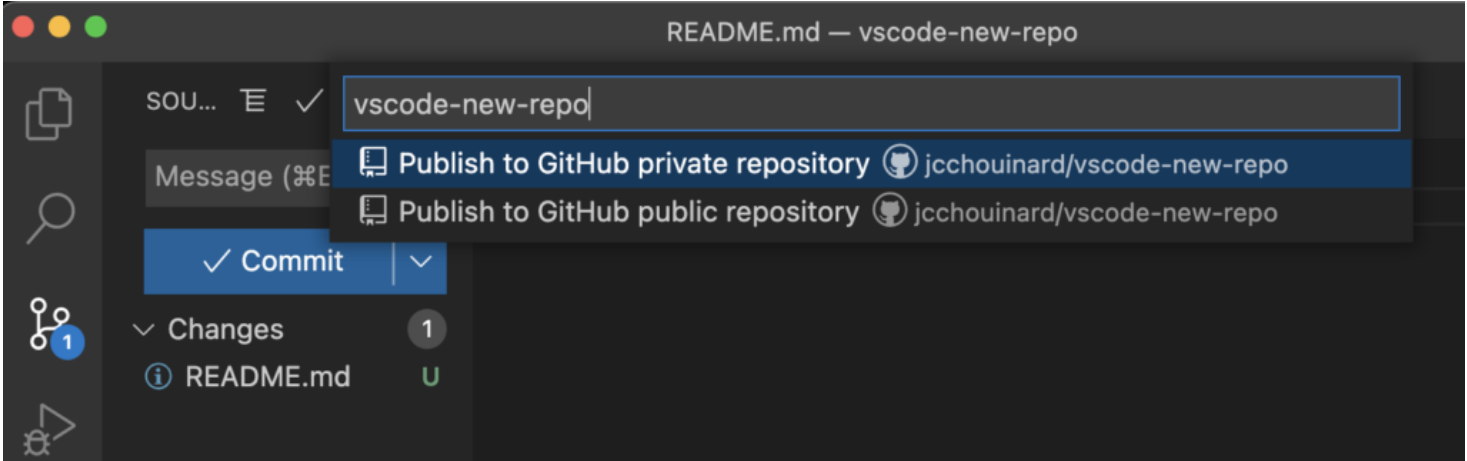
1. Create a Github Repository From VSCode

VSCode has the "Publish to Github" option to create a repository on Github when there is no existing git repository.

Create your project folder locally and add your `README.md` file.
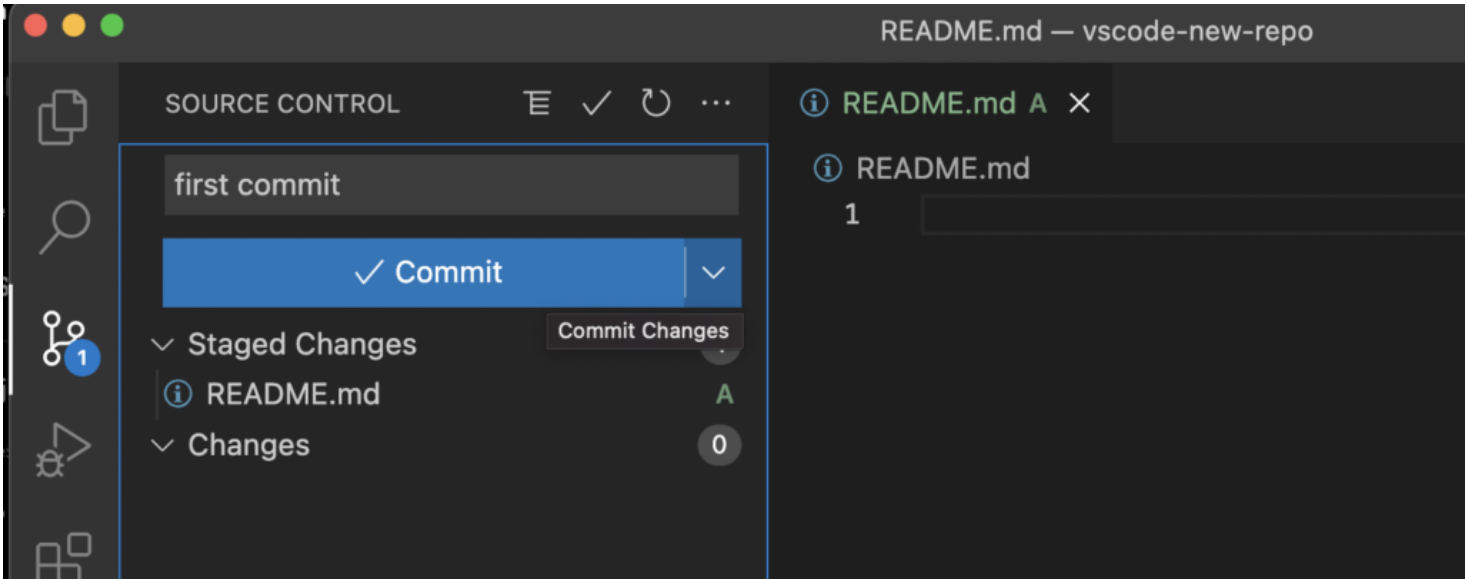
Press `Ctrl + Shift + P` (on Windows), or `Command + Shift + P` (on Mac).

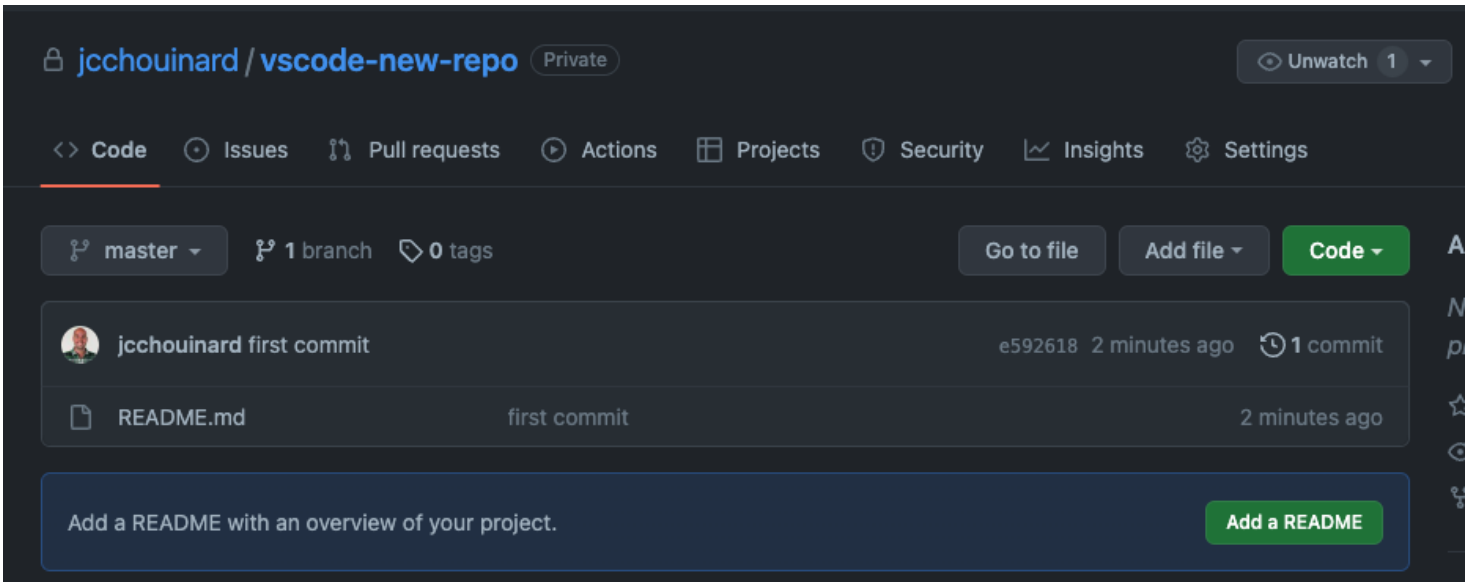Select whether to Publish a private or a public repository.

Stage and commit the changes from the source control panel.
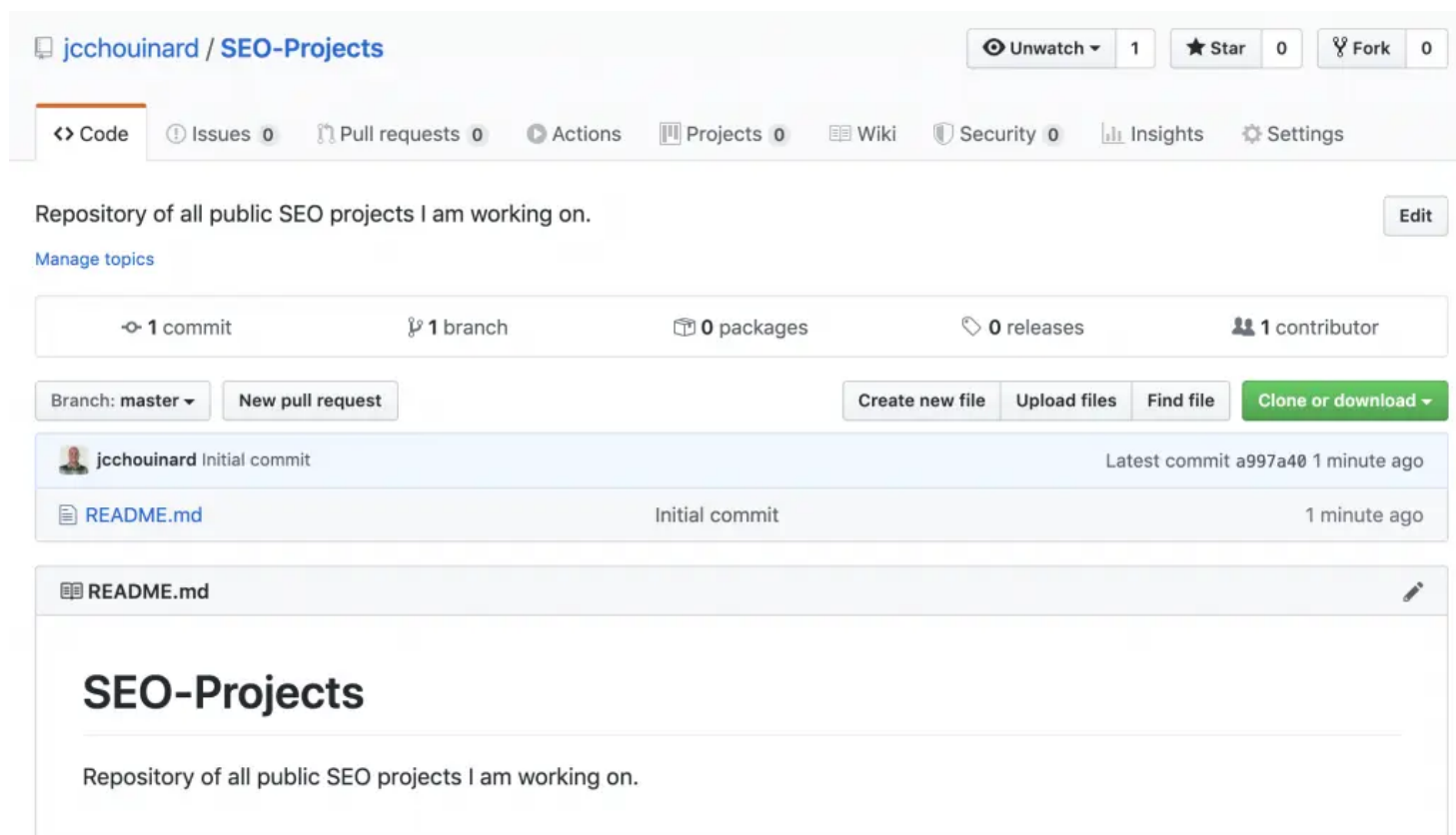

Publish and push the changes.

Your VSCode Repository should be available in Github now.

2. Create a Repository From Github

Create your first repository on Github by following these simple steps.

- Click on "New repository" in the top right of the page;
- Give your repository a name;
- Initialise this repository with a README;
- Click on "Create repository"
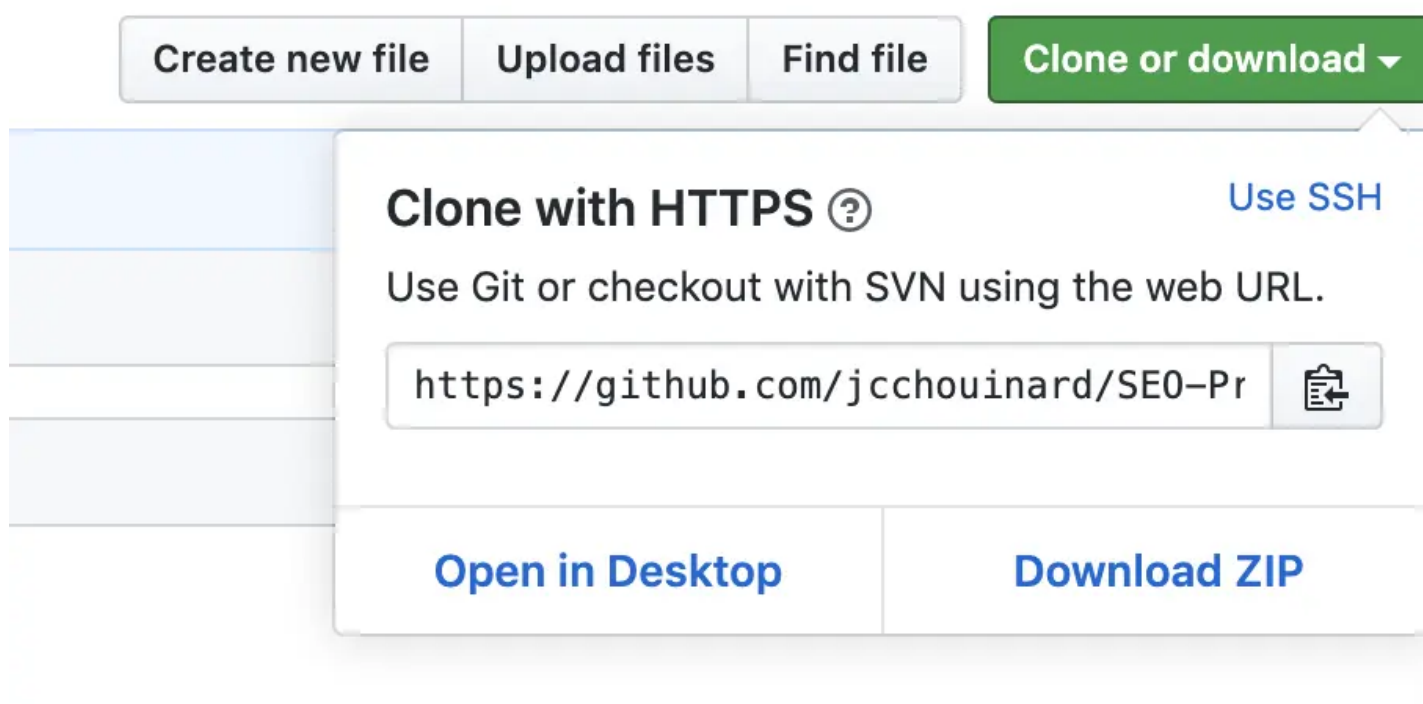
First repository created on Github

If you want detailed steps, read this post that tells you **how to create a repository on Github**.

Clone Your Repository in VSCode

Now it is time to clone your Github Repository with VSCode.

To **clone your repository,** you need to copy the web URL linked to your repository on Github and clone the repo.

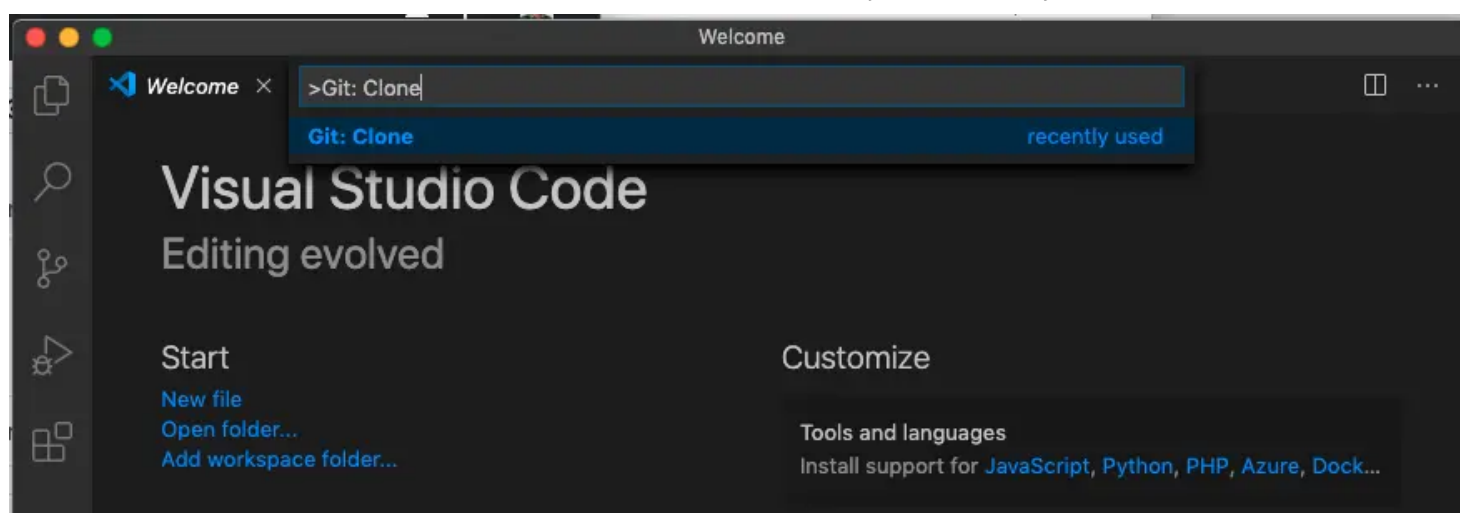Go to your Github Repository and Copy the URL

Clone a Github repository with HTTPs
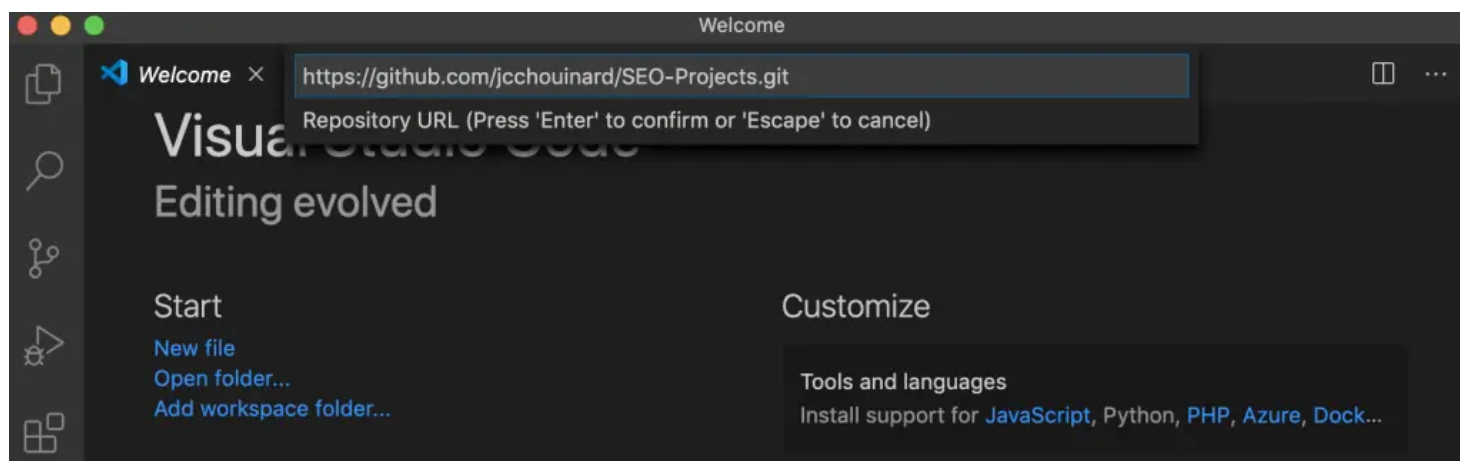
Go in Visual Studio Code.

Press `Ctrl + Shift + P` (on Windows), or `Command + Shift + P` (on Mac). This will replicate what you would do from the command line.

Type `Git: Clone`.

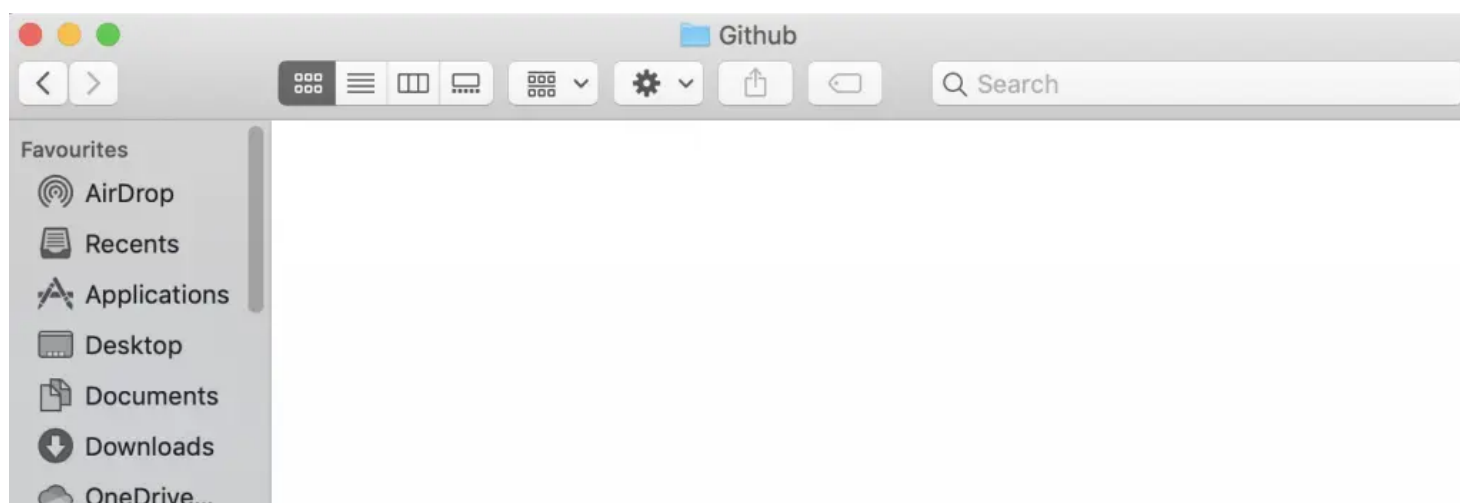Clone Your Github Repository from VS Code
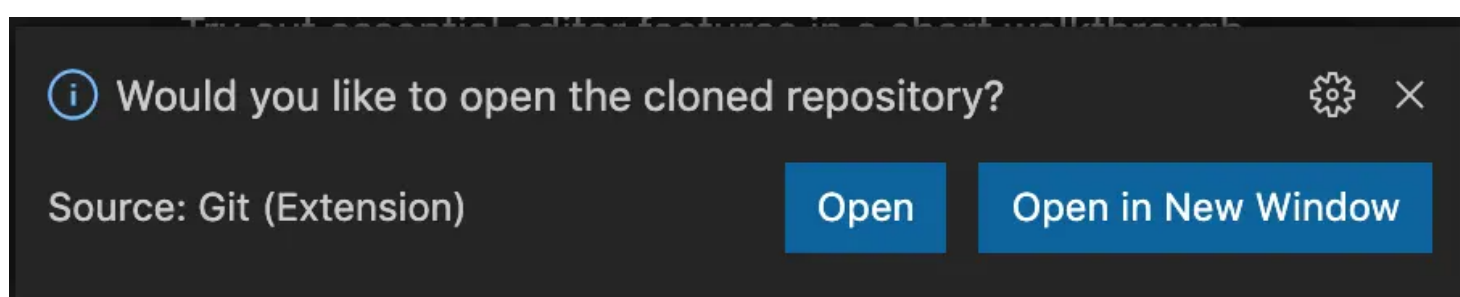
Add the URL that you copied earlier.
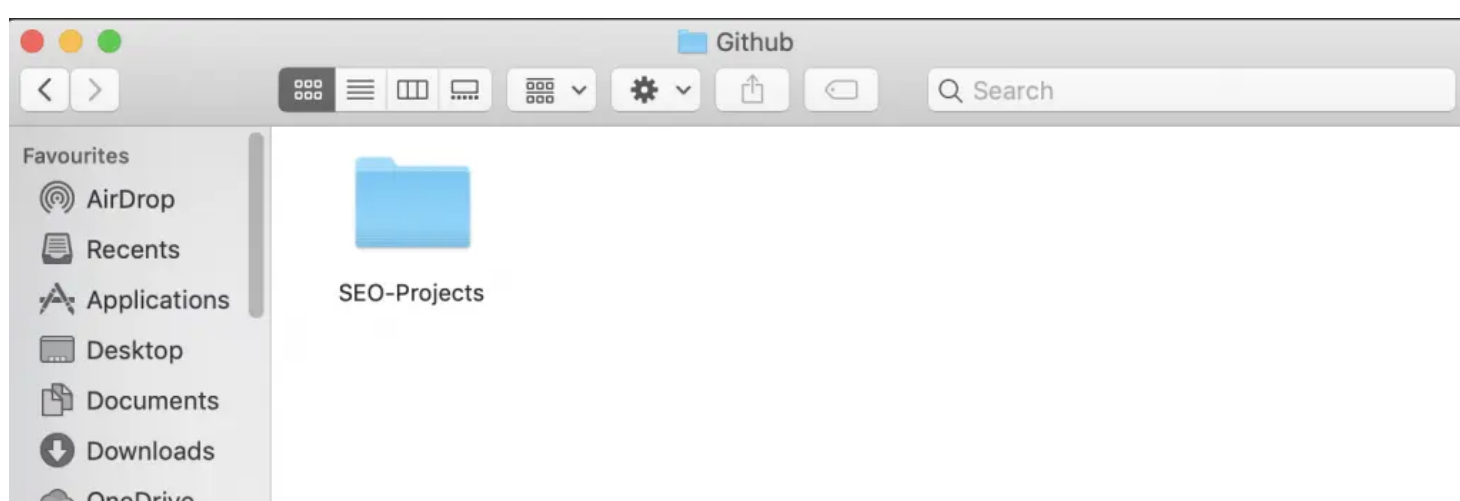

Copy the Github URL

Select the repository location where you want your file to be cloned (folder on your desktop).

A small prompt window will pop-up in the bottom right of your screen saying: "Would you like to open the cloned repository?". Click on "Open".
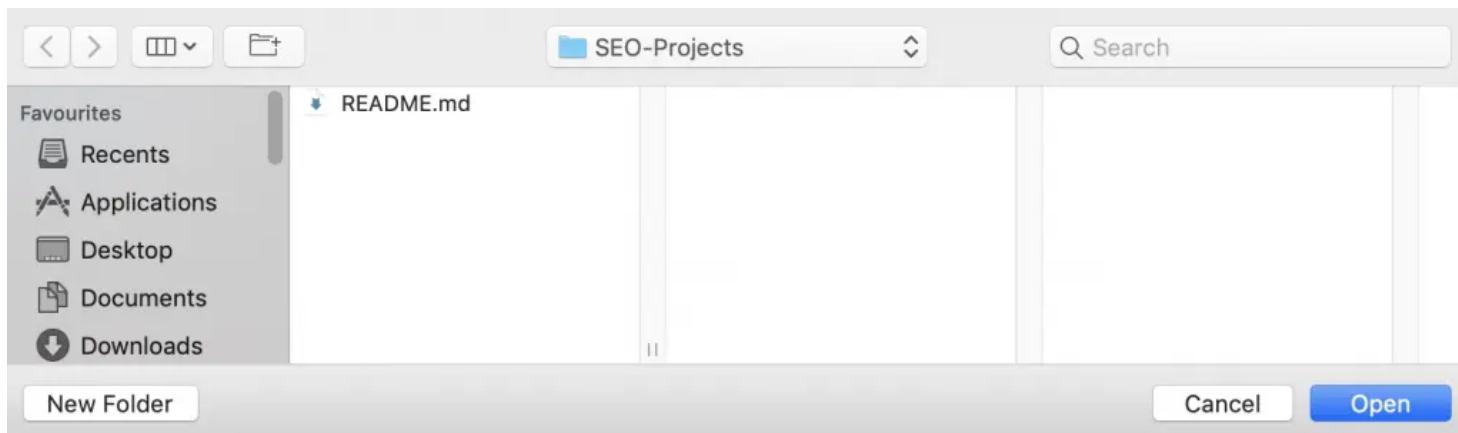

Go to your working folder, your repository should be cloned.

Open the Project in VSCode

If you have not opened the newly created project in VSCode when you were ask if you wanted to open the repository earlier, now it is time to do it.

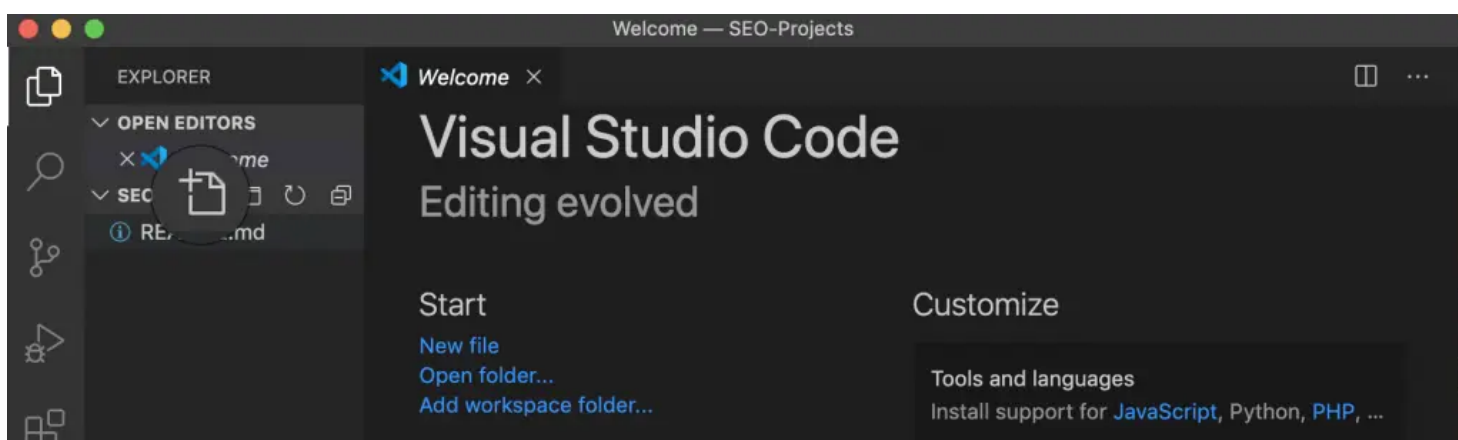Click on `File` > `Open`, go to the cloned repository and click on "Open".

Set-Up Gitignore File

When you commit something to Github, you might want to exclude some stuff from your commit. For example, you might want to exclude stuff like credentials (for security purposes), or other stuff like VS Code workspaces (for best practices). Sometimes there are even stuff you just don't want to be committed because you don't really care about them and don't want to pollute your commit history.

To do so, you need to create a `.gitignore` file with rules to what you want to be excluded from your commits. The `.gitignore` file is a text file that tells Git which files or folders to ignore in a project.
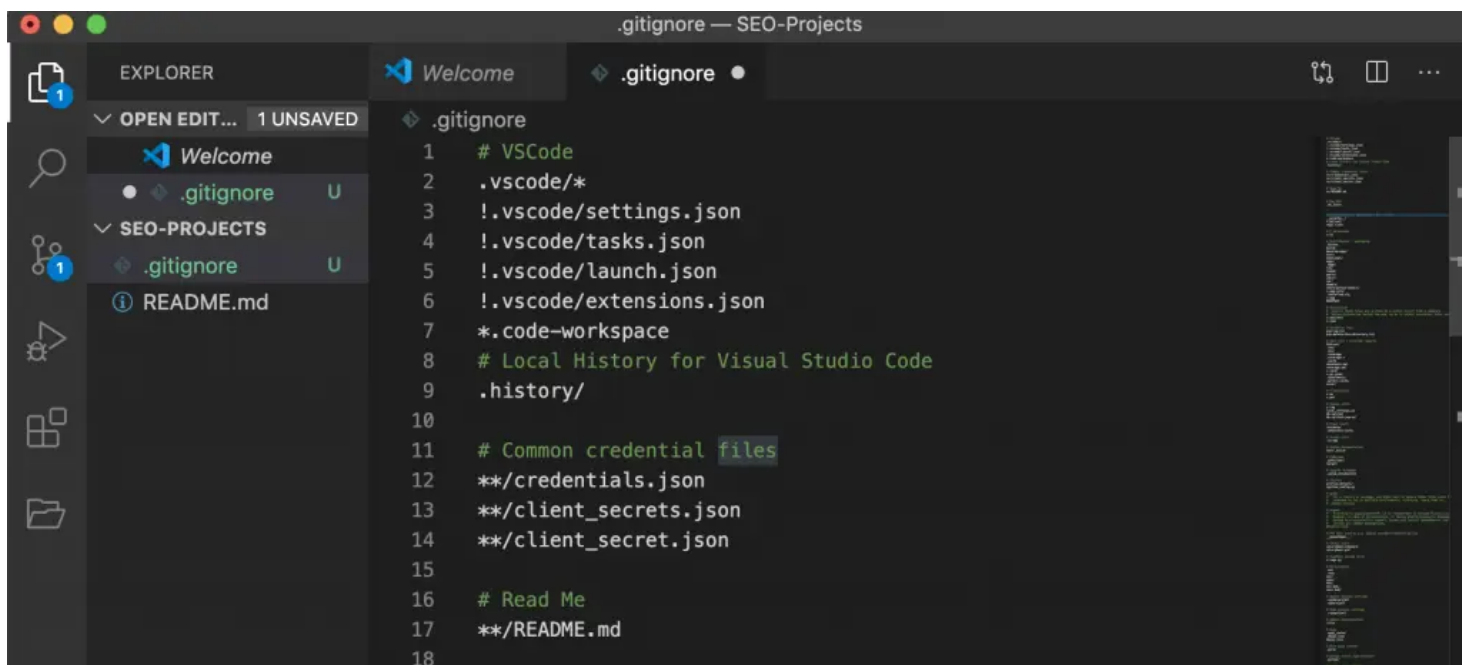
To set-up a `.gitignore` file using VSCode, go to `File` > `New File`, or click on the + file icon in the Explorer.

Create a new file in Github

In this new file, add all the directories and files that you want to be ignored. Save the file as plain text file and name it `.gitignore` within VS Code.

.gitignore file in VSCode

If you don't know what to add in it, you can use my **Gitignore template** for Python. Just know that I have blocked common names I give to credential files, and the `README.md` file because I don't want changes to this file to impact my commit history. Just make sure that you update to file to your needs.
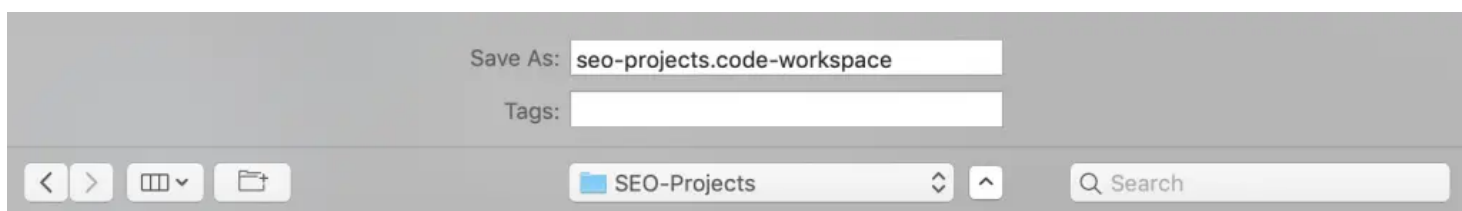
Now, save your `.gitignore` file. Press `CTRL + S`(on Windows), or `Command + S` (on Mac), or go to `File > Save`.
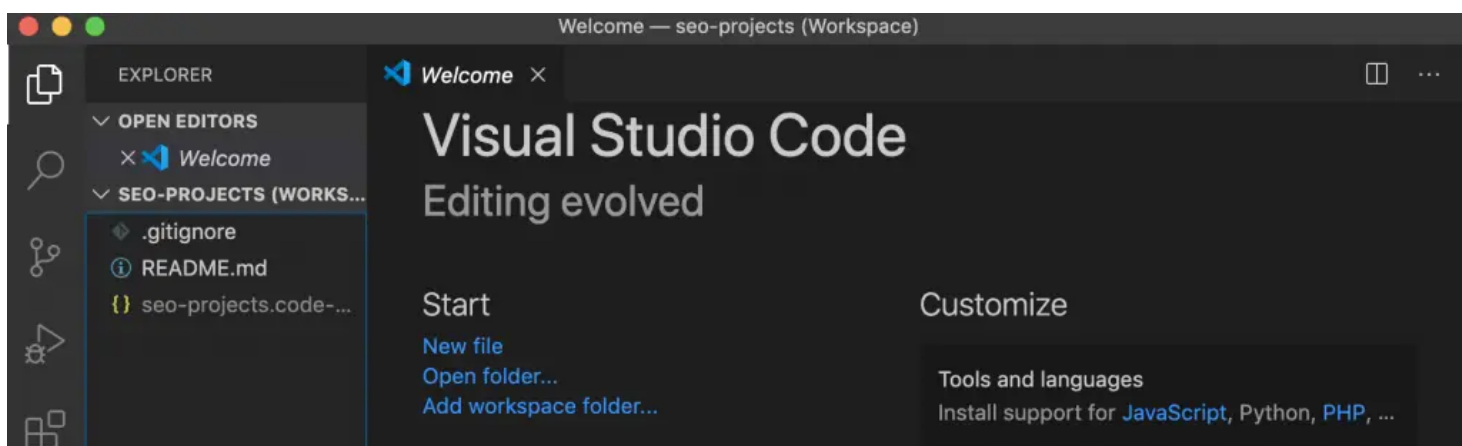
Save Your Project as a Workspace

Workspaces in VSCode are super useful. They can have their own settings and seperate your projects in a way that each commit doesn't impact other projects.

To save your current configuration as a workspace, go to `File > Save Workspace as` and go to the folder that you are currently working on.

Give a name. I usually use the name of the repository as a workspace name.

The workspace will now appear in the explorer.

Whenever you want to come back to that project, all you need to do is to go to `File > Open Workspace...` and you'll come back to the state you left it.

Make Your First Commit to Github

Now that you have created your first file in VSCode. You will want to push (commit) to Github.

If you don't understand commits, don't worry about it too much. All you need to do it push something to Github from VSCode is:
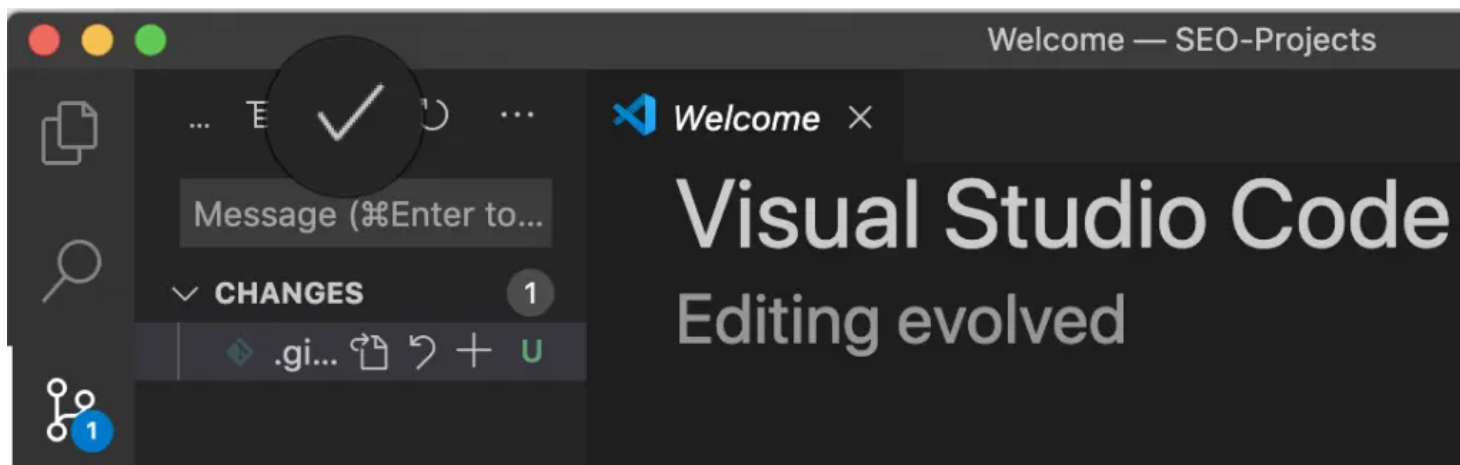
1. Save the changes you made to your file;
2. Commit to the Master Branch;
3. Push to Github.

Save Changes

The first step is to save your `.gitignore` file. Press `CTRL + S`(on Windows), or `Command + S` (on Mac), or go to `File > Save`.
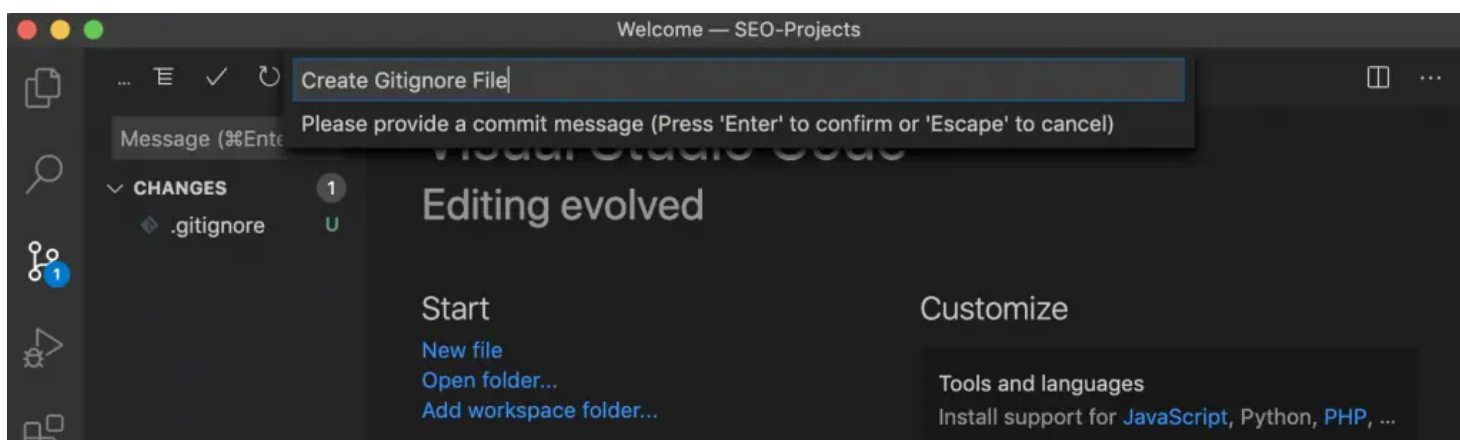
Commit Your Changes

Next, go to the Source Control panel and click on the check icon.

Commit to Github

This will commit the changes you made to your master file. Add a message to help you understand what the commit is about.
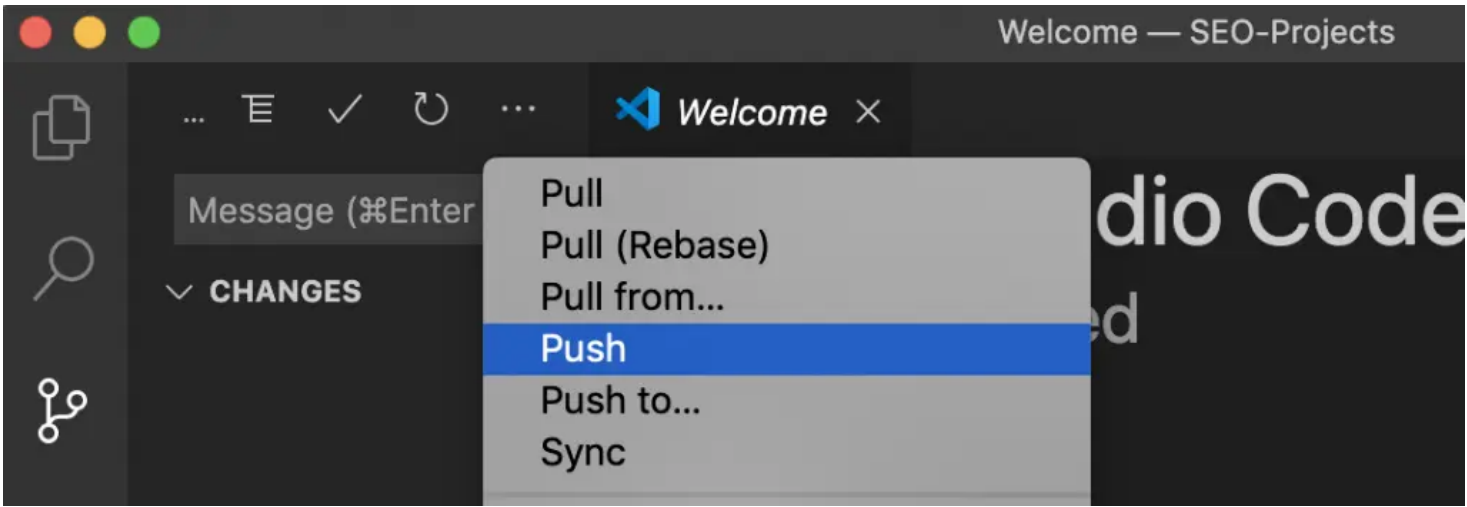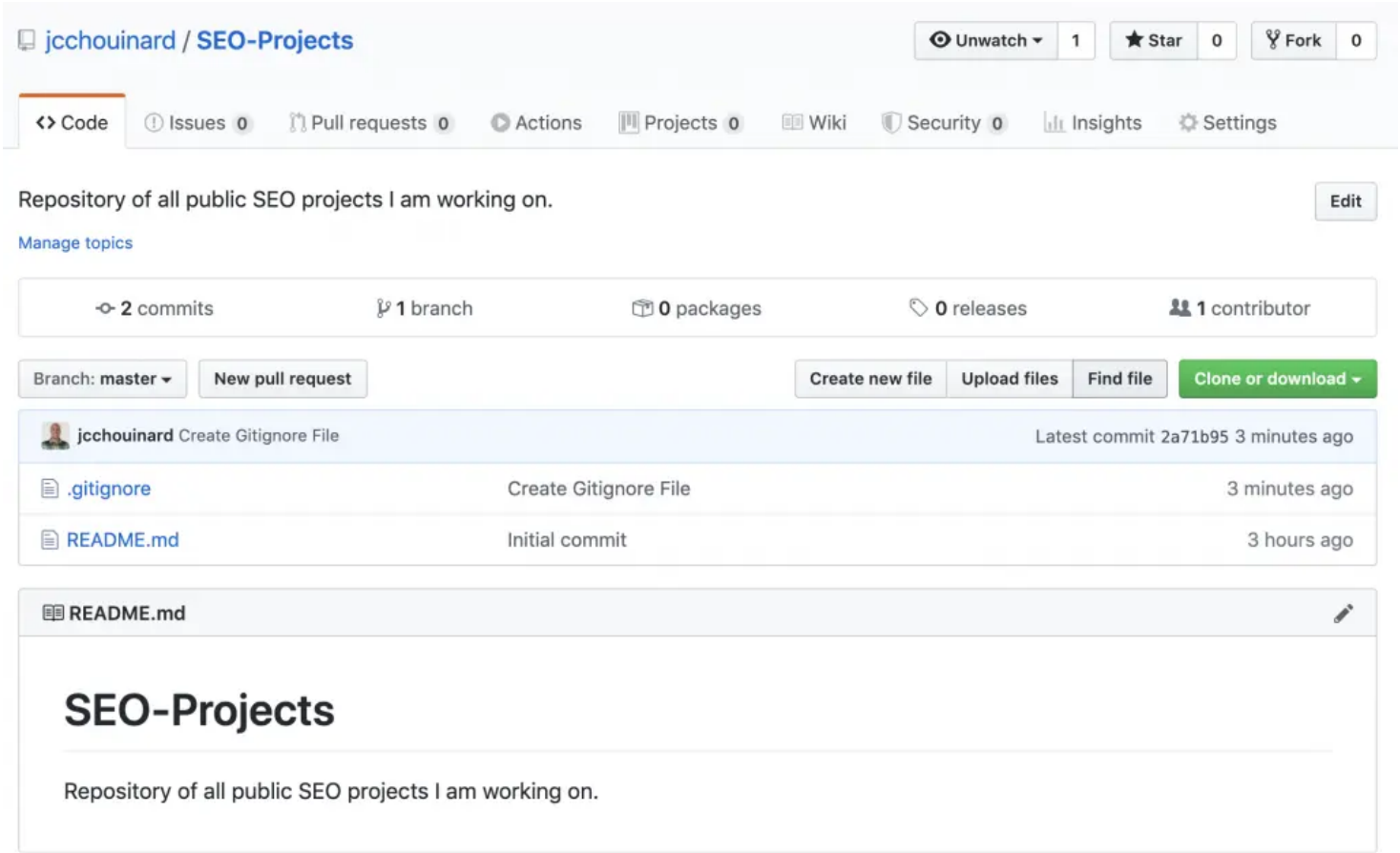

Commit message

Push the Commit to Github

The third step is to push the commit to Github. Just click on the three dots `...` and click on "Push".

When all is done, go back to your Github repository and see that your .gitignore file has been pushed to Github and has the last commit message you added right next to it.

As you can see, because of the .gitignore file we have added, the README.md file as stayed to the initial commit and the workspace file (`seo-projects.code-workspace`) have not been pushed to Github.

Become a Git Master

Although very powerful, Git is very complex. I highly recommend that you follow Datacamp's Git course to really become comfortable with Git commands and avoid painful mistakes.

- [Introduction to Git](#)

Github VSCode Cheatsheet

Below are examples you can use in VSCode from VSCode commands, from Terminal, or from source control panel

- **Access in VSCode commands:** `Ctrl + Shift + P` or `Command + Shift + P`
- **Access Terminal in VSCode**: From VSCode menu go to `Terminal > New Terminal`.
- **Access source control panel:** Select from lefthand bar or use `Control + Shift + G`

Create Github Repository in VSCode	Use "Publish to Github" command
Clone Github Repository in VSCode	Use "Git: Clone" command
Clone Github Repository from Terminal	Use git clone <repo-url>
Push Git Repository from Terminal	Use git push <remote> <branch>
Push Git Repository from Source Control	Stage, Commit, Select "Push" from Push, Pull menu

Conclusion

Congratulations, you have created your first project with Github and VSCode. You are now ready to start coding.

5/5 - (6 votes)

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Related Posts:

1. **Clone a Github Repository on Your Computer (with Example)**
2. **Add a File to Github Using Git Bash**
3. **Install Git on Windows and Mac OS X**
4. **Create a Repository on Github**

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