Use Actions in a Workflow

Neil Morrissey
Solutions Architect

linkedin.com/in/neilmorrissey | www.neilmorrissey.net

Indicators of Trustworthy Actions

Public Open Source

Good Maintenance

Community Trust

Documentation

Identify an Action's Type, Inputs, and Outputs

Types of GitHub Actions

JavaScript Action

Node.js
GitHub Actions toolkit
Linux, Windows, MacOS runners

Docker Container Actions

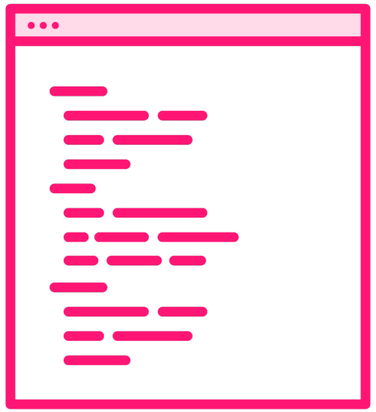
Code, tools and dependencies
Slower than JavaScript
Linux runners only

Composite Action

Combine workflow steps
Reusable
Run as a step in caller workflow

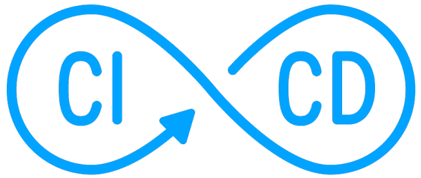
Use the Specific Version of an Action in a Workflow

GitHub Actions



Packaged, reusable code

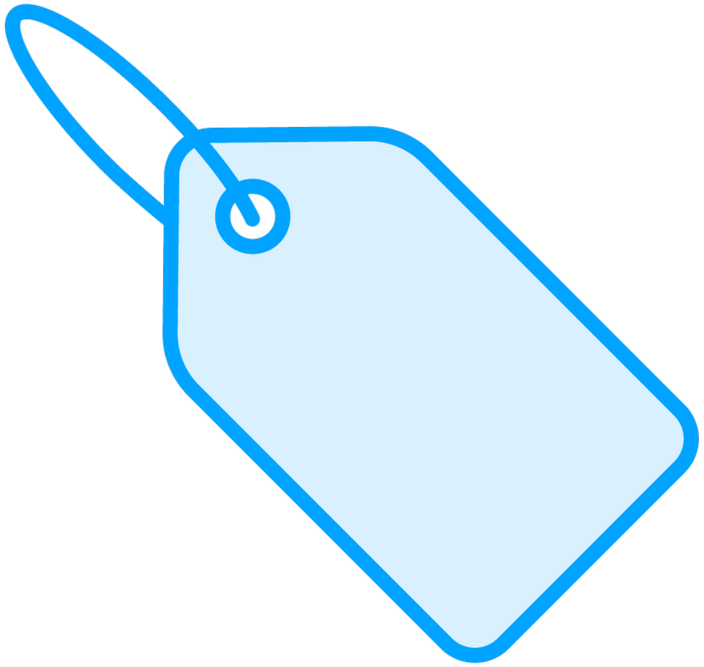
From GitHub Marketplace or Custom built Actions



Dependencies that can break your code with updates

Target GitHub Action Version

Tag	uses: actions/action-name@v4
Commit SHA	uses: actions/action-name@b844002085650b8e136ecff585c3cdbd575e
Branch Name	uses: actions/action-name@v4-beta



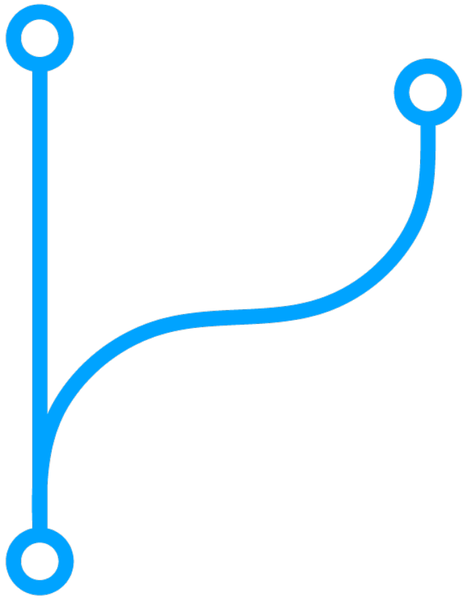
Tags

uses: actions/action-name@v4

GitHub recommended approach for release management

Major version for breaking changes (i.e. v4)

Major version points to latest minor version (i.e. v4.1.3)



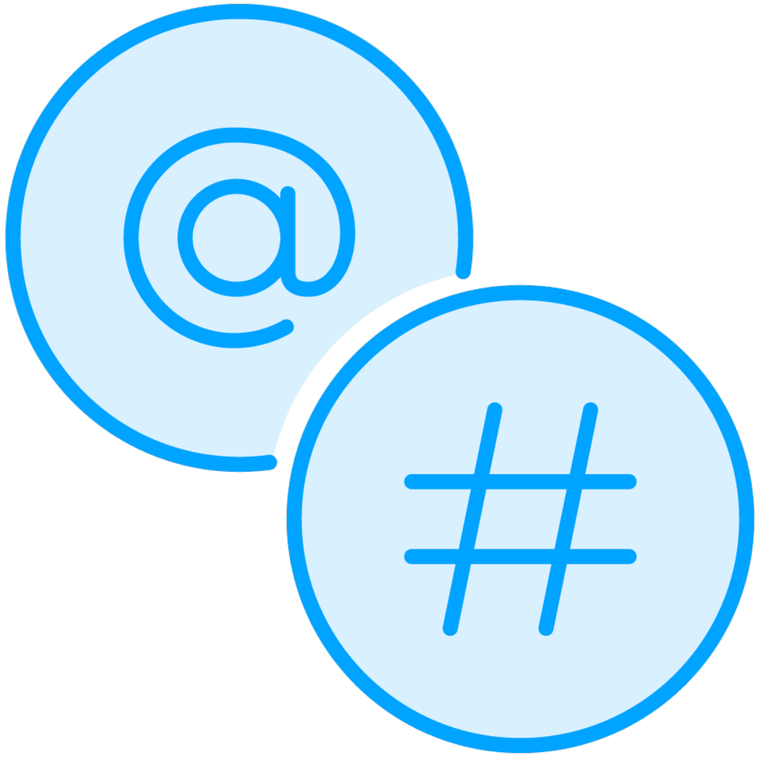
Branch

uses: actions/action-name@v4-beta

Can target branch of code

Main branch not recommended

Tags are best for release management



Commit SHA

uses: actions/action-name@b844002085650b8e136ecff585c3cdbd575e

Each Git commit receives a unique SHA value

Specific version

Tags have advantage of major/minor versions

Thank you!

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