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© 10 minute read

The **Hello World** project is a time-honored tradition in computer programming. It What is GitHub?

is a simple exercise that gets you started when learning something new. Let's get started with GitHub!

### You'll learn how to:

- Create and use a repository
- Start and manage a new branch
- Make changes to a file and push them to GitHub as commits
- Open and merge a pull request

Create a Repository

Create a Branch

Open a Pull Request Make a Commit

Merge Pull Request

## What is GitHub?

GitHub is a code hosting platform for version control and collaboration. It lets you and others work together on projects from anywhere. This tutorial teaches you GitHub essentials like repositories, branches, commits, and Pull Requests. You'll create your own Hello World repository and learn GitHub's Pull Request workflow, a popular way to create and review code.

### No coding necessary

To complete this tutorial, you need a GitHub.com account and Internet access. You don't need to know how to code, use the command line, or install Git (the version control software GitHub is built on).

Tip: Open this guide in a separate browser window (or tab) so you can see it while you complete the steps in the tutorial.

## Step 1. Create a Repository

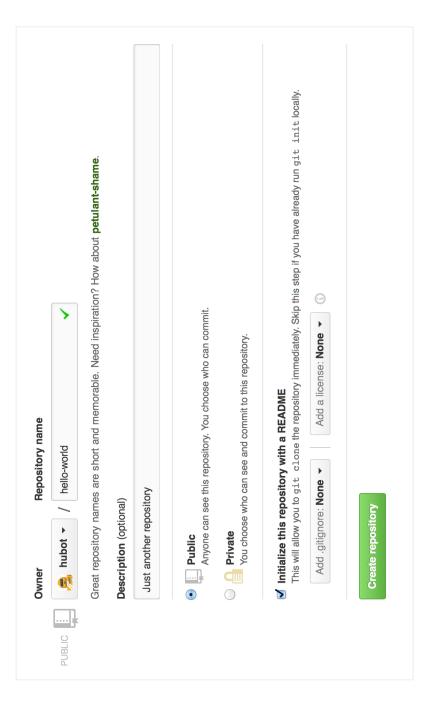
anything your project needs. We recommend including a README, or a file with A repository is usually used to organize a single project. Repositories can contain folders and files, images, videos, spreadsheets, and data sets

time you create your new repository. It also offers other common options such information about your project. GitHub makes it easy to add one at the same as a license file.

Your hello-world repository can be a place where you store ideas, resources, or even share and discuss things with others.

## To create a new repository

- 1. In the upper right corner, next to your avatar or identicon, click + and then select New repository.
- 2. Name your repository [hello-world].
- 3. Write a short description.
- 4. Select Initialize this repository with a README.



Click Create repository.

## Step 2. Create a Branch

Branching is the way to work on different versions of a repository at one time.

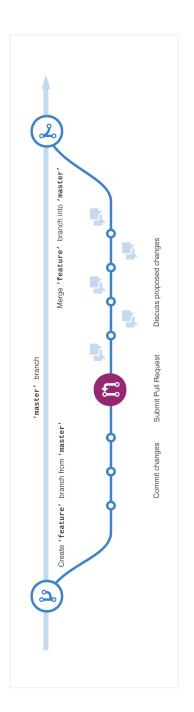
considered to be the definitive branch. We use branches to experiment and By default your repository has one branch named master which is

make edits before committing them to master.

changes to the master branch while you were working on your branch, you When you create a branch off the [master] branch, you're making a copy, or snapshot, of master as it was at that point in time. If someone else made could pull in those updates.

### This diagram shows:

- The master branch
- A new branch called feature (because we're doing 'feature work' on this branch)
- The journey that feature takes before it's merged into master



Have you ever saved different versions of a file? Something like:

- story.txt
- story-joe-edit.txt

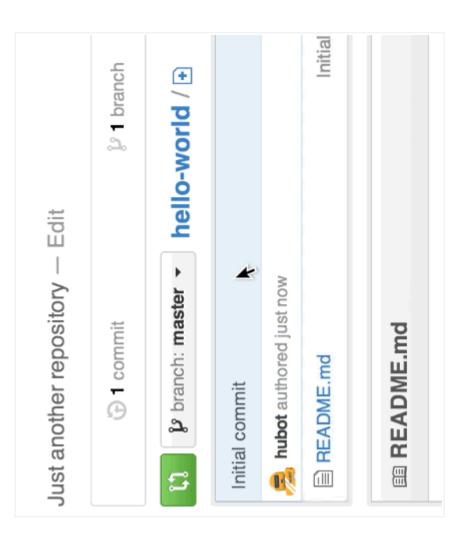
• story-joe-edit-reviewed.txt

Branches accomplish similar goals in GitHub repositories.

keeping bug fixes and feature work separate from our | master | (production) branch. When a change is ready, they merge their branch into master. Here at GitHub, our developers, writers, and designers use branches for

## To create a new branch

- 1. Go to your new repository [hello-world].
- 2. Click the drop down at the top of the file list that says branch: master.
- 3. Type a branch name, [readme-edits], into the new branch text box.
- 4. Select the blue Create branch box or hit "Enter" on your keyboard.



Now you have two branches, [master] and [readme-edits]. They look exactly the same, but not for long! Next we'll add our changes to the new branch.

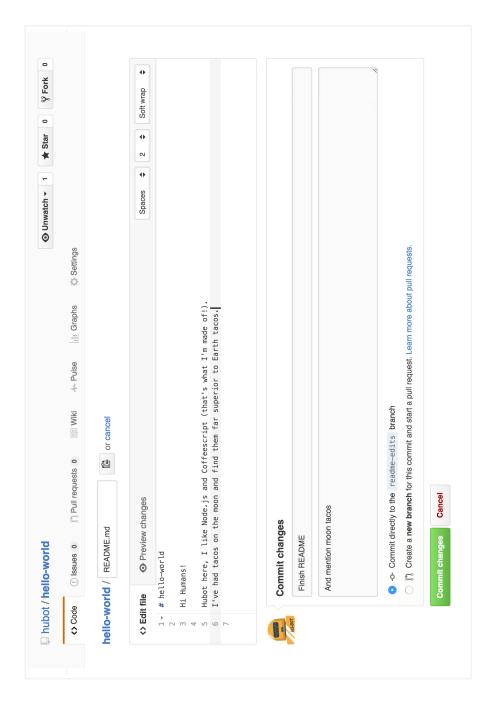
# Step 3. Make and commit changes

Bravo! Now, you're on the code view for your readme-edits branch, which is a copy of master. Let's make some edits.

commit message, which is a description explaining why a particular change was On GitHub, saved changes are called commits. Each commit has an associated made. Commit messages capture the history of your changes, so other contributors can understand what you've done and why.

## Make and commit changes

- 1. Click the README.md file.
- 2. Click the 🖍 pencil icon in the upper right corner of the file view to edit.
- 3. In the editor, write a bit about yourself.
- 4. Write a commit message that describes your changes.
- 5. Click Commit changes button.



These changes will be made to just the README file on your readme-edits branch, so now this branch contains content that's different from master.

# Step 4. Open a Pull Request

Nice edits! Now that you have changes in a branch off of [master], you can open a pull request. Pull Requests are the heart of collaboration on GitHub. When you open a pull request, you're proposing your changes and requesting that someone review and pull in your contribution and merge them into their branch. Pull requests show diffs, or differences, of the content from both branches. The changes, additions, and subtractions are shown in green and red.

As soon as you make a commit, you can open a pull request and start a discussion, even before the code is finished.

for feedback from specific people or teams, whether they're down the hall or 10 By using GitHub's @mention system in your pull request message, you can ask time zones away.

yourself. It's a great way to learn the GitHub flow before working on larger You can even open pull requests in your own repository and merge them projects

# Open a Pull Request for changes to the README

Click on the image for a larger version

Screenshot	
Step	

### O Unwatch → 1 ★ Star 0 % Fork 0 Screenshot ss 0 1) Pull requests 0 III Wilki 4- Pulse Id. Graphs Settings hello-world / README.md page, click the green New pull Click the M Pull Request tab, then from the Pull Request Step

Find file Copy path 710d852 3 minutes ago

> In the Example Comparisons compare with master (the made, readme-edits, to box, select the branch you original).

request button.

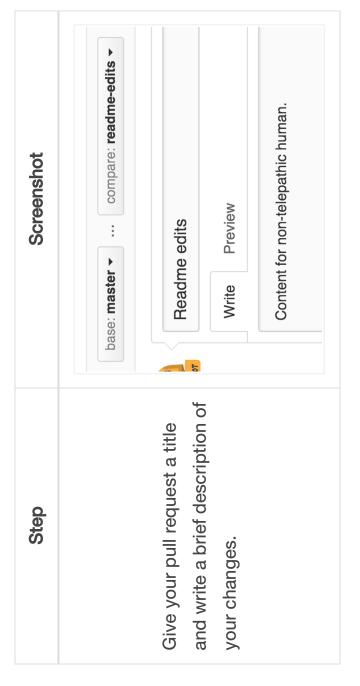
Look over your changes in the make sure they're what you diffs on the Compare page, want to submit.



### +Hubot here, I like Node.js and Coffee Finish README ... 1 file changed them far superior to Earth tacos. Element Showing 1 changed file with 1 addition and 1 deletion. -Just another repository Screenshot 00 -1,4 +1,4 00 hello-world Commits on Oct 27, 2014 2 README.md -0-1 commit hubot hubot N 8 4 þ ..<del>1</del> Step

When you're satisfied that these are the changes you want to submit, click the big green **Create Pull Request** button.





When you're done with your message, click Create pull request!

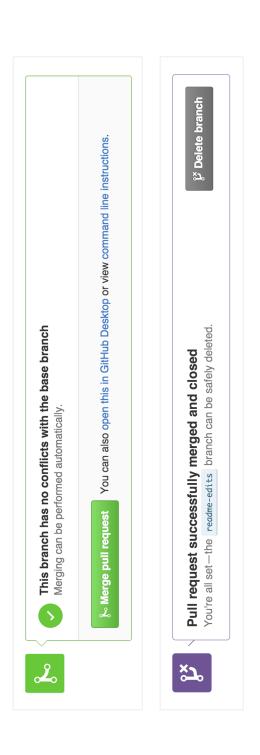
Tip: You can use emoji and drag and drop images and gifs onto comments and Pull Requests.

# Step 5. Merge your Pull Request

In this final step, it's time to bring your changes together - merging your

readme-edits branchinto the master branch.

- 1. Click the green Merge pull request button to merge the changes into master
- 2. Click Confirm merge.
- 3. Go ahead and delete the branch, since its changes have been incorporated, with the Delete branch button in the purple box.



### **Celebrate!**

By completing this tutorial, you've learned to create a project and make a pull request on GitHub!

Here's what you accomplished in this tutorial:

- Created an open source repository
- Started and managed a new branch