

UWMadisonPGSC-PD

Resources for professional development
within the UW-Madison Physics Department



Build a Professional Academic Website in Ten Minutes

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<https://rmorgan10.github.io/UWMadisonPGSC-PD/>

Building a Personal Website

There are many popular options available for making personal or professional websites, including:

[Squarespace](#) | [Wordpress](#) | [Wix](#) | [Duda](#) | [Weebly](#)

However, these options will **cost money** for a domain name, web hosting, advanced templates, and support

Many of the features you pay for are likely **unnecessary** for a simple personal academic site, like data analytics and eCommerce

Building a professional website the easy (and **free!**) way:



<https://pages.github.com/>

Website hosted directly from your GitHub repo
(<https://username.github.io/>)

Many easy to use templates; separate content
from form / style

Unlimited project sites for all your repos

Free domain name (but allows for custom domain
names)

There are [13 natively supported themes](#) to
choose from!

Adapted from a presentation by [Spencer Everett](#)

Cayman theme

Cayman is a clean, responsive theme for GitHub Pages.

[View on GitHub](#)

[Download .zip](#)

[Download .tar.gz](#)

Text can be **bold**, *italic*, or ~~strikethrough~~.

[Link to another page.](#)

There should be whitespace between paragraphs.

There should be whitespace between paragraphs. We recommend including a README, or a file with information about your project.

Header 1

This is a normal paragraph following a header. GitHub is a code hosting platform for version control and collaboration. It lets you and others work together on projects from anywhere.

Header 2

This is a blockquote following a header.

When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favor.



Slate theme

Slate is a theme for GitHub Pages.



Text can be **bold**, *italic*, or ~~strikethrough~~.

[Link to another page.](#)

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Header 3

```
// Javascript code with syntax highlighting.  
var fun = function lang(l) {  
    dateformat.i18n = require('../lang/' + l)  
    return true;  
}
```

Minimal Mistakes

A flexible two-column Jekyll theme. Perfect for personal sites, blogs, and portfolios hosted on GitHub or your own server.

[Latest release v4.11.2](#)

Star 3,555

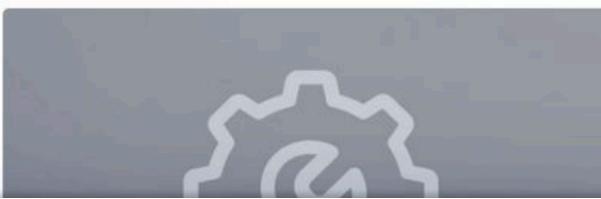
Fork 6,277

[Install Now](#)

Get notified when I add new stuff

[@mmistakes](#)

[Tip Me](#)



Building a professional website the easy (and **free!**) way:



<https://pages.github.com/>

We will be using a variant of the previous theme modified for academics:

- Publications & talks
- Dynamically-generated CV
- Teaching
- Portfolio
- Blog posts

Customizable with [jekyll](#) for advanced features

Easy to set up a site in 15 minutes!

Adapted from a presentation by [Spencer Everett](#)

Building a professional website the easy (and **free!**) way:



GitHub Pages

<https://pages.github.com/>

Purpose for the workshop:

- Build a functional website with basic information (name, bio, picture, etc.) added.
- Understand how to edit files to customize website further.
- Be aware of available resources.

Building a professional website the easy (and **free!**) way:



<https://pages.github.com/>

Not covered today:

- Tutorial on how to use
 - a. Git
 - b. Markdown
 - c. Jekyll
 - d. HTML
- Using non-supported themes for website
(but slides included at the end)

Adapted from a presentation by [Spencer Everett](#)

Step 0: Create a GitHub Account!

All grad students should have a GitHub account, or at least be aware of it, but if you don't yet head [here](#) to set one up

If you are still a student, be aware that you are eligible for the [student developer pack](#) which includes **unlimited free private repositories!**



Get the best developer tools with the
GitHub Student Developer Pack

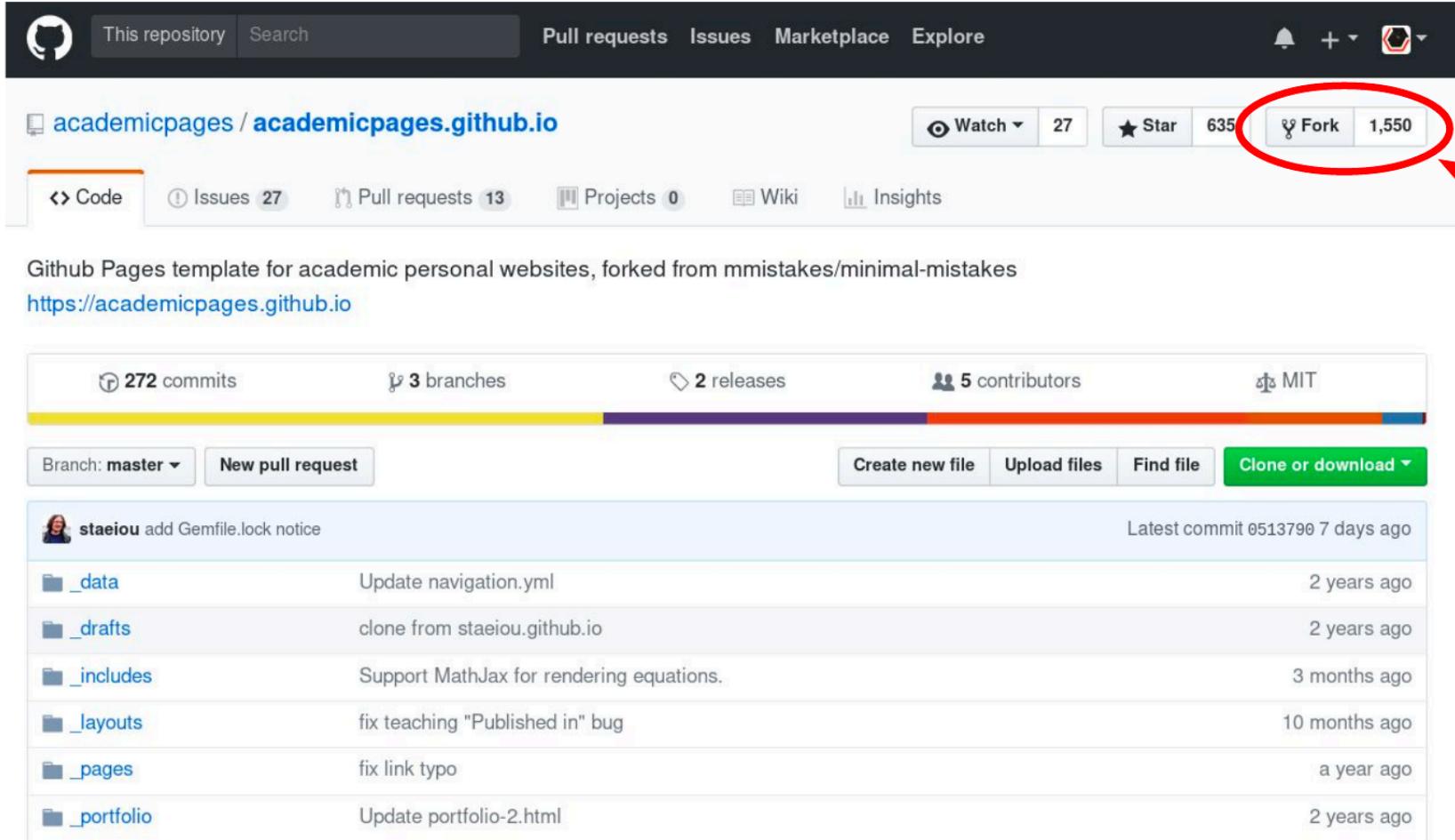
There's no substitute for hands-on experience, but for most students, real-world tools can be cost prohibitive. That's why we created the Pack with some of our partners and friends, like:



For details, see [GitHub Pages](#)

Adapted from a presentation by [Spencer Everett](#)

Step 1: Fork academicpages.github.io



This screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for academicpages.github.io. The page includes a navigation bar with links for This repository, Search, Pull requests, Issues, Marketplace, and Explore. Below the navigation bar, there's a header with the repository name, a 'Watch' button (27), a 'Star' button (635), a circled 'Fork' button (1,550), and a 'Code' button. A red arrow points from the text 'click the Fork button on the repo given at the link above' to the circled 'Fork' button. The main content area displays repository statistics: 272 commits, 3 branches, 2 releases, 5 contributors, and an MIT license. It also shows a list of recent commits by user 'staeiou', including updates to navigation files, support for MathJax, and fixes for bugs. At the bottom, there are buttons for Create new file, Upload files, Find file, and Clone or download.

Once you are logged into your account, click the **Fork** button on the repo given at the link above

This gives you a personal **copy** of the repo that you can modify freely

For details, see [GitHub Pages](#)

Adapted from a presentation by [Spencer Everett](#)

Step 2: Rename repository to *username.github.io*

This screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'des-ecs / academicpages.github.io'. The top navigation bar includes links for 'This repository', 'Search', 'Pull requests', 'Issues', 'Marketplace', and 'Explore'. Below the header, there are buttons for 'Watch' (0), 'Star' (0), 'Fork' (1,550), and a gear icon for 'Settings'. A red circle and arrow highlight the 'Settings' tab in the navigation bar. The main content area displays information about the repository, including its description ('Github Pages template for academic personal websites, forked from mmistakes/minimal-mistakes'), URL ('https://academicpages.github.io'), and various metrics like 272 commits, 3 branches, 2 releases, 5 contributors, and the MIT license. At the bottom, there's a sidebar with 'Options' (Collaborators, Branches, Webhooks) and the 'Settings' tab, which is currently active. In the 'Settings' tab, there's a 'Repository name' field containing 'des-ecs.github.io' with a green checkmark and a 'Rename' button.

On your new fork, click
Settings

Change the repository
name to:
username.github.io

For details, see [GitHub Pages](#)

Adapted from a presentation by [Spencer Everett](#)

Step 3: (Familiar with git) Clone your new repo

Go to the folder where you want to store your project, and clone the new repository:

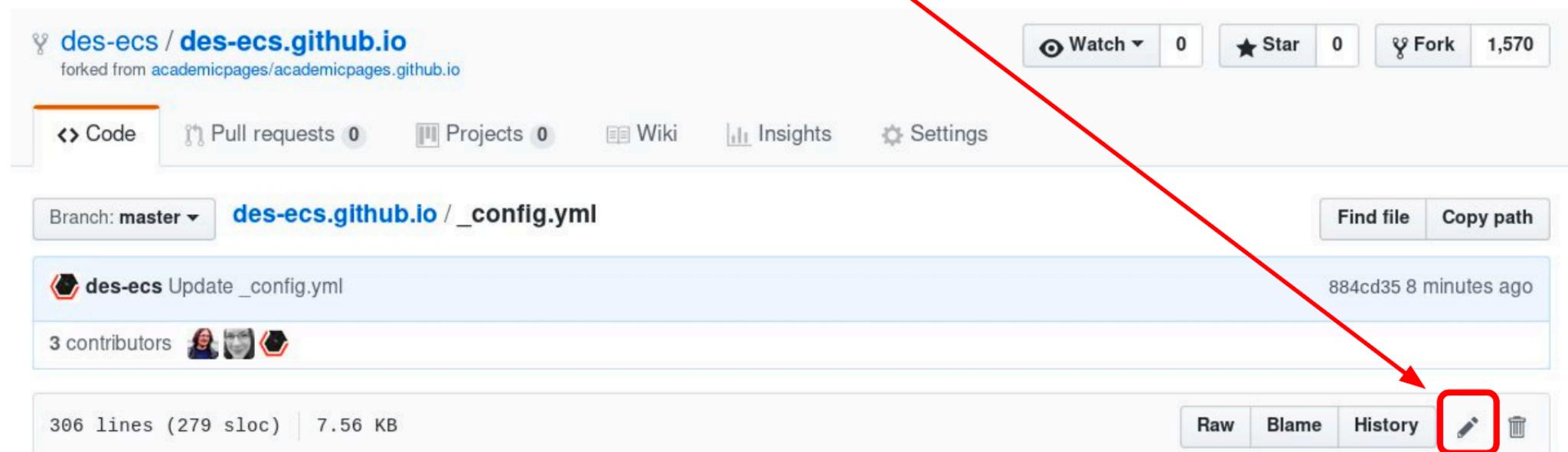
```
~ $ git clone https://github.com/username/username.github.io
```

Move into your new directory:

```
~ $ cd username.github.io
```

Step 3: (New to git) Edit using GitHub interface

You can modify files on GitHub directly by navigating the directory structure to the desired file and clicking on the **pencil** icon:



Step 4: Open `_config.yml` and edit personal info

Here are a few of the changes you will likely want to make, taken from the [example diffs](#) (replace `getorg-testacct` with your username):

```
# Site Settings
  locale          : "en-US"
- title          : "Your Name / Site Title"
+ title          : "Dr. Test Account"
  title_separator : "-"

  -name           : &name "Your Name"
  -description    : &description "personal description"
  -url            : https://academicpages.github.io # the base hostname & protocol for your site e.g. "https://
+name           : &name "Dr. Test Account"
+description    : &description "Research scientist at Test University"
+url            : https://getorg-testacct.github.io #the base hostname & protocol for your site e.g. "https://
  baseurl         : "" # the subpath of your site, e.g. "/blog"
  -repository     : "academicpages/academicpages.github.io"
+repository     : "getorg-testacct.github.io"
```

Required!

Step 4: Open `_config.yml` and edit personal info

Here are a few of the changes you will likely want to make, taken from the [example diffs](#) (replace `getorg-testacct` with your username):

```
# Site Author
author:
  - name : "Your Sidebar Name"
  + name : "Dr. Test Account"
    avatar : "profile.png"
  - bio : "Your biography for the left-hand sidebar"
  - location : "Location"
  + bio : "Research scientist at Test University, expert in all things test and account related"
  + location : "Test, California"
    employer :
  - googlescholar : "http://yourfullgooglescholarurl.com"
  + googlescholar : "http://scholar.google.com/this-is-a-test"
```

Step 4: Open `_config.yml` and edit personal info

Here are a few of the changes you will likely want to make, taken from the [example diffs](#) (replace `getorg-testacct` with your username):

```
- github      : "academicpages"
+ github      : "getorg-testacct"
- twitter     : "replacethistwitterhandle"
+ twitter     : "testaccount-this-is-fake"
  instagram   :
  lastfm      :
  linkedin    :
```

Step 5: Add a picture!

Still in `_config.yml`, edit the **author:avatar** field to the filename of your desired picture:

```
79 # Site Author  
80 author:  
81 - name : "Your Sidebar Name"  
82 - avatar : "profile.png"
```

```
81 # Site Author  
82 author:  
83 + name : "DES ECS Rep 1"  
84 + avatar : "des_logo.png"
```

Then place a copy of your picture in the `.../username.github.io/images/` directory

Step 6: Commit & Push changes to GitHub

Add, commit, and push your changes:

```
~ $ git add --all  
~ $ git commit -m "Initial commit"  
~ $ git push -u origin master
```

As long as you changed the **red circled fields** in the previous slides, you can now go to your new personal website at <https://username.github.io>!

Optional Steps:

- Further change website configuration in `_config.yml`, which defines the content in the sidebars and other site-wide features.
- Upload additional files (like PDFs, .zip files, etc.) to the `files/` directory. They will appear at `https://{username}.github.io/files/{filename}`
 - a. CV, resume
 - b. Talks, presentations, publications
 - c. Additional images, etc.
- Alter the website headers in `_data/navigation.yml`. For example, if you don't have a portfolio or blog posts, you can remove those items from that `navigation.yml` file to remove them from the header.

Optional Steps:

- Rewrite the main page (“about me”) by editing `_pages/about.md`
- Add banner image to `_config.yml`
- Edit existing teaching experiences in files located at
`_teaching/{filename}.md` - fill out table metadata and/or add additional information using markdown!
- Do the same for publications by editing / adding entries in
`_publications/{filename}.md`

Congrats - you now have your own personal website!

Building a great website takes more than an hour. Use this as a starting point to branch off from. Add information, files, custom themes, and more!

Additional resources:

[GitHub Pages](#)

[GitHub Pages Examples](#)

[Mastering Markdown](#)

[Jekyll](#)



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About Me

Hello!

I am a graduate student in the Physics Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying astrophysics and computer science. I am passionate about understanding as much as possible about dark matter, dark energy, and the structure of the universe. I am also interested in employing state-of-the-art statistical tools, machine learning algorithms, and visualization techniques to parse and analyze the large datasets relevant to these physical problems.

On this website you can find information on my current research, side projects, outreach involvement, and other interests. Thanks for visiting!

[Sitemap](#)

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