

Adding a license to a repository

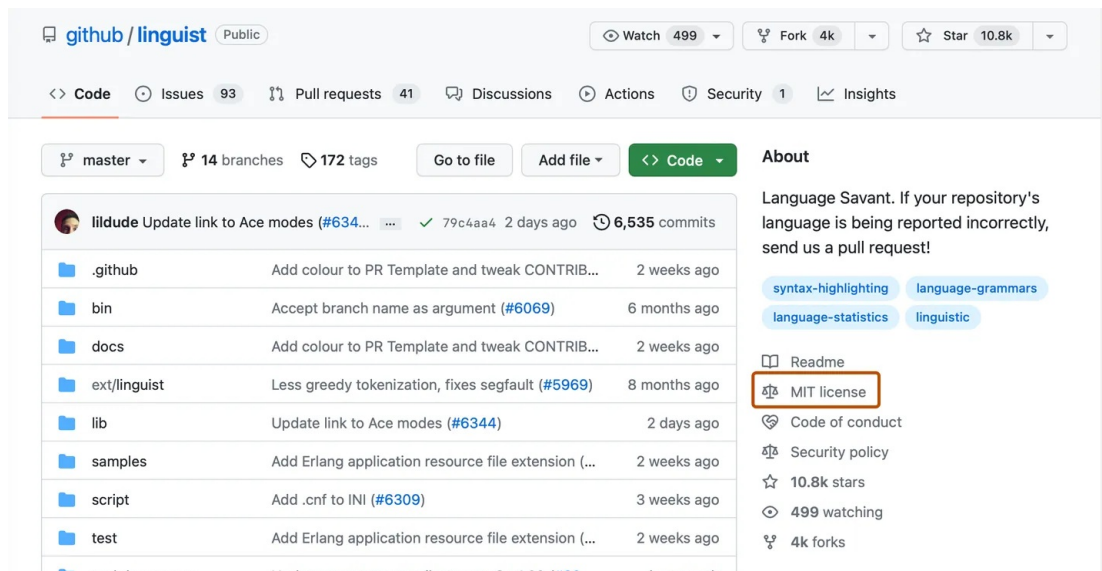
In this article

Including an open source license in your repository

Further reading

You can include an open source license in your repository to make it easier for other people to contribute.

If you include a detectable license in your repository, people who visit your repository will see it at the top of the repository page. To read the entire license file, click the license name.





Open source licenses enable others to freely use, change, and distribute the project in your repository. For more information on repository licenses, see "[Licensing a repository](#)."


Including an open source license in your repository

- 1 On your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, navigate to the main page of the repository.
- 2 Above the list of files, using the **Add file** drop-down, click **Create new file**.
- 3 In the file name field, type `LICENSE` or `LICENSE.md` (with all caps).
- 4 On the **Edit new file** tab, paste the full text of the license you want to use.
- 5 In the "Commit message" field, type a short, meaningful commit message that describes the change you made to the file. You can attribute the commit to more than one author in the commit message. For more information, see "[Creating a commit with multiple authors](#)."
- 6 Below the commit message fields, decide whether to add your commit to the

current branch or to a new branch. If your current branch is `main`, you should choose to create a new branch for your commit and then create a pull request. For more information, see "[Creating a pull request](#)".

☐  Commit directly to the `main` branch.

☒  Create a **new branch** for this commit and start a pull request. [Learn more about pull requests.](#)

 octocat-patch-1

Propose changes

Cancel

7 Click **Commit changes** or **Propose changes**.

Further reading

- "[Setting guidelines for repository contributors](#)"

Legal

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