

# Setting your timeout period for GitHub Codespaces

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Setting a timeout period

You can set your default timeout for GitHub Codespaces in your personal settings page.

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## About the idle timeout

A codespace will stop running after a period of inactivity. By default this period is 30 minutes, but you can specify a longer or shorter default timeout period in your personal settings on GitHub. The updated setting will apply to any new codespaces you create, or to existing codespaces the next time you start them. You can also specify a timeout when you use GitHub CLI to create a codespace.

**Warning:** Codespaces compute usage is billed for the duration for which a codespace is active. If you're not using a codespace but it remains running, and hasn't yet timed out, you are billed for the total time that the codespace was active, irrespective of whether you were using it. For more information, see "[About billing for GitHub Codespaces](#)."


## Timeout periods for organization-owned repositories

Organizations can set a maximum idle timeout policy for codespaces created from some or all of their repositories. If an organization policy sets a maximum timeout which is less than the default timeout you have set, the organization's timeout will be used instead of your setting. You will be notified of this after the codespace is created. For more information, see "[Restricting the idle timeout period](#)."

## Setting your default timeout period

- 1 In the upper-right corner of any page, click your profile photo, then click **Settings**.



2 In the "Code, planning, and automation" section of the sidebar, click  **Codespaces**.

3 Under "Default idle timeout", enter the time that you want, then click **Save**. The time must be between 5 minutes and 240 minutes (4 hours).

### Default idle timeout

A codespace will suspend after a period of inactivity. You can specify the default idle timeout value for newly created codespaces. You will be charged for the entire time your codespace is running, even if it is idle. The maximum value is **240 minutes** (4 hours).

90 minutes

Save

## Setting the timeout period for a codespace

To learn more about GitHub CLI, see "[About GitHub CLI](#)."

To set the timeout period when you create a codespace, use the `idle-timeout` argument with the `codespace create` subcommand. Specify the time in minutes, followed by `m`. The time must be between 5 minutes and 240 minutes (4 hours).

```
gh codespace create --idle-timeout 90m
```

If you don't specify a timeout period when you create a codespace, then the default timeout period will be used. For information about setting a default timeout period, click the "Web browser" tab on this page. You can't currently specify a default timeout period through GitHub CLI.

## Setting a timeout period

You can set your default timeout period in your web browser, on GitHub.com.  
Alternatively, if you use GitHub CLI to create a codespace you can set a timeout period for that particular codespace. For more information, click the appropriate tab above.

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