

Renaming a file

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You can rename any file in your repository directly in GitHub Enterprise Cloud or by using the command line.


Mac Windows Linux

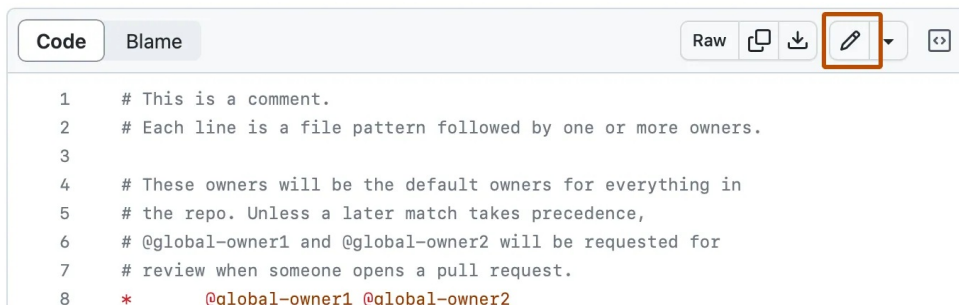
Renaming a file on GitHub Enterprise Cloud [↗](#)

Renaming a file also gives you the opportunity to [move the file to a new location](#)

Tips:

- If you try to rename a file in a repository that you don't have access to, we will fork the project to your personal account and help you send [a pull request](#) to the original repository after you commit your change.
- File names created via the web interface can only contain alphanumeric characters and hyphens (-). To use other characters, create and commit the files locally and then push them to the repository.
- Some files, such as images, require that you rename them from the command line. For more information, see "[Renaming a file](#)."

- 1 In your repository, browse to the file you want to rename.
- 2 In the upper right corner of the file view, click  to open the file editor.




- 3 In the filename field, change the name of the file to the new filename you want. You can also update the contents of your file at the same time.



- 4 Click **Commit changes...**
- 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 the default branch, 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

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

Renaming a file using the command line

You can use the command line to rename any file in your repository.

Many files can be [renamed directly on GitHub Enterprise Cloud](#), but some files, such as images, require that you rename them from the command line.

This procedure assumes you've already:

- [Created a repository on GitHub Enterprise Cloud](#), or have an existing repository owned by someone else you'd like to contribute to
- [Cloned the repository locally on your computer](#)

- 1 Open TerminalTerminalGit Bash.
- 2 Change the current working directory to your local repository.
- 3 Rename the file, specifying the old file name and the new name you'd like to give the file. This will stage your change for commit.

```
git mv OLD-FILENAME NEW-FILENAME
```

- 4 Use `git status` to check the old and new file names.

```
$ git status
> # On branch YOUR-BRANCH
> # Changes to be committed:
> #   (use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)
> #
> #       renamed: OLD-FILENAME -> NEW-FILENAME
> #
```

- 5 Commit the file that you've staged in your local repository.

```
$ git commit -m "Rename file"
# Commits the tracked changes and prepares them to be pushed to a remote
repository.
# To remove this commit and modify the file, use 'git reset --soft HEAD~1'
and commit and add the file again.
```

6 [Push the changes](#) in your local repository to GitHub.com.

```
$ git push origin YOUR_BRANCH
# Pushes the changes in your local repository up to the remote repository
you specified as the origin
```

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