

# Verifying your custom domain for GitHub Pages

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You can increase the security of your custom domain and avoid takeover attacks by verifying your domain.

GitHub Pages is available in public repositories with GitHub Free and GitHub Free for organizations, and in public and private repositories with GitHub Pro, GitHub Team, GitHub Enterprise Cloud, and GitHub Enterprise Server. For more information, see "[GitHub's plans](#)."

## About domain verification for GitHub Pages [↗](#)

When you verify your custom domain for your personal account or organization, only repositories owned by your personal account or organization may be used to publish a GitHub Pages site to the verified custom domain or the domain's immediate subdomains.

Verifying your domain stops other GitHub users from taking over your custom domain and using it to publish their own GitHub Pages site. Domain takeovers can happen when you delete your repository, when your billing plan is downgraded, or after any other change which unlinks the custom domain or disables GitHub Pages while the domain remains configured for GitHub Pages and is not verified.

When you verify a domain, any immediate subdomains are also included in the verification. For example, if the `github.com` custom domain is verified, `docs.github.com`, `support.github.com`, and any other immediate subdomains will also be protected from takeovers.

**Warning:** We strongly recommend that you do not use wildcard DNS records, such as `*.example.com`. These records put you at an immediate risk of domain takeovers, even if you verify the domain. For example, if you verify `example.com` this prevents someone from using `a.example.com` but they could still take over `b.a.example.com` (which is covered by the wildcard DNS record). For more information, see "[Verifying your custom domain for GitHub Pages](#)."

It's also possible to verify a domain for your organization or enterprise, which displays a "Verified" badge on the organization or enterprise profile and, on GitHub Enterprise Cloud, allows you to restrict notifications to email addresses using the verified domain. For more information, see "[Verifying or approving a domain for your organization](#)" and "[Verifying or approving a domain for your enterprise](#)."

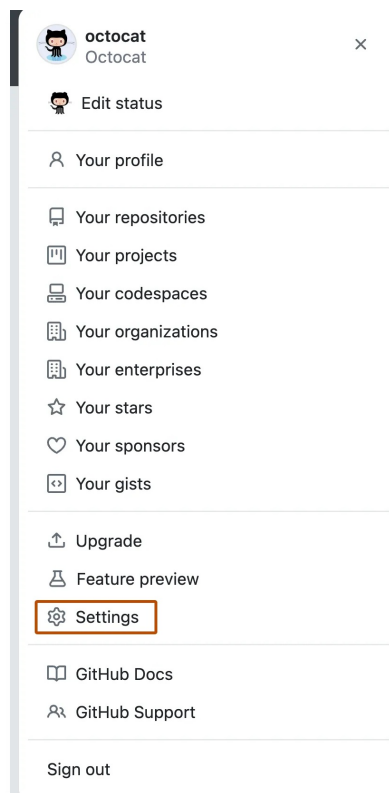
## Verifying a domain that is already taken [↗](#)

If you are verifying a domain you own, which is currently in use by another user or organization, to make it available for your GitHub Pages website; note that the process

to release the domain from its current location will take 7 days to complete. If you are attempting to verify an already verified domain (verified by another user or organization), the release process will not be successful.

## Verifying a domain for your user site [🔗](#)

- 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 **Pages**.
- 3 On the right, click **Add a domain**.
- 4 Under "What domain would you like to add?," enter the domain you wish to verify and select **Add domain**.

What domain would you like to add?

Add domain


- 5 Follow the instructions under "Add a DNS TXT record" to create the TXT record with your domain hosting service.

## Add a DNS TXT record


Copy verification steps

Before we can verify **example.com**, you'll need to complete these steps:

1. Create a TXT record in your DNS configuration for the following hostname:

`_github-pages-challenge-octocat`  `.example.com`

2. Use this code for the value of the TXT record:

`c5a4f604b77560d8b293cb29f00f65` 

3. Wait until your DNS configuration changes. This could take up to 24 hours to propagate.

Verify

- 6 Wait for your DNS configuration to change, this may be immediate or take up to 24 hours. You can confirm the change to your DNS configuration by running the `dig` command on the command line. In the command below, replace `USERNAME` with your username and `example.com` with the domain you're verifying. If your DNS configuration has updated, you should see your new TXT record in the output.

```
dig _github-pages-challenge-USERNAME.example.com +nostats +nocomments +nocmd  
TXT
```

- 7 After confirming that your DNS configuration has updated, you can verify the domain. If the change wasn't immediate, and you have navigated away from the previous page, return to your Pages settings by following the first few steps and, to the right of the domain, click `...` and then click **Continue verifying**.

### Verified domains

Add a domain

`www.example.com` Unverified Please verify your domain

...

Continue verifying


Delete

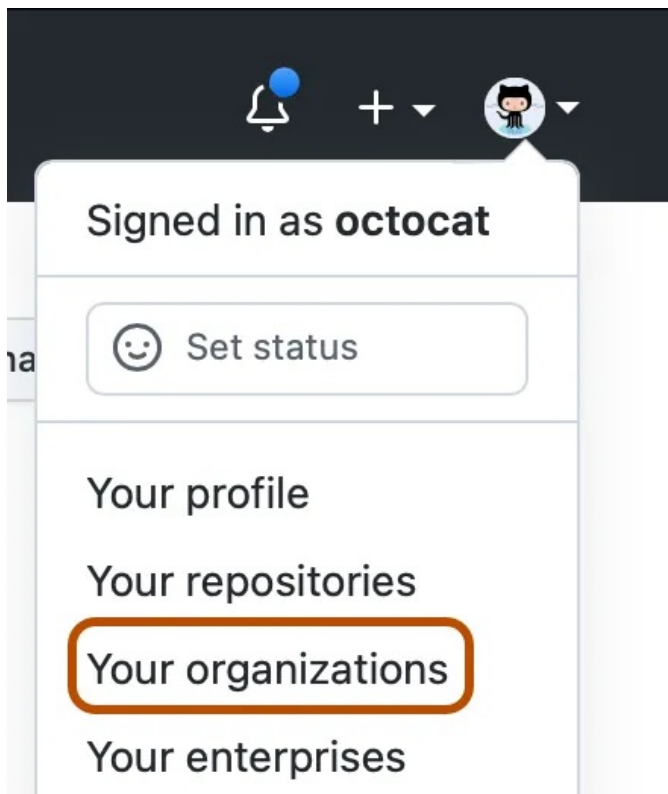
- 8 To verify your domain, click **Verify**.

- 9 To make sure your custom domain remains verified, keep the TXT record in your domain's DNS configuration.

## Verifying a domain for your organization site

Organization owners can verify custom domains for their organization.

- 1 In the top right corner of GitHub.com, click your profile photo, then click  **Your organizations**.



- 2 Next to the organization, click **Settings**.
- 3 In the "Code, planning, and automation" section of the sidebar, click **Pages**.
- 4 On the right, click **Add a domain**.
- 5 Under "What domain would you like to add?," enter the domain you wish to verify and select **Add domain**.

What domain would you like to add?

example.com

Add domain

- 6 Follow the instructions under "Add a DNS TXT record" to create the TXT record with your domain hosting service.

### Add a DNS TXT record

Copy verification steps

Before we can verify **example.com**, you'll need to complete these steps:

1. Create a TXT record in your DNS configuration for the following hostname:

`_github-pages-challenge-octocat` `.example.com`

2. Use this code for the value of the TXT record:

`c5a4f604b77560d8b293cb29f00f65`

3. Wait until your DNS configuration changes. This could take up to 24 hours to propagate.

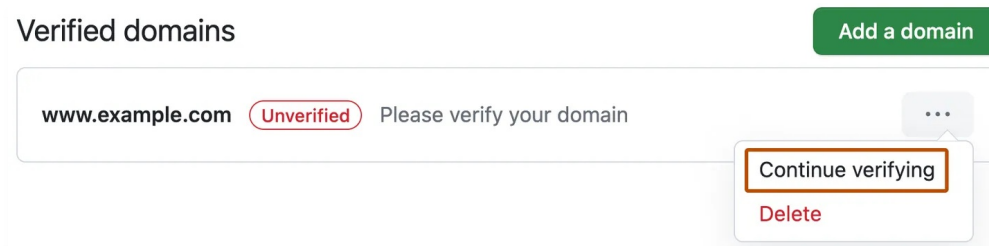
Verify

- 7 Wait for your DNS configuration to change. This may be immediate or take up to 24 hours. You can confirm the change to your DNS configuration by running the `dig` command on the command line. In the command below, replace `ORGANIZATION` with

the name of your organization and `example.com` with the domain you're verifying. If your DNS configuration has updated, you should see your new TXT record in the output.

```
dig _github-pages-challenge-ORGANIZATION.example.com +nostats +nocmd +nocmd TXT
```

- 8 After confirming that your DNS configuration has updated, you can verify the domain. If the change wasn't immediate, and you have navigated away from the previous page, return to your Pages settings by following the first few steps and, to the right of the domain, click `...` and then click **Continue verifying**.



- 9 To verify your domain, click **Verify**.
- 10 To make sure your custom domain remains verified, keep the TXT record in your domain's DNS configuration.

## Legal

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