

# Unlinking your email address from a locked account

## In this article

About unlinking your email address

Unlinking your email address

---

You can remove the connection between your email address and a locked account. The email address is then available for you to link it to a new or existing account, maintaining your commit history.

### Notes:

- Following these steps will not provide access to the locked account, but instead unlink the associated email address so it may be used for a different account. If you cannot regain access to the locked account, these steps will permanently break the link between the account and the linked email address. Before continuing with this article, be sure you have lost all access to your account. For more information, see "[Recovering your account if you lose your 2FA credentials](#)."
- If you recover access to your locked account, you can re-link an unlinked email address. For more information, see "[Adding an email address to your GitHub account](#)."

## About unlinking your email address

Since an email address can only be associated with a single GitHub account, unlinking your email address from a locked account allows you to link that email address to a new or existing account. Additionally, linking a previously used commit email address to a new account will connect your commit history to that account. Unless you have chosen to keep your email address private, your account's commit email address is the same as your account's primary email address. For more information, see "[Setting your commit email address](#)." Be aware that nothing else associated with your locked account, including your repositories, permissions, and profile, will transfer to your new account.

**Note:** Backup email addresses are not associated with your commits. Unlinking a backup email address and linking the email address to a different account will not connect your commit history to that account.

## Unlinking your email address

- 1 Navigate to <https://github.com/login>.
- 2 To prompt two-factor authentication, type your username and password, then click **Sign in**.
- 3 Under "Unable to verify with your security key?", click **Use a recovery code or**

**request a reset.**

- 4 Under "Locked out?", click **Recover your account or unlink an email address**.

In the modal that appears, click **I understand, get started**.

- 5 To send an email containing a one-time password to each email address associated with your account, click **Send one-time password**.
- 6 To verify your identity, type the one-time password from your email in the "One-time password" text field, then click **Verify email address**.
- 7 To begin unlinking an email address from the locked account, click **Start unlinking email**.
- 8 On the "Unlink Email" screen, click **Continue**.
- 9 In the inbox of the email account you want to unlink, open the email with the subject "[GitHub] Unlink this email."
  - Optionally, to unlink multiple email accounts, in the inbox of each account you want to unlink, open the email with the subject "[GitHub] Unlink this email," then complete the following steps.

- 10 In the email, click **Unlink this email**.

If you would like to remove this association, which would allow you to use this email with a different GitHub account, click the link below. No action is needed if you want to keep this email linked to the octocat GitHub account.

[Unlink this email](#)

- 11 To finish unlinking your email, on GitHub.com, click **Unlink**.
- 12 Optionally, to create a new account and link your newly unlinked email, click **Create a new account**.

**Note:** You can also link your unlinked email to an existing GitHub account. For more information, see "[Adding an email address to your GitHub account](#)."

- 13 Optionally, if you have any form of payment set up on the locked account, please contact us through the [GitHub Support portal](#) to cancel future payments. For example, you might have a paid subscription or sponsor developers through GitHub Sponsors. If you are sponsored through GitHub Sponsors, please mention this so that the team can help you migrate your sponsorships.

## Legal

© 2023 GitHub, Inc. [Terms](#) [Privacy](#) [Status](#) [Pricing](#) [Expert services](#) [Blog](#)