About Git Large File Storage

In this article

GitHub Enterprise Cloud limits the size of files allowed in repositories. To track files beyond this limit, you can use Git Large File Storage.

About Git Large File Storage 🔗

Git LFS handles large files by storing references to the file in the repository, but not the actual file itself. To work around Git's architecture, Git LFS creates a pointer file which acts as a reference to the actual file (which is stored somewhere else). GitHub Enterprise Cloud manages this pointer file in your repository. When you clone the repository down, GitHub Enterprise Cloud uses the pointer file as a map to go and find the large file for you.

Different maximum size limits for Git LFS apply depending on your GitHub plan.

Product	Maximum file size
GitHub Free	2 GB
GitHub Pro	2 GB
GitHub Team	4 GB
GitHub Enterprise Cloud	5 GB

If you exceed the per file limit of 5 GB, the file will be rejected silently by Git LFS.

You can also use Git LFS with GitHub Desktop. For more information about cloning Git LFS repositories in GitHub Desktop, see "[Cloning a repository from GitHub to GitHub Desktop](#)."

You can choose whether Git LFS objects are included in [source code archives](#), such as ZIP files and tarballs, that GitHub Enterprise Cloud creates for your repository. For more information, see "[Managing Git LFS objects in archives of your repository](#)."

Pointer file format 🔗

Git LFS's pointer file looks like this:

```
version https://git-lfs.github.com/spec/v1
oid sha256:4cac19622fc3ada9c0fdeadb33f88f367b541f38b89102a3f1261ac81fd5bcb5
size 84977953
```

It tracks the `version` of Git LFS you're using, followed by a unique identifier for the file (`oid`). It also stores the `size` of the final file.

> **Notes**:
>
> - Git LFS cannot be used with GitHub Pages sites.
> - Git LFS cannot be used with template repositories.

Further reading 🔗

- "[Collaboration with Git Large File Storage](#)"