

Working with comments

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Using the REST API, you can access and manage comments in your pull requests, issues, or commits.

For any Pull Request, GitHub Enterprise Server provides three kinds of comment views: [comments on the Pull Request](#) as a whole, [comments on a specific line](#) within the Pull Request, and [comments on a specific commit](#) within the Pull Request.

Each of these types of comments goes through a different portion of the GitHub Enterprise Server API. In this guide, we'll explore how you can access and manipulate each one. For every example, we'll be using [this sample Pull Request made](#) on the "octocat" repository. As always, samples can be found in [our platform-samples repository](#).

Pull Request Comments

To access comments on a Pull Request, you'll use [the endpoints to manage issues](#). This may seem counterintuitive at first. But once you understand that a Pull Request is just an Issue with code, it makes sense to use these endpoints to create comments on a Pull Request.

We'll demonstrate fetching Pull Request comments by creating a Ruby script using [Octokit.rb](#). You'll also want to create a [personal access token](#).

The following code should help you get started accessing comments from a Pull Request using Octokit.rb:

```
require 'octokit'

# !!! DO NOT EVER USE HARD-CODED VALUES IN A REAL APP !!!
# Instead, set and test environment variables, like below
client = Octokit::Client.new :access_token => ENV['MY_PERSONAL_TOKEN']

client.issue_comments("octocat/Spoon-Knife", 1176).each do |comment|
  username = comment[:user][:login]
  post_date = comment[:created_at]
  content = comment[:body]

  puts "#{username} made a comment on #{post_date}. It says:\n'#{content}'\n"
end
```

Here, we're specifically calling out to the API to get the comments (`issue_comments`), providing both the repository's name (`octocat/Spoon-Knife`), and the Pull Request ID we're interested in (`1176`). After that, it's simply a matter of iterating through the comments to fetch information about each one.

Pull Request Comments on a Line

Within the diff view, you can start a discussion on a particular aspect of a singular change made within the Pull Request. These comments occur on the individual lines within a changed file. The endpoint URL for this discussion comes from [the endpoint to manage pull request reviews](#).

The following code fetches all the Pull Request comments made on files, given a single Pull Request number:

```
require 'octokit'

# !!! DO NOT EVER USE HARD-CODED VALUES IN A REAL APP !!!
# Instead, set and test environment variables, like below
client = Octokit::Client.new :access_token => ENV['MY_PERSONAL_TOKEN']

client.pull_request_comments("octocat/Spoon-Knife", 1176).each do |comment|
  username = comment[:user][:login]
  post_date = comment[:created_at]
  content = comment[:body]
  path = comment[:path]
  position = comment[:position]

  puts "#{username} made a comment on #{post_date} for the file called #{path},
on line #{position}. It says:\n'#{content}'\n"
end
```

You'll notice that it's incredibly similar to the example above. The difference between this view and the Pull Request comment is the focus of the conversation. A comment made on a Pull Request should be reserved for discussion or ideas on the overall direction of the code. A comment made as part of a Pull Request review should deal specifically with the way a particular change was implemented within a file.

Commit Comments

The last type of comments occur specifically on individual commits. For this reason, they make use of [the endpoint to manage commit comments](#).

To retrieve the comments on a commit, you'll want to use the SHA1 of the commit. In other words, you won't use any identifier related to the Pull Request. Here's an example:

```
require 'octokit'

# !!! DO NOT EVER USE HARD-CODED VALUES IN A REAL APP !!!
# Instead, set and test environment variables, like below
client = Octokit::Client.new :access_token => ENV['MY_PERSONAL_TOKEN']

client.commit_comments("octocat/Spoon-Knife",
"cbc28e7c8caee26feb8c013b0adfb97a4edd96e").each do |comment|
  username = comment[:user][:login]
  post_date = comment[:created_at]
  content = comment[:body]

  puts "#{username} made a comment on #{post_date}. It says:\n'#{content}'\n"
end
```

Note that this API call will retrieve single line comments, as well as comments made on the entire commit.

Legal

