

# pack download

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[Experimental] Download the set of qlpacks referenced by the query spec of the command line from the registry. Packs can be provided by name or implicitly inside of a query suite (.qls) file.

GitHub CodeQL is licensed on a per-user basis upon installation. You can use CodeQL only for certain tasks under the license restrictions. For more information, see "[About the CodeQL CLI](#)." If you have a GitHub Advanced Security license, you can use CodeQL for automated analysis, continuous integration, and continuous delivery. For more information, see "[About GitHub Advanced Security](#)."

This content describes the most recent release of the CodeQL CLI. For more information about this release, see <https://github.com/github/codeql-cli-binaries/releases>.

To see details of the options available for this command in an earlier release, run the command with the `--help` option in your terminal.

## Synopsis

Shell


```
codeql pack download [--dir=<dir>] [--force] <options>... --
<scope/name[@version]|suite.qls>...
```

## Description

[Experimental] Download the set of qlpacks referenced by the query spec of the command line from the registry. Packs can be provided by name or implicitly inside of a query suite (.qls) file.

The packs will be downloaded and unzipped into the package cache by default.

Available since `v2.6.0`.

## Options

### Primary Options

`<scope/name[@version]|suite.qls>...` [↗](#)

[Mandatory] List of CodeQL packs and query suites to download. If a query suite is provided, its instructions will be inspected and all referenced CodeQL packs will be downloaded. If you don't specify a version for a CodeQL pack, then the latest version will be downloaded.

`--format=<fmt>` [↗](#)

Select output format, either `text` (*default*) or `json`.

`-d, --dir=<dir>` [↗](#)

The directory to download the pack to. Defaults to installing into the package cache.

`--for-pack=<pack>` [↗](#)

The pack whose dependencies are being downloaded. The package registry for each pack will be determined by the 'registries' property of `<pack>`.

`--[no-]allow-prerelease` [↗](#)

Allow packs with pre-release version qualifiers (e.g., `X.Y.Z-qualifier`) to be used. Without this flag, pre-release packs will be ignored.

Available since `v2.11.3`.

`-f, --[no-]force` [↗](#)

Allow overwriting already existing packs.

## Options for finding QL packs (which may be necessary to interpret query suites) [↗](#)

`--search-path=<dir>[:<dir>...]` [↗](#)

A list of directories under which QL packs may be found. Each directory can either be a QL pack (or bundle of packs containing a `.codeqlmanifest.json` file at the root) or the immediate parent of one or more such directories.

If the path contains more than one directory, their order defines precedence between them: when a pack name that must be resolved is matched in more than one of the directory trees, the one given first wins.

Pointing this at a checkout of the open-source CodeQL repository ought to work when querying one of the languages that live there.

If you have checked out the CodeQL repository as a sibling of the unpacked CodeQL toolchain, you don't need to give this option; such sibling directories will always be searched for QL packs that cannot be found otherwise. (If this default does not work, it is strongly recommended to set up `--search-path` once and for all in a per-user configuration file).

(Note: On Windows the path separator is `;`).

`--additional-packs=<dir>[:<dir>...]` [↗](#)

If this list of directories is given, they will be searched for packs before the ones in `--`

`search-path` . The order between these doesn't matter; it is an error if a pack name is found in two different places through this list.

This is useful if you're temporarily developing a new version of a pack that also appears in the default path. On the other hand, it is *not recommended* to override this option in a config file; some internal actions will add this option on the fly, overriding any configured value.

(Note: On Windows the path separator is `;` ).

## Options for configuring the CodeQL package manager [↗](#)

### `--registries-auth-stdin` [↗](#)

Authenticate to GitHub Enterprise Server Container registries by passing a comma-separated list of `<registry_url>=<token>` pairs.

For example, you can pass

```
https://containers.GHEHOSTNAME1/v2/=TOKEN1,https://containers.GHEHOSTNAME2/v2/=TOKEN2
```

 to authenticate to two GitHub Enterprise Server instances.

This overrides the `CODEQL_REGISTRIES_AUTH` and `GITHUB_TOKEN` environment variables. If you only need to authenticate to the `github.com` Container registry, you can instead authenticate using the simpler `--github-auth-stdin` option.

### `--github-auth-stdin` [↗](#)

Authenticate to the `github.com` Container registry by passing a `github.com` GitHub Apps token or personal access token via standard input.

To authenticate to GitHub Enterprise Server Container registries, pass `--registries-auth-stdin` or use the `CODEQL_REGISTRIES_AUTH` environment variable.

This overrides the `GITHUB_TOKEN` environment variable.

## Common options [↗](#)

### `-h, --help` [↗](#)

Show this help text.

### `-J=<opt>` [↗](#)

[Advanced] Give option to the JVM running the command.

(Beware that options containing spaces will not be handled correctly.)

### `-v, --verbose` [↗](#)

Incrementally increase the number of progress messages printed.

### `-q, --quiet` [↗](#)

Incrementally decrease the number of progress messages printed.

### `--verbosity=<level>` [↗](#)

[Advanced] Explicitly set the verbosity level to one of errors, warnings, progress,

progress+, progress++, progress+++. Overrides `-v` and `-q`.

`--logdir=<dir>` 

[Advanced] Write detailed logs to one or more files in the given directory, with generated names that include timestamps and the name of the running subcommand.

(To write a log file with a name you have full control over, instead give `--log-to-stderr` and redirect stderr as desired.)

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