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Setup Git and GitHub for Windows 7 for use with Bitbucket

Posted on July 13, 2012 (http://faisonz.com/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/) by Faison Zutavern (https://plus.google.com/+FaisonZutavern?rel=author)

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Git is an excellent tool for programmers, one which I have yet to see the full potential of. Recently, I needed to get familiar with it for my job and a coworker suggested a few applications to use. All but one of the programs were for Macs (a problem, since I'm a PC user), and the only other program, GitHub for Windows, wasn't exactly optimized for easy use with bitbucket. So I just stuck with Git for Windows, the command line **Git Bash**.

After a few weeks, I needed to bring some fellow PC using coworkers up to speed with git and bitbucket. So I finally made an effort to figure out how to get GitHub for Windows working with bitbucket. Since everything I needed to know was scattered across the web, I decided to consolidate all that information in one place for my coworkers to use.

Important Update!!!

The people behind BitBucket, Atlassian, are running a beta for their windows git client: SourceTree for Windows. View my quick post about it (http://faisonz.com/new-windows-git-client-sourcetree-for-windows/).

Summary

This guide will help you setup GitHub for Windows to use bitbucket repositories on Windows 7 (and I suppose Vista too), and go over basic usage of GitHub for Windows. This guide combines information found on Atlassian's guide to Git and bitbucket and Steve Bumbaugh's Guide: "GitHub for Windows Client: For bitbucket", and also experience I've gained from using Git, bitbucket, and GitHub for Windows.

I've successfully tested this process a few times now, but things tend to go wrong. So if you have any issues, add a comment and I will try to help you out. Also, if you had a problem and found the solution, add a comment describing what you did so I can add it to the guide.

Credit where Credit is Due

Steps 1 and 2 includes information consolidated from Atlassian's guide to Git and bitbucket (https://confluence.atlassian.com/display/BITBUCKET/bitbucket+101).
Step 3 includes information gathered from Steve Bumbaugh's Guide: "GitHub for Windows Client: For bitbucket" (http://blog.stevebumbaugh.com/post/24107268483/github-for-windows-client-for-bitbucket)
Special thanks to Russ Offord (http://www.orionweb.net/milwaukee-internet-marketing/) for testing this guide and helping me iron it out!

The Steps and The Skills

Step 1 – Install Git: Basic computer skills
Step 2 – Setup SSH with bitbucket: Basic computer skills
Step 3 – Install GitHub for Windows: Basic computer skills
Step 4 – Clone a Repository from Bitbucket: Basic Git learned from previous steps
Step 5 – Manage the Repository with GitHub for Windows: Basic computer skills
Step 6 – Commit Changes with GitHub for Windows: Basic computer skills

Prerequisite

Before getting started, you will need the following:

1. A bitbucket account (https://bitbucket.org/plans) – I like them because they allow you to host private repositories on free accounts.
2. A GitHub account (https://github.com/plans) – They don't allow for private repositories on free accounts, but an account is needed for their software.
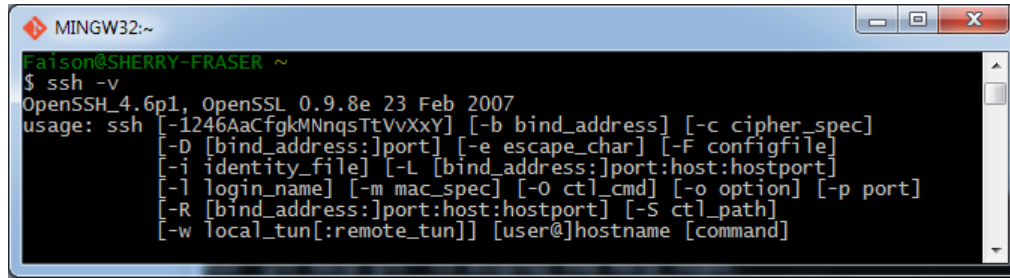
Step 1 – Install Git

1. Download the latest version of Git for Windows (http://code.google.com/p/msysgit/downloads/list?q=full+installer+official+git) (Right now they are all beta, that's ok though!) and install it. It's a straight forward process, so I won't drone on about it. Just keep hitting "Next" and leave all of the defaults selected.
2. Then, start Git Bash (Start –> All Programs –> Git –> Git Bash)
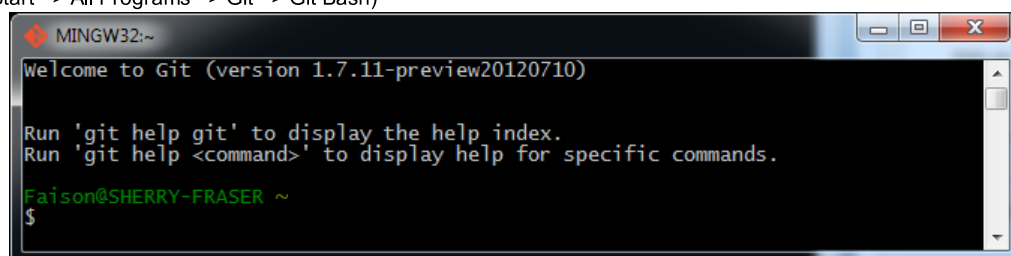
3. According to atlassian, you should run these two commands in Git Bash. NOTE: Use the information you used with bitbucket for the values in quotes below.
   1git config --global user.name "FIRST_NAME LAST_NAME"
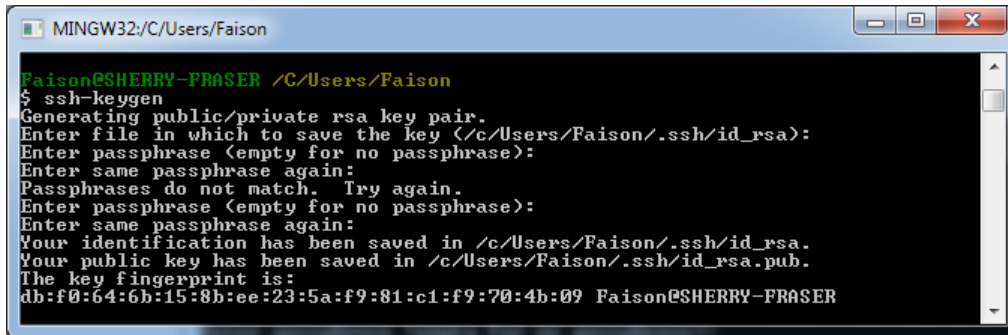   2git config --global user.email "MY_NAME@example.com"

Step 2 – Setup SSH Key with bitbucket

1. Check if ssh is set up on your machine
   1ssh -v
   This is what I see:

   If you don't see something similar, go to the link I provided above, to Atlassian's guide, in order to get SSH working right on your computer.

2. Now it's time to create what is called a "Default Identity"
   1ssh-keygen
3. You will be prompted to type a filename for where you want the ssh key to be saved. Just hit **Enter**
4. You will then be asked for a passphrase. This may seem counterintuitive, but just press **Enter**. At the time of this writing (07/13/2012), this is necessary to be able to use GitHub for Windows with bitbucket repositories
5. Press **Enter** again to confirm the lack of a passphrase

Somehow my empty passwords didn't match the first time O_o

6. The next thing we have to do is set up a **config** file. So go into your User directory (Start -> UserName) and open the folder called **.ssh**. Create a new text file here, call it **config** (no file extension), open it in your favorite text editor and type the following. NOTE: Replace "faison" with your bitbucket username. Also, the "tabs" are necessary.
   1Host bitbucket.org
   2User faison
   3IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_rsa
   If you can't make the file without an extension, just call it **config.txt**. After entering the information above, open Git Bash in the **.ssh** folder (right-click -> Git bash) and enter the following command:

   1mv config.txt config
   That command will rename **config.txt** as **config**

7. After saving that file, go back into the **.ssh** folder and open **id_rsa.pub** in your text editor. Select all the text and copy it (Ctrl + A, Ctrl + C)
8. Log in to bitbucket (http://bitbucket.org) and go to your account settings (Hover over your Username in the nav menu, then click "Account"). On the following page, click **SSH keys.** Here's the page:

9. In the **Add a new key** form, enter something like "Default key for computer-I'm-on" for the **Label**, and paste the contents from **id_rsa.pub** into the **SSH Key** field. Press **Add key** and hope it works. NOTE: You will have to do this for every computer you want to use this on, eventually.
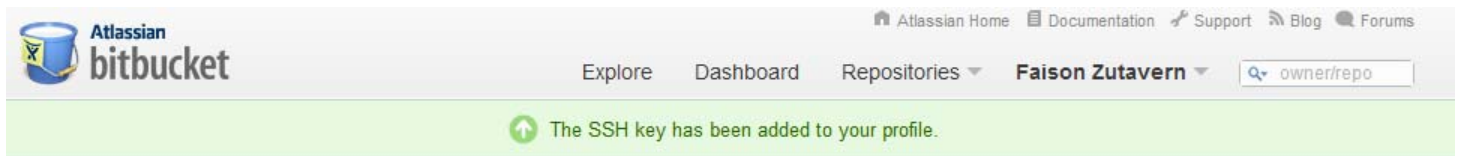
It Worked!

Step 3 – Install GitHub for Windows

1. Download GitHub for Windows (http://windows.github.com/)
2. Install it, from what I could tell there is no customization during installation. When it's done, GitHub for Windows will start automatically
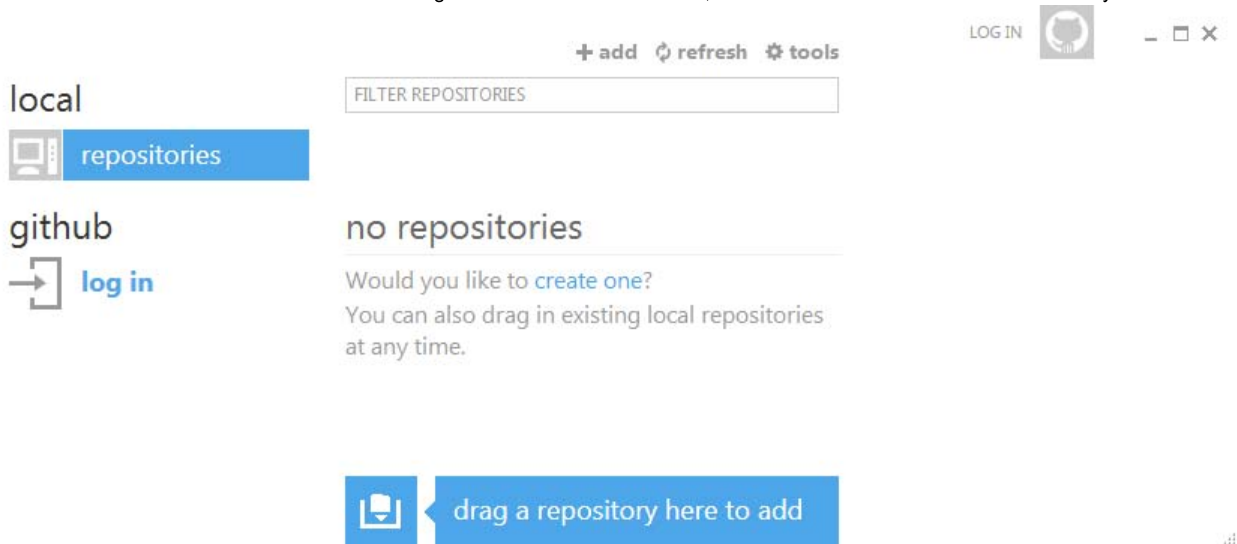
3. Press **Log In** and enter your GitHub credentials. Then enter your name and email into the **Configure Git** section and press **Continue**. If you end up in the **Repositories** section, just skip.
4. Now back in the **.ssh** directory from Step 2, open the newly created file, **github_rsa.pub**, in a text editor. Delete everything in this file, and paste the contents of **id_rsa.pub** into it.
5. Now log into the GitHub Website (https://github.com/). Click the **Account Settings** icon

   Click **SSH Keys**, then click the **Add SSH key** button.
6. This is pretty much the same thing as before. Type something like "Default key for computer-I'm-on" for the **Title** and paste the contents from **github_rsa.pub** into the **Key** field. Press the **Add key** button to finish up.

Step 4 – Clone a Repository from Bitbucket

1. Log in to bitbucket and go to the test repository (https://bitbucket.org/faison/bitbucket-with-github-for-windows) I set up for this guide.
2. Press the **fork** link
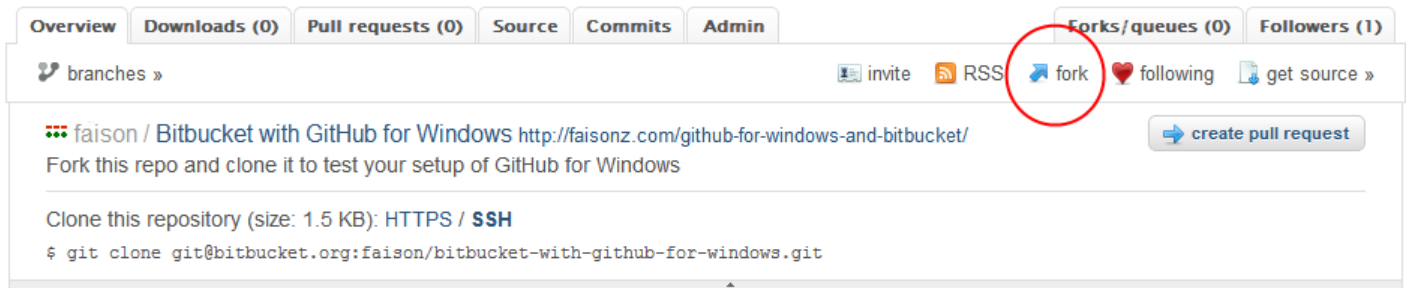
Just so you know where it is.

3. You are then presented with a form that allows you to choose the The then press the **Fork repository** button. This should bring you to the page for your newly forked repo.
4. Now on your computer, open up a directory that you want to store your repository in. For this, I went with **C:repos**. Open the folder, Right-click in it, and choose **Git Bash**. NOTE: I didn't get this option in the **Documents** directory.
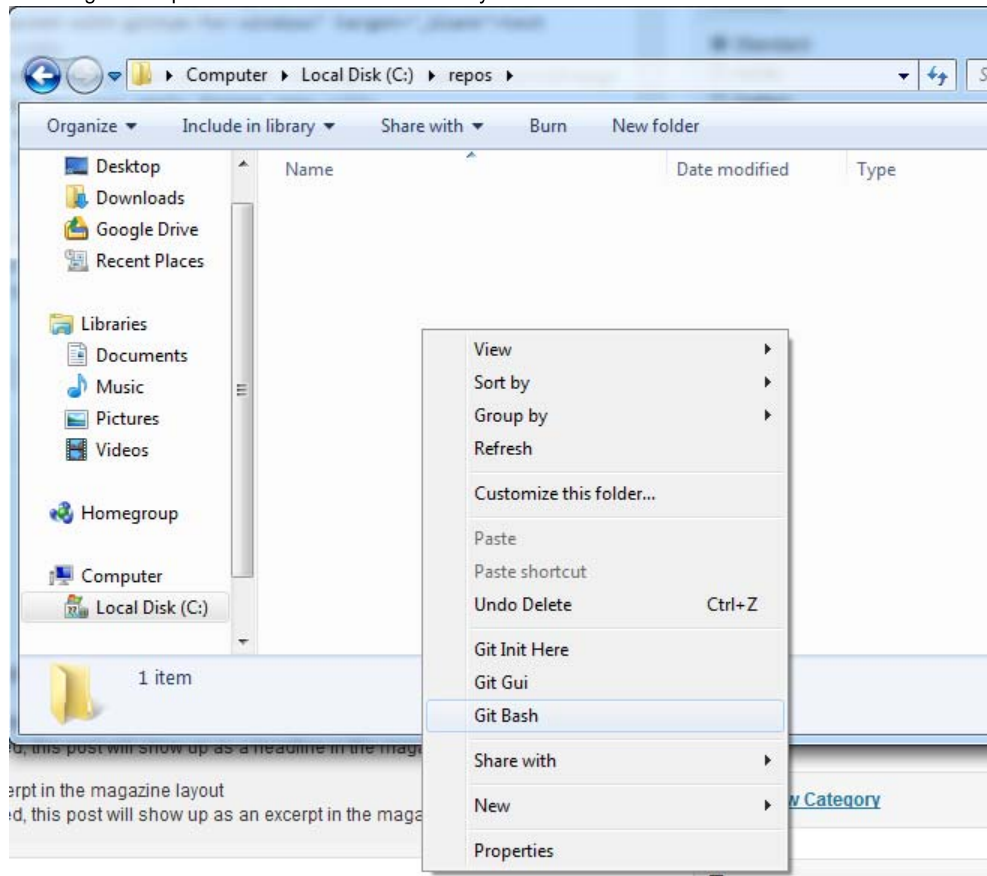
This will start Git Bash in the current folder and eliminate the need to use command line commands to get to the right directory.

5. Type the **clone** command (into Git Bash) that is found on the new repository page that you created on bitbucket, and hit enter.

Type everything after the '$'
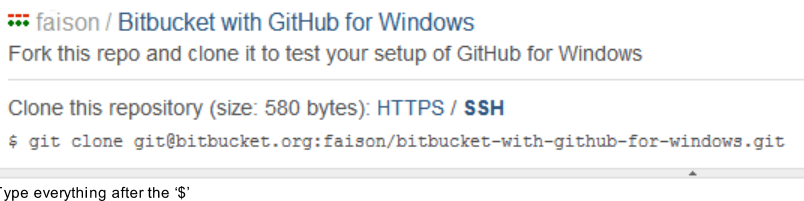
6. I was prompted: "The authenticity of host 'bitbucket.org (207.223.240.182)' can't be established." Just type **yes** and hit enter to continue the cloning. This should only happen the first time you clone a bitbucket repository on a computer.
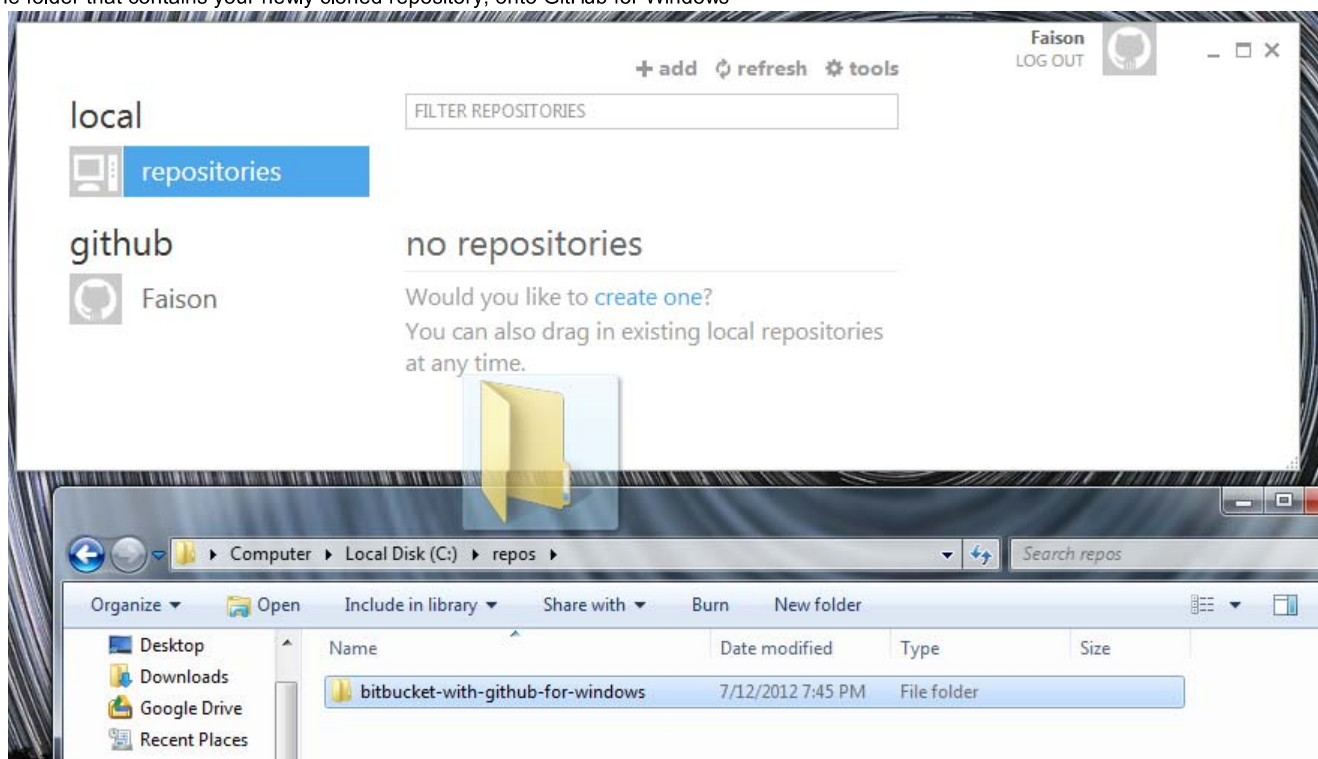
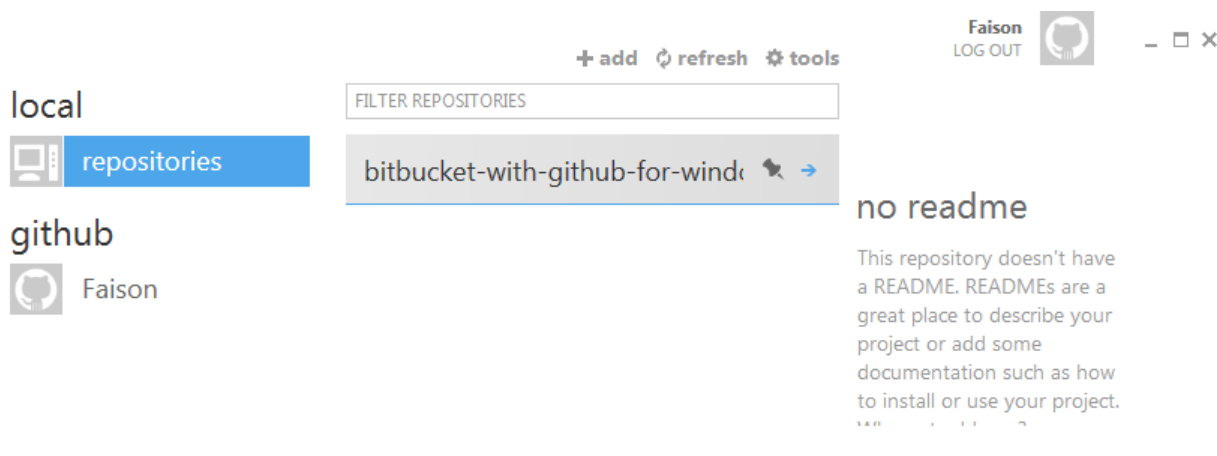Yeah, this screenshot is me cloning a different repo, what's it to ya?

7. After the Cloning succeeds, you will have a new folder with the same name of the repository.

Step 5 – Manage the Repository with GitHub for Windows

1. Drag the folder that contains your newly cloned repository, onto GitHub for Windows
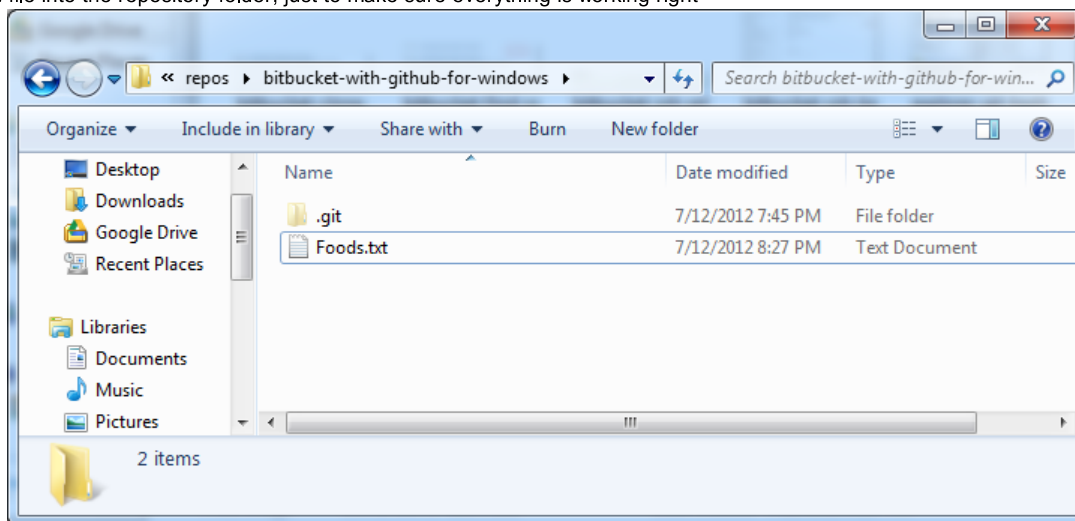

Here's how it should look after you drop the repository:

Now it's in GitHub for Windows!

## Step 6 – Commit Changes with GitHub for Windows

1. Now let's add a new file into the repository folder, just to make sure everything is working right

2. In GitHub for windows list of repositories, double-click the newly added repository. You should see a prompt regarding **uncommitted changes**
3. Type in a commit message that reflects your changes and press the **Commit** button.
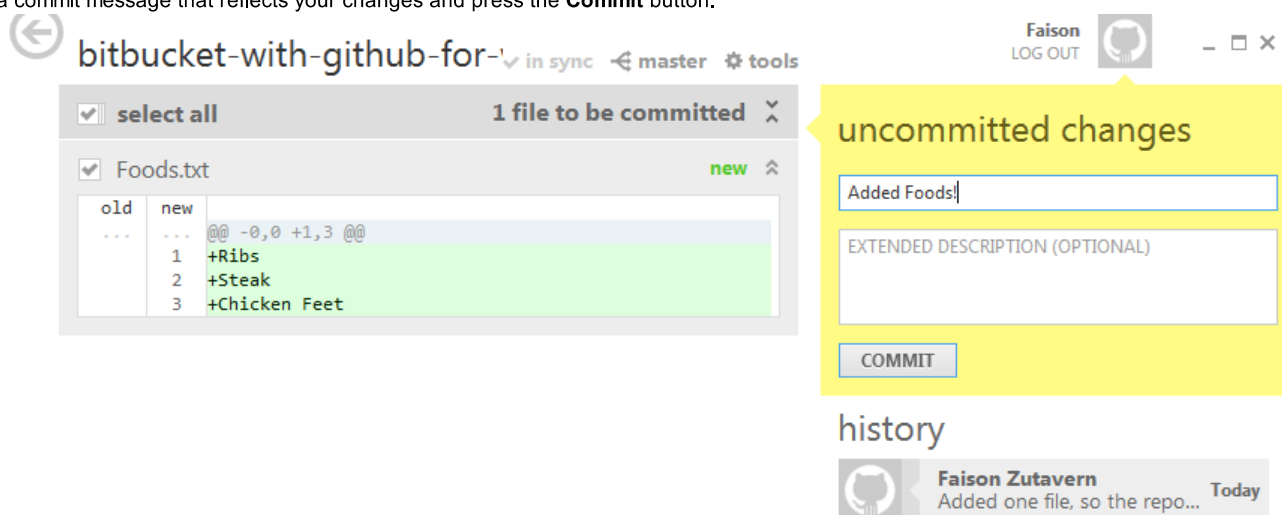
4. The **in sync** text will now turn blue and change to say **sync**, indicating that you should sync it with the bitbucket repository. You can wait to bank a few commits, but we're going to sync right away. Click **sync**.
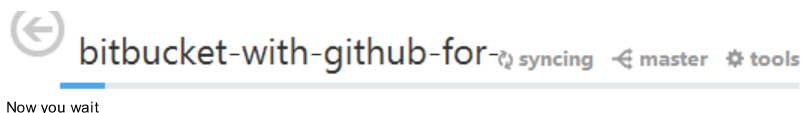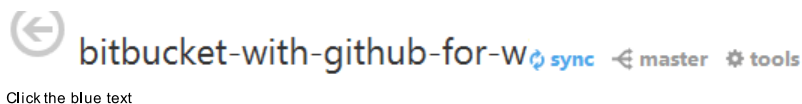
Click the blue text

Now you wait

And it's done!

Conclusion

So that is how you setup GitHub for Windows to use bitbucket repositories, and the basic way to use GitHub for Windows. If you want to setup multiple computers with GitHub for Windows, follow the complete guide. If you want to grab another repository to manage with GitHub for Windows, all you have to do is **Clone** the repository from bitbucket, **Drag and Drop** it into GitHub for Windows, do some work, and **commit**.

This is still something that I'm decently new with and I've only used this setup with one person working on a repository at a time, so comments on how well this works in a multi-user setting would be greatly appreciated. In fact, all real feedback and comments would definitely go a long way in helping me to refine this guide, to fix any missteps in my usage, and to improve my ability to write in general.

Thanks again, everyone!

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Tags: bitbucket (http://faisonz.com/blog/tag/bitbucket/), Git (http://faisonz.com/blog/tag/git/), GitHub (http://faisonz.com/blog/tag/github/), Windows (http://faisonz.com/blog/tag/windows/)

(http://www.orionweb.net/milwaukee-internet-marketing/)

Russ Offord (http://www.orionweb.net/milwaukee-internet-marketing/)

Awesome, I followed your guide word for word and got up in running from 0 to 60 in no time at all! This step by step procedure should be called "GitHub on Windows with BitBucket for Dummies." 😃

Russ.

July 13, 2012 at 2:15 pm (http://faisonz.com/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/#comment-8)

Reply ↓ (/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/?replytocom=8#respond)

Eric

() This is exactly what I wanted. Thank you for this great tutorial

July 23, 2012 at 3:39 pm (http://faisonz.com/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/#comment-9)

Reply ↓ (/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/?replytocom=9#respond)

Victor Vilche

() This is awesome!

Just in time 😃

Thankyou

August 2, 2012 at 11:01 pm (http://faisonz.com/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/#comment-10)

Reply ↓ (/blog/github-for-windows-and-bitbucket/?replytocom=10#respond)