GitHub Setup Instructions

# Setup a GitHub Account

NOTE: Students will only have to do this if they have not already setup a GitHub account previously (either for personal use or for another course)

1. Go to <https://github.com/> to sign up for a free GitHub account. NOTE: it will require you to verify an email account, you should use your Durham College provided @dcmail.ca email account for this course.

# Setup a GitHub Repository

Follow the instructions found in the “Publishing your website” at <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Getting_started_with_the_web/Publishing_your_website#publishing_via_github> (NOTE: this is part of the assigned readings of MDN web docs “Complete beginners start here!”)

As an added step, one your repository is setup in GitHub, add your professor as a collaborator to your repository. This will allow them to see your commit logs for files in your repository (which is worth marks for each and every assignment). To add a collaborator via GitHub: while in your GitHub repository click on the General link (link at the far-right in the menu), then click on Collaborators, then click on the “Add People” button. NOTE: this will be done as an exercise in the first class of the semester, students should ensure that their professor has access to their GitHub repository.

# Setup GitHub Desktop

GitHub Desktop is a windows application that provides an easy-to-use GUI that allows users to connect their local laptops to GitHub to create new or access existing repositories.

In this course students will make changes to their website files locally, commit changes periodically (including the addition of simple descriptions of the changes that are being committed), and will use it to push all local commits to the remote GitHub server (i.e. publish their webpages/sites onto the Web).

1. Go to <https://desktop.github.com/> and click on the “Download for Windows (64bit)” button.
2. Once downloaded, run the GitHubDesktopSetup-x64.exe file as an Administrator (i.e. right-mouse click on the file, and select the “Run as Administrator” option).
3. After installation is complete, open the application when prompted, or if not prompted through the Windows Start menu.
4. Under the File menu click Clone Repositories. Students should select the repository that they just created on GitHub. This will create a local version of the remote GitHub repository locally.

# Using GitHub Desktop for Course Assignments

1. Students should download and unzip any provided tutorial start point files into their local repository folder that was created when their repository was cloned from GitHub.
2. The new files will show up in GitHub desktop, and students should immediately add a simple “Description” and click on the “commit to main” this will add the files to the local repository.
3. Anytime a change is made to a file (and saved) it will show up in the changed file frame. Periodic commits (after including a description) will snapshot files and their changes at the time of commitment.
4. IMPORTANT: when students want to submit their files for assessment, they MUST click on the Push Origin button. This will publish the modified files onto the remote GitHub repository. Failure to do this will result in heavy penalties for not publishing their files out onto the Web.