What Is a GitHub Repo?

How to save, search, and share your work

What a Repo Is

A repository; repo for short; is a folder that Git tracks. Everything in the folder is versioned: every file, every change, every deletion. On GitHub, that folder lives in the cloud, has a public URL, and can be public (anyone can see it) or private (only you and people you invite).

> One-line version: A repo is a project folder with a complete history of every change ever made to it.

How to Create One

On GitHub: click the + icon in the top right → New repository. Give it a name, choose public or private, check “Add a README”, click Create. That's it; you have a repo.

To link it to a folder on your computer:

```
# In your project folder:
git init # turn this folder into a Git repo
git remote add origin https://github.com/yourusername/your-repo.git
git add .
git commit -m "Initial commit"
git push -u origin main # push to GitHub
```

How to Save Your Work (The Commit Cycle)

Saving to GitHub is a three-step process. This trips up beginners because it's not like saving a Word document.

> Step Command What It Does 1. Stage git add . Tell Git which changes to include

1. Commit git commit -m "describe what changed" Save a snapshot with a message

> 1. Push git push Upload the snapshot to GitHub

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The commit message is important. Write it as a description of what you changed, not what you did. “Fix calendar auth bug” is useful. “Updated files” is not.

How to Search GitHub

The search bar at the top of GitHub searches across all public repositories. It's one of the most underused tools in software.

```
# Search examples (type these in GitHub's search bar):
```

> n8n webhook stripe # find n8n workflows with Stripe jinja2 legal template # find Jinja2 legal document templates

```
docker-compose wordpress # find WP docker-compose examples
# Filter to specific things:
```

> language:python webhook stripe # Python only stars:>100 docker-compose wordpress # popular results only user:pattalkslaw-del # search within a specific account

You can also search within a specific repo using the search box on that repo’s page. Useful for finding a specific function, variable, or config key in a large codebase.

How to Share a Repo

Public repos: Anyone can view, clone, or fork them. The URL is all they need. Share it like any web link.

Private repos: Go to Settings → Collaborators → Add people by GitHub username or email. They get an invitation. Once accepted, they can pull and push.

Cloning someone else’s repo: The green Code button on any repo gives you the clone URL. Run git clone [url] in your terminal to get a local copy.

```
git clone https://github.com/NousResearch/hermes-agent.git
```

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Downloads the entire repo to your current folder

The README File

Every repo should have a README.md in its root folder. GitHub displays it automatically on the repo's main page. It’s your project’s front door; what it is, how to install it, how to use it. A repo without a README tells the world you don’t care if anyone else uses it.

> **Using AI to help with this.** You don’t have to fully understand this to use it. Here are prompts that work: "I have a folder of scripts on my computer. Walk me through turning it into a GitHub repo, pushing it, and making sure sensitive files are not included." "Search GitHub for [specific thing] and summarize what the top results are doing and which looks most useful for my situation: [describe situation]." "Write a README.md for my project. Here is what it does: [describe]. Include sections for what it is, requirements, how to install, and how to use it."

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