



Hosting a website for free

www.utscc.utoronto.ca/~csec/

Prepared by: Kevin Shen

May 19, 2017

University of Toronto Scarborough

INDEX

Hosting your website on Github Pages

- Official documentation: <https://pages.github.com/>
- [Setting up your repo](#)
- [Pushing your site to Github](#)
- [Hosting your site on Github Pages](#)
- [Optional offers from Github](#)

Adding a custom domain (Recommended)

- [Getting a free domain name - Student offers](#)
- [Linking Github Pages to a custom domain](#)

Optional features to add to your site and documentation

- [HTTPS using CloudFlare](#)
 - [Front End Frameworks](#)
-

HOSTING YOUR SITE ON GITHUB

BEFORE YOU START

- Create an account on <https://github.com/>

SETTING UP YOUR REPO

- Create a new repository on Github.
 - A repository is the central location of where your code/files will live
 - You have the option to set this Public or Private
 - If your repository is Public, we recommend you initialize a README. A README is used to provide a description to your project for anyone viewing the repository

Create a new repository

A repository contains all the files for your project, including the revision history.

Owner: CSECW / Repository name: My Website

Great repository name: Your new repository will be created as My-Website w about super-duper-eureka.

Description (optional)

Public
Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

Private
You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

Initialize this repository with a README
This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer. Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

Add .gitignore: None | Add a license: None ⓘ

Create repository

PUSHING YOUR SITE TO GITHUB

- There are several ways to do this:
 - Uploading the files
 - Using Github Desktop - [Documentation](#)
 - Pushing using terminal or git shell - [Documentation](#)
 - For this tutorial **we will simply upload the files** to GitHub
 - You can do this by navigating to your repo and dragging and dropping your files
 - e.g your HTML, CSS and JS files
 - Note: It is recommended to try to push using terminal or git shell in the future. However, since this a beginners guide, we will just upload them through the Github website.
-

COMPUTER SCIENCE ENRICHMENT CLUB WEB DIVISION

Upload your files

CSECW / My-Website Watch 0 Star 0 Fork 0

Code Issues 0 Pull requests 0 Projects 0 Wiki Settings Insights

No description, website, or topics provided. Edit

[Add topics](#)

1 commit 1 branch 0 releases 1 contributor

Branch: master New pull request Create new file **Upload files** Find file Clone or download

CSECW Initial commit Latest commit 58833cc a minute ago

[README.md](#) Initial commit a minute ago

README.md

My-Website

Select your files and drag and drop them into your repo

*Folders will be uploaded as well

The image shows a file explorer window on the left with a folder named "CSEC W". Inside this folder, there are three subfolders: "CSS", "images", and "js", and two files: "index.html" and "index.html". To the right of the file explorer is a large, light-colored area with a central message: "Drag additional files here to add them to your repository" and a link "Or choose your files". Below this area, there is a list of files that have been uploaded: "/js/scripts.js", "/CSS/style.css", and "index.html", each with a close button (x) to its right.

COMPUTER SCIENCE ENRICHMENT CLUB WEB DIVISION

End result:

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'CSECW / My-Website'. At the top, there are buttons for 'Watch' (0), 'Star' (0), and 'Fork' (0). Below these are navigation tabs for 'Code', 'Issues' (0), 'Pull requests' (0), 'Projects' (0), 'Wiki', 'Settings', and 'Insights'. A message states 'No description, website, or topics provided.' with an 'Edit' button and a link to 'Add topics'. Below this, statistics show '2 commits', '1 branch', '0 releases', and '1 contributor'. A bar contains 'Branch: master', 'New pull request', 'Create new file', 'Upload files', 'Find file', and a green 'Clone or download' button. A commit history table follows:

File	Action	Time
CSS	Add files via upload	2 minutes ago
js	Add files via upload	2 minutes ago
README.md	Initial commit	39 minutes ago
index.html	Add files via upload	2 minutes ago

Below the table is a preview of the 'README.md' file, which contains the text 'My-Website'.

HOSTING YOUR WEBSITE ON GITHUB PAGES

Navigate to the settings tab in your repo

The screenshot shows the 'Settings' tab selected in the GitHub repository navigation bar. The 'Settings' button is highlighted with an orange underline. The other navigation tabs are 'Code', 'Issues' (0), 'Pull requests' (0), 'Projects' (0), 'Wiki', and 'Insights'. The 'Watch', 'Star', and 'Fork' buttons are also visible at the top right.

COMPUTER SCIENCE ENRICHMENT CLUB WEB DIVISION

Scroll down to the Github Pages section and change the source from 'None' to 'master branch' and save

GitHub Pages

GitHub Pages is designed to host your personal, organization, or project pages from a GitHub repository.

Source

GitHub Pages is currently disabled. Select a source below to enable GitHub Pages for this repository. [Learn more.](#)

master branch ▾

Theme chooser

Select a theme to build your site with a Jekyll theme using the `master` branch. [Learn more.](#)

Now, it will tell you the url of your newly hosted website

GitHub Pages

Your site is ready to be published at <https://csecw.github.io/My-Website/>.

GitHub Pages is designed to host your personal, organization, or project pages from a GitHub repository.

Source

Your GitHub Pages site is currently being built from the `master` branch. [Learn more.](#)

master branch ▾

Theme chooser

Select a theme to build your site with a Jekyll theme. [Learn more.](#)

OPTIONAL - STUDENT OFFERS

If you have made a public repository and wish to make it private now, you will see this error

Danger Zone

Make this repository private

Please [upgrade your plan](#) to make this repository private.

Make private

Since you are all students you can request a free education pack from Github through this link:

<https://education.github.com/pack>

One of the things you will receive from the Github package is the **developer plan** and this will allow you to make and change unlimited repos from public to private:

Developer

\$7

per month

Includes:

Personal account
Unlimited public repositories
Unlimited private repositories
Unlimited collaborators

Free for students as part of the [Student Developer Pack](#).

Already signed up!

ADDING A CUSTOM DOMAIN (RECOMMENDED)

GETTING A FREE DOMAIN - STUDENT OFFERS

There are a variety of ways to get a free domain name

- A free .me domain for a year from NameCheap: <https://nc.me>
 - Just sign up for a free domain using your student email
- A free .com, .org, .net or .me for a year from Domain.com
 - You can get these using a special code given out at MLH hackathons (e.g Hack the Valley)
 - We might give some out in the future as well :)

LINKING CUSTOM DOMAIN TO GITHUB PAGES

With your newly made domain:

Scroll down to the Github Pages section set the custom domain to your new website.

Custom domain

Custom domains allow you to serve your site from a domain other than `csecw.github.io`. [Learn more.](#)

Now you can access your website using your custom domain name as well as your original Github link

GitHub Pages

✓ Your site is published at <http://kevinshen.me/>

If the above does not work, you can try an alternative method by adding an 'A host record' and a CNAME

- Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUChaN-VRlc>
-

OPTIONAL FEATURES TO ADD TO YOUR SITE

Adding HTTPS

Using CloudFlare

- Documentation
 - <https://blog.cloudflare.com/secure-and-fast-github-pages-with-cloudflare/>
 - <https://blog.cloudflare.com/introducing-universal-ssl/>

Front End Frameworks

These help in developing a website much more easier and prettier as well as mobile friendly and desktop friendly.

- Bootstrap: <http://getbootstrap.com/>
- MaterializeCSS: <http://materializecss.com/>