

Creating GitHub Pages

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University GIS Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series. The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing mapping and geospatial related tasks.

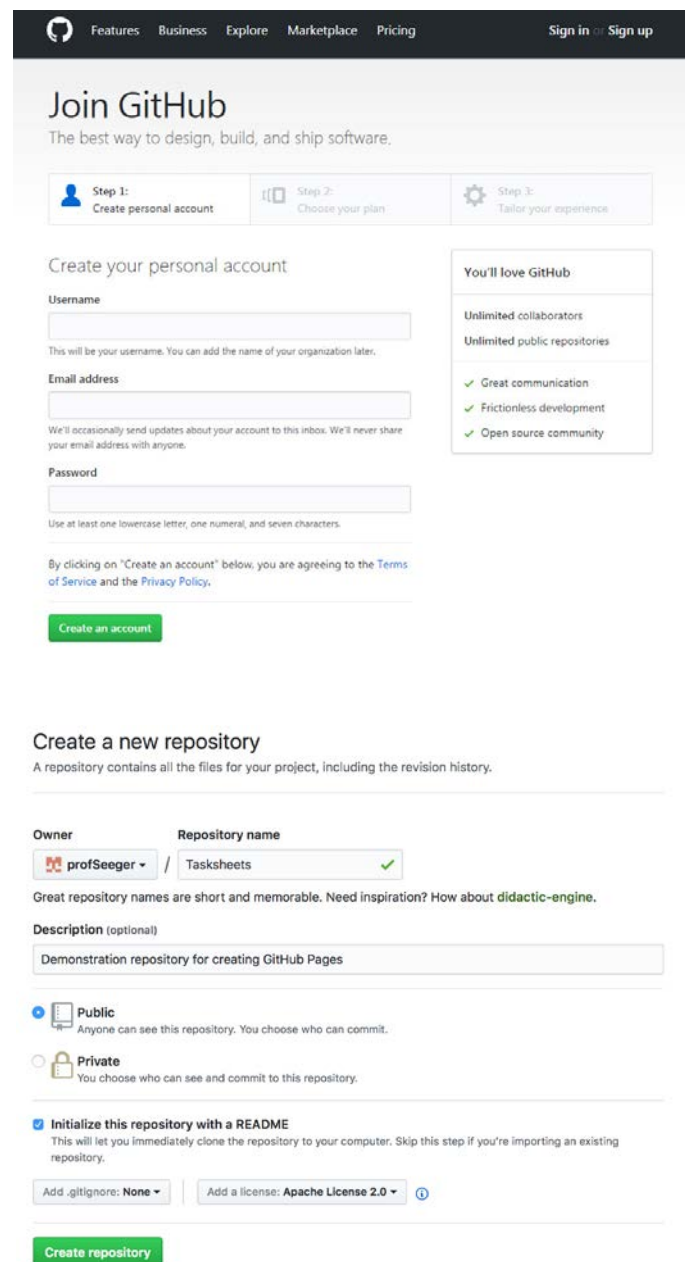
Occasionally when developing a Python script, plugin or other open-source Web mapping project, it is desirable to have a Web page that can serve as a landing page for the project. One option is to create a website and host it with a service provider or on your own server. Another FREE option is to create a GitHub page. GitHub Pages are static sites that are constructed through a GitHub Pages branch of a GitHub repository. Official information is available at <https://pages.github.com/>. This task sheet covers the basic steps required for adding a landing page to a repository.

1. Getting Started

- In a web browser, navigate to <https://github.com/> and click **Sign in** to log into your account. If you don't already have a GitHub account click **Sign up**. You will be required to create a username, password and provide your email address.

2. Create a Repository

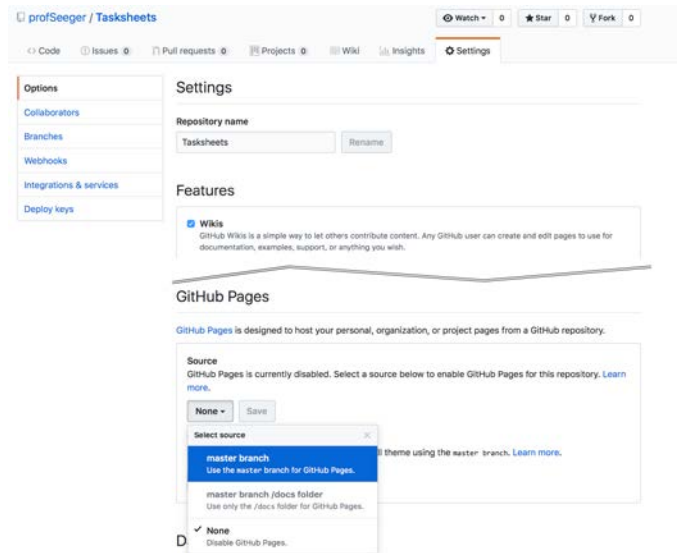
- Create a new repository by going to your profile, selecting **Repositories** and clicking on the green **New** button.
- Give your repository an appropriate **Repository name** and **Description**. If you are using a free GitHub account you will only be allowed to create a **Public** facing repository, paid accounts are able to create **Private** repositories. Check the option to **Initialize the repository with a README**. Click **Create repository**.
- Once your repository is created, click **Create new file** and add either an **index.html** or **index.md** (Markdown) file. You can add this file to either the root repository or create a docs directory within your new repository by typing in **docs/index.html**. *Note: this is the standard way to create directories within your GitHub repositories, you can't make an empty directory.*
- In your index file include some basic placeholder text welcoming users to the page. Click **Commit new file** to save your index file. *Note: if an index file is not added, then the readme.md file will be used.*
- If you are new to Markdown and want to learn more, a demonstration sandbox is available at <https://markdown-it.github.io>.



The screenshot shows the GitHub website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Features, Business, Explore, Marketplace, Pricing, and Sign in / Sign up. The main heading is "Join GitHub" with the tagline "The best way to design, build, and ship software." Below this, there are three steps: Step 1: Create personal account, Step 2: Choose your plan, and Step 3: Tailor your experience. The "Create your personal account" form includes fields for Username, Email address, and Password, along with a "Create an account" button. To the right, there is a "You'll love GitHub" section listing benefits like unlimited collaborators and repositories, and features like great communication and frictionless development. Below the account creation form is the "Create a new repository" form, which includes fields for Owner (profSeeger), Repository name (Tasksheets), and Description (Demonstration repository for creating GitHub Pages). It also has options for Public or Private visibility and a checkbox for "Initialize this repository with a README". At the bottom, there are dropdown menus for ".gitignore" (None) and "Add a license" (Apache License 2.0), and a "Create repository" button.

3. Enable GitHub Pages

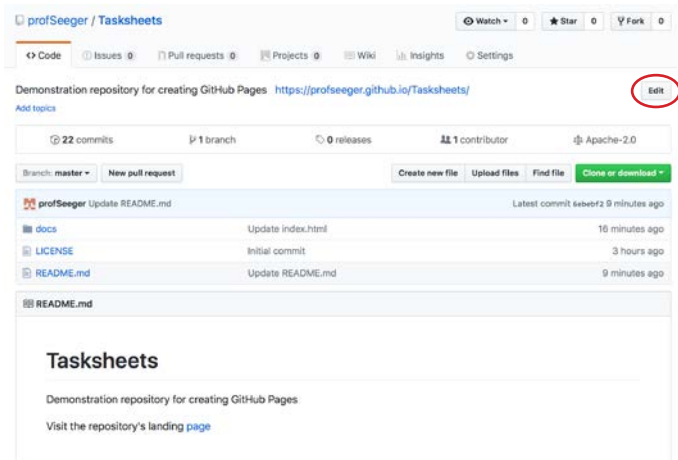
- In your new repository, select **Settings** from the menu.
- Scroll down to the **GitHub Pages** sections. Click on the drop-down menu and select which branch your index file is located in. Your options will be master branch or master branch /docs folder. Click **Save**. *Note: master branch /docs folder will only be an available option if you added a /docs directory with your index file.*
- Once published (after clicking save) the web address to the page will be displayed in the **GitHub Pages** sections of the **Settings** menu.
- Add additional content to the Web page by editing the index.html file and commit those changes. *Note: it can take a few minutes for the page to be generated after enabling GitHub Pages or making changes to a file.*



4. Adding GitHub Page Links on Repository Page

- To help direct visitors to your landing page, you can include a link to the GitHub Page in the README.md file of your repository or add a link to the repository description.
- Click on the **README.md** file in your repository and select the **Edit this file** icon. Edit the README file by adding text and a URL in Markdown. An example of this code is:

```
Visit the repository's landing [page]
(https://profseeger.github.io/Tasksheets)
```
- Click **Commit changes** to save the edit. The link and text will now appear in the README.md file.
- The link can be added to the repository description by clicking on **Edit** in the top right corner, within the **<Code>** tab. Enter the URL within the **Website** box field and click **Save**.



Contact:

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