

Week 3: File Management

Assignment: Version Tracking in GitHub (Due Week 4)

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Fall 2026

Due This Week: Problem Set 3

Lecture: File Management and Version Control

[Download slides \(PDF\)](#)

Readings & Reference Material

- “Happy Git with R” <https://happygitwithr.com/>
- **The Plain Person’s Guide to Plain Text Social Science**, ch 2 (<https://plain-text.co/index.html>)
- Bryan, Jennifer. “Excuse me, do you have a moment to talk about version control?”
- Wickham, Hadley. “Tidy Data”.
- Kuriwaki, Shiro. “Git for Students in the Social Sciences: A Pitch”

Computer Work

If you do not have one already, create a GitHub account and obtain a GitHub Personal Access Token.

1. Register a [GitHub Account](#).
2. (Optional) Install [Git](#). *Note: this step is only optional if you use the GitHub Desktop Client; if you use any other client, you must install Git at the command line.*
3. Install a [Git Client](#). I strongly recommend you use the [GitHub Desktop Client](#), which comes with git built-in, so that you do not have to install git separately (and can thus skip step 2).
4. Get a [Personal Access Token](#) and connect your GitHub Desktop Client to GitHub.

5. **(Optional)** Start an [initial repo](#).¹ We will do this together in workshop this week, as well, but you can get a head start if you like.

Due Next Week: Problem Set 4

¹Jargon alert: repo is short for “repository”.