

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [how do you use github/use/run a github program?](#)

johndoeman805 - May 24, 2025, 7:33 pm

especially on mac? (not my main computer but just my fun/experiment computer etc)

new to programming etc.

socratic - May 24, 2025, 8:01 pm

You can clone the repository to your computer, and from there you'll either have to build the software or it'll be ready to run out of the box. Is there a specific repo you need help using?

DramaKing - May 24, 2025, 8:10 pm

(May 24, 2025 07:33 PM)johndoeman805 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) especially on mac? (not my main computer but just my fun/experiment computer etc)

new to programming etc.

Best to read the README for whichever project. Some experience with programming may be needed as GitHub hosts source code.

As the previous reply stated, the easiest way is to use the git command and one of the cloning methods. I see that git should be preinstalled on Mac. Open Terminal and run 'git version' to check.

johndoeman805 - May 24, 2025, 8:17 pm

(May 24, 2025 08:10 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Best to read the README for whichever project. Some experience with programming may be needed as GitHub hosts source code.

As the previous reply stated, the easiest way is to use the git command and one of the cloning methods. I see that git should be preinstalled on Mac. Open Terminal and run 'git version' to check.
what is a "virtual environment" heard about some programs requiring that etc. how do you run a "virtual environment" on mac?

DramaKing - May 24, 2025, 8:37 pm

(May 24, 2025 08:17 PM)johndoeman805 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) what is a "virtual environment" heard about some programs requiring that etc. how do you run a "virtual environment" on mac?

Python virtual environments (if that is what is meant) provide a clean way to install Python dependencies for a certain script using pyenv. It eliminates interference with other scripts and simplifies management.

johndoeman805 - May 24, 2025, 9:13 pm

(May 24, 2025 08:37 PM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Python virtual environments (if that is what is meant) provide a clean way to install Python dependencies for a certain script using pyenv. It eliminates interference with other scripts and simplifies management.

so how do you install this on a mac? how does someone with no programming knowledge do this? :)

DramaKing - May 24, 2025, 11:24 pm

(May 24, 2025 09:13 PM)johndoeman805 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) so how do you install this on a mac? how does someone with no programming knowledge do this? :)

You should already have Git. Compiling instructions should be provided if there's no binary. Ask if you have specific issues.

johndoeman805 - May 28, 2025, 10:50 am

stupid question but what is cloning?

padrino - May 29, 2025, 2:51 am

(May 28, 2025 10:50 AM)johndoeman805 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) stupid question but what is cloning?

Basically you're taking a copy of the code and pulling it down onto your machine to run, edit, etc. You'll also have the ability to submit pull requests to the origin if allowed.