

GitHub.com vs GitLab

GitLab compared to other tools

GitHub is a collaborative code repository to host and review code, manage projects and build software. CI/CD is accomplished via integrations with other products, while GitLab has integrated CI/CD. GitLab also offers application performance and server monitoring along with cycle analytics. GitLab includes static and dynamic security testing and container scanning. GitHub pricing is free for public repos and for students but does not offer free private repos. GitHub currently scales for larger projects.

FEATURES



Free CI/CD with shared or personal Runners

GitLab.com has shared Runners that allow you to use GitLab CI/CD completely free up to 2000 build minutes for private projects and unlimited for public projects. Alternatively, you can set up your own Runner for faster build processing, unlimited build minutes, or special requirements.



[Explore GitLab.com offerings](#)

Built-in CI/CD

GitLab has built-in Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery, for free, no need to install it separately. Use it to build, test, and deploy your website (GitLab Pages) or webapp. The job results are displayed on merge requests for easy access.



[Learn more about CI/CD](#)

Innersourcing

Internal projects in GitLab allow you to promote innersourcing of your internal repositories.



[Find out more about innersourcing](#)

Commit graph and reporting tools

GitLab provides commit graphs and reporting tools about collaborators' work.



[Learn more about commit graphs](#)

Group Milestones

Create and manage milestones across projects, to work towards a target date from the group level. View all the issues for the milestone you're currently working on across multiple projects.



[Learn more about Group Milestones](#)

Availability

GitLab.com is at 99.5% availability while we want to be above 99.95%. We're hiring to improve this in the last two months of 2017 and in 2018.



[GitLab.com status](#)

The most comprehensive import feature set

GitLab can import projects and issues from more sources (GitHub, BitBucket, Google Code, FogBugz, Gitea and from any git URL) than GitHub or any other VCS. We even have you covered for your move from SVN to Git with comprehensive guides and documentation.



[Making it easier to get up and running with GitLab](#)

Export projects

GitLab allows you to export your project to other systems.



[We don't restrict access to your data](#)

Powerful Issue Tracker

Quickly set the status, assignee or milestone for multiple issues at the same time or easily filter them on any properties. See milestones and issues across projects.



[Learn more about the Issue Tracker](#)

Issue Boards

GitLab has Issue Boards, each list of an Issue Board is based on a label that exists in your issue tracker. The Issue Board will therefore match the state of your issue tracker in a user-friendly way.



[Learn more about GitLab Issue Boards](#)

Burndown Charts

GitLab provides Burndown Charts as part of Milestones. This allows users to better track progress during a sprint or while working on a new version of their software.



[Read our Burndown Chart Documentation](#)

Issue Weights

GitLab lets you manage issues using Agile practices by setting the weight of an issue.



[Read our Issue Weights documentation](#)

Related issues

Explicitly mark issues as related and track their status.



[Learn more about Related Issues](#)

Multiple assignees for issues

Assign more than one person to an issue at a time.



[Read our Multiple Assignees Documentation](#)

Time tracking

Time Tracking in GitLab lets your team add estimates and record time spent on issues and merge requests.



[Learn more about Time Tracking](#)

Wiki based project documentation

A separate system for documentation called Wiki, is built right into each GitLab project. Every Wiki is a separate Git repository.



[Learn more about GitLab Wikis](#)

Due dates for individual issues

In GitLab, you can set a due date for individual issues. This is very convenient if you have small tasks with a specific deadline.



[Due dates documentation](#)

Move issues between projects

You can move issues between projects in GitLab. All links, history and comments will be copied and the original issue will reference the newly moved issue. This makes working with multiple issue trackers much easier.



[Learn more about moving issues between projects](#)

Create new branches from issues

In GitLab, you can quickly create a new branch from an issue on the issue tracker. It will include the issue number and title automatically, making it easy to track which branch belongs to which issue.



[See how in our documentation](#)

Allow edits from upstream maintainers in branch

When a user opens a merge request from a fork, they are given the option to allow upstream maintainers to collaborate with them on the source branch. This allows the maintainers of the upstream project to make small fixes or rebase branches before merging, reducing the back and forth of accepting community contributions.



Application performance monitoring

GitLab collects and displays performance metrics for deployed apps, leveraging Prometheus. Developers can determine the impact of a merge and keep an eye on their production systems, without leaving GitLab.



[Learn more about monitoring deployed apps](#)

Application performance alerts

GitLab allows engineers to seamlessly create service level indicator alerts and be notified of any desired events, all within the same workflow where they write their code.



[Learn more about creating SLI alerts](#)

GitLab server monitoring

GitLab comes out of the box enabled for Prometheus monitoring with extensive instrumentation, making it easy to ensure your GitLab deployment is responsive and healthy.



[Learn more about monitoring the GitLab service](#)

Cycle Analytics

GitLab provides a dashboard that lets teams measure the time it takes to go from planning to monitoring. GitLab can provide this data because it has all the tools built-in: from the idea, to the CI, to code review, to deploy to production.



[Learn more about Cycle Analytics](#)

Quick actions

GitLab provides a convenient way to change metadata of an issue or merge request without leaving the comment field with slash commands.



[Documentation about quick actions](#)

Image Discussions

Within a commit view or a merge request diff view, and with respect to a specific location of an image, you can have a resolvable discussion. Have multiple discussions specifying different areas of an image.



[Image Discussions](#)

Lock Discussion

Lock down continued discussion in an issue or merge request as a Master role or higher, to prevent further abuse, spam, or unproductive collaboration.



[Lock Discussion](#)

Drag and drop tasks

You can change the order of tasks in markdown on GitHub. GitLab does not have this ability, but is considering implementing it.



[See the GitLab issue to implement this](#)

First time contributor badge

Highlight first-time contributors in a project.



SUPPORT file link

Link from new issues to a SUPPORT file, pointing to support resources.



[See the GitLab issue to implement this](#)

Built-in Container Registry

GitLab Container Registry is a secure and private registry for Docker images. It allows for easy upload and download of images from GitLab CI. It is fully integrated with Git repository management.



[Documentation on Container Registry](#)

Maven Package Repository

The GitLab Maven Package Repository allows Apache Maven artifacts to be stored and later retrieved by projects that depend on those artifacts or for deployment into an environment.



Full Binary Repository

A binary repository is a software repository for packages, artifacts and their corresponding metadata. It can be used to store binary files produced by an organization itself, such as product releases and nightly product builds, or for third party binaries which must be treated differently for both technical and legal reasons.



Preview your changes with Review Apps

With GitLab CI/CD you can create a new environment for each one of your branches, speeding up your development process. Spin up dynamic environments for your merge requests with the ability to preview your branch in a live environment.



[Learn more about Review Apps](#)

New features every month

GitLab is updated with new features and improvements every month on the 22nd.



IPv6 ready

If you host GitLab yourself, IPv6 is supported as long as your underlying provider can support it. GitLab.com on the other hand does not support IPv6 at the moment due to limited provider support.



[Read about the different ways to install GitLab](#)

Ease of migration from other providers

GitLab lets you easily migrate all repos, issues and merge request data from your previous provider.



[Learn how to migrate your projects to GitLab](#)

Confidential Issues

Keep your information secure with Confidential Issues. With GitLab, you can create confidential issues visible only for project members with Reporter access level or above.



[Learn more about Confidential Issues](#)

A comprehensive API

GitLab provides APIs for most features, allowing developers to create deeper integrations with the product.



[Read our API Documentation](#)

Search files with fuzzy file finder

GitLab provides a way to search a file in your repository in one keystroke.



[Read about the file finder in our documentation](#)

Squash and merge

Combine commits into one so that main branch has a simpler to follow and revert history.



[Learn more about squash and merge](#)

Remote repository push mirroring

Mirror a repository from your local server to elsewhere.



[Learn more about repository push mirroring](#)

Remote repository pull mirroring

Mirror a repository from a remote Git server to your local server, making it easy to keep local forks and replicas up to date.



[Learn more about repository pull mirroring](#)

Export issues as CSV

Issues can be exported as CSV from GitLab and are sent to your default notification email as an attachment.



[Learn more about exporting issues as CSV](#)

Granular user roles and flexible permissions

Manage access and permissions with five different user roles and settings for external users. Set permissions according to people's role, rather than either read or write access to a repository. Don't share the source code with people that only need access to the issue tracker.



[Learn more about User Roles](#)

Reject unsigned commits

GitLab Enterprise Edition Premium allows you to enforce GPG signatures by rejecting unsigned commits.



[Read more about enforcing push rules](#)

Verified Committer

Verify that a push only contains commits by the same user performing the push.



[In development for GitLab. Follow this link for more information.](#)

Navigate to method/function in a merge request diff

When viewing a merge request diff, navigate directly to a method/function in a changed file.



[See the GitLab issue to implement this feature](#)

Merge when pipeline succeeds

When reviewing a merge request that looks ready to merge but still has one or more CI/CD jobs running, you can set it to be merged automatically when the jobs pipeline succeeds.



[Learn more about Merge when pipeline succeeds](#)

Inline commenting and discussion resolution

Code or text review is faster and more effective with inline comments in merge requests. Leave comments and resolve discussions on specific lines of code. In GitLab, Merge Request inline comments are interpreted as a discussion. You can configure your project to only accept merge requests when all discussions are resolved.



[Learn more about resolving discussions](#)

Cherry-picking changes

Cherry-pick any commit in the UI by simply clicking the Cherry-Pick button in a merged merge request or a specific commit.



[Learn more about cherry picking merge requests](#)

GPG Signed Commits

Sign commits and prove that a commit was performed by a certain user.



[Read more about GPG signed commits](#)

Code Owners

The ability to specify code owners or reviewers in the repository.



[GitLab's issue to implement this](#)

Subgroups: groups within groups

Create groups within groups to easily manage large numbers of people and projects.



[Learn more about Subgroups](#)

Deploy Boards

GitLab Enterprise Edition Premium ships with Deploy Boards offering a consolidated view of the current health and status of each CI environment running on Kubernetes. The status of each pod of your latest deployment is displayed seamlessly within GitLab without the need to access Kubernetes.



[Learn more about Deploy Boards](#)

Control

Take control of maintenance downtime, don't be at the mercy of your hosting provider. Control how and where your code is backed up and stored.



You decide when you upgrade

GitLab releases a new version each month and lets you choose when to upgrade.



[Learn how to upgrade your GitLab instance](#)

Automatically close issue(s) when a merge request is merged

With GitLab, you can use specific keywords to close one or more issues as soon as a merge request is merged.



[Learn more about automatically closing issues](#)

Configurable issue closing pattern

Define your own specific keywords to close one or more issues as soon as a merge request is merged.



[Learn more about automatically closing issues](#)

Work in Progress merge requests (WIP)

Prevent merge requests from accidentally being accepted before they're completely ready by marking them as Work In Progress (WIP). This gives you all the code review power of merge requests, while protecting unfinished work.



[Learn more about WIP MRs](#)

Custom Git Hooks

Leverage the power of Git Hooks and chain them together to fire off custom scripts when certain actions occur on the repository. If the commit is declined or an error occurs during the Git hook check, the error message of the hook will be present in GitLab's UI. GitLab supports all types of hooks.



[Learn how to use Git Hooks with GitLab](#)

Responsive-first design

GitLab is built with a responsive-first design approach. Be it on a desktop, tablet or smartphone, GitLab is optimized to be viewed for the best result.



Community based, users can help shape the product

GitLab has open issue trackers for almost all of its operations. From GitLab itself to infrastructure and marketing, you can help shape the product.



[View all GitLab contributors](#)

Git LFS 2.0 support

Manage large files such as audio, video and graphics files with the help of Git LFS. Git LFS 2.0 file locking support helps large teams work with binary assets and is integrated with our native file locking feature.



[Learn more about Git LFS support in GitLab](#)

Security Dashboards

Security Dashboard report the latest security status of the default branch for each project



[Learn more about Security Dashboards](#)

Create projects with Git push

Push new projects to the desired location and a new private project will automatically be created.



[Learn more about creating Projects](#)

Keep personal email private

Use a noreply email address for your commits instead of your personal email address private.



[See the GitLab issue to implement this](#)

Kubernetes Cluster Monitoring

Monitor key metrics of your connected Kubernetes cluster.



[Learn more about Cluster Monitoring](#)

ChatOps

Execute common actions directly from chat, with the output sent back to the channel.



[Learn more about ChatOps](#)

Deploy Tokens

Provide read-only access to specific repositories or container images to external infrastructures that need to access your data, for example to deploy applications on Kubernetes.



[Learn more about Deploy Tokens](#)

View Kubernetes pod logs

Quickly and easily view the pod logs of an app deployed to Kubernetes.



[Learn more about viewing Kubernetes pod logs](#)

Supports geolocation-aware DNS

Having Geo replicated server(s) can make local pulls go more quickly, but without support for Geolocation-aware DNS, developers need to reconfigure their tools manually to point to their nearest geo replicated server. Users using Geolocation-aware DNS can be transparently directed to the closest server available and can access repository data faster.



[Learn more about GitLab Geo](#)

Advanced global search installed as default search

Advanced global search via Elasticsearch is installed and enabled as part of the core installation and provides the default search capability



[Learn more about GitLab search](#)

Groups dropdown in navigation

Searching for a group is directly available behind a lightweight dropdown menu, removing the need to navigate away from your work into a separate view when you're looking for a hard-to-remember group.



[Learn more about Groups](#)

GitLab Flavored Markdown with CommonMark

GitLab Flavored Markdown is now rendered using CommonMark, a modern standard, for new Markdown content.



[Learn more about GitLab Flavored Markdown](#)

Initialize README on project creation

A repository can be initialized with an example README when creating a new project. If this option is checked, a project repository is initialized with a default master branch which can be cloned right away.



[Learn more about Project creation](#)

'Contribute to GitLab' link

GitLab Core and GitLab.com users can now find our GitLab contribution page with a handy link, available right away from your user profile menu.



[Learn more about Contributing to GitLab](#)

Allow SAML assurance level to bypass 2FA

it is now possible to honor the SAML provider's assurance level, allowing to disable the two-factor authentication on GitLab side via a new SAML configuration option



[Learn more about SAML OmniAuth Provider](#)

Manage third party offers

GitLab 11.1 introduces the ability to control the display of third party offers in the administration area, providing more control over the display of these offers



[Learn more about Third party offers](#)

See JUnit test summaries in merge request widget

GitLab allows you to view JUnit test results from the merge request widget, giving you insight into quality impacts of your changes.



[Learn more about JUnit test summaries in the merge request widget](#)

User status message

Define and show your personal status message via an Emoji and text message, exposed on your profile page and on any comment and author line.



[Learn more about Status messages](#)

Private profile page

In certain situations, when privacy is of concern, users might not want to show their activity, contributions and personal projects. Activity-related information can be disabled in the profile settings.



[Learn more about Private profiles](#)

Download single repository files

When browsing through project repositories on GitLab, having direct access to single files is a relevant use case. A 'Download' button in the file viewer allows you to download individual files from the GitLab UI.



[Learn more about Project repositories](#)

Repository languages on project overview

A code languages bar on the project overview shows all relevant languages the GitLab repository consists of, including relative quantity.



[Learn more about Projects](#)