Contributing to VTK

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This page documents at a very high level how to contribute to VTK.

Please check our [developer instructions] for a more detailed guide to

developing and contributing to the project, and our [VTK Git README]

for additional information.

1. The canonical VTK source is maintained on a GitLab instance

at https://gitlab.kitware.com/vtk/vtk.<br/>

[Create an account] there if you don't have one yet.<br/>

\*\*Note:\*\* \*If you're reading this document on GitHub,

bear in mind that it is just a mirror, so pull requests here aren't merged.

But don't worry, the workflow in GitLab is pretty similar

and you can even sign up using your GitHub account.\*

2. [Fork VTK] into your user's namespace on GitLab.

3. Follow the [download instructions] to create a

local clone of the main VTK repository:

$ git clone https://gitlab.kitware.com/vtk/vtk.git VTK

$ cd VTK

The main repository will be configured as your `origin` remote.

For more information see: [Setup]

4. Run the [developer setup script] to prepare your VTK work tree and

create Git command aliases used below:

$ ./Utilities/SetupForDevelopment.sh

This will prompt for your GitLab user name and configure a remote

called `gitlab` to refer to it.

For more information see: [Setup]

5. Edit files and create commits (repeat as needed):

$ edit file1 file2 file3

$ git add file1 file2 file3

$ git commit

For more information see: [Create a Topic]

6. Push commits in your topic branch to your fork in GitLab:

$ git gitlab-push

For more information see: [Share a Topic]

7. Visit your fork in GitLab, browse to the "\*\*Merge Requests\*\*" link on the

left, and use the "\*\*New Merge Request\*\*" button in the upper right to

create a Merge Request.

For more information see: [Create a Merge Request]

VTK uses GitLab for code review and Buildbot to test proposed

patches before they are merged.

Our [Wiki] is used to document features, flesh out designs and host other

documentation. Our API is documented using [Doxygen] with updated

documentation generated nightly. We have a [VTK Discourse] forum

to coordinate development and to provide support.

[VTK Git README]: Documentation/dev/git/README.md

[developer instructions]: Documentation/dev/git/develop.md

[Create an account]: https://gitlab.kitware.com/users/sign\_in

[Fork VTK]: https://gitlab.kitware.com/vtk/vtk/-/forks/new

[download instructions]: Documentation/dev/git/download.md#clone

[developer setup script]: /Utilities/SetupForDevelopment.sh

[Setup]: Documentation/dev/git/develop.md#Setup

[Create a Topic]: Documentation/dev/git/develop.md#create-a-topic

[Share a Topic]: Documentation/dev/git/develop.md#share-a-topic

[Create a Merge Request]: Documentation/dev/git/develop.md#create-a-merge-request

[Wiki]: http://www.vtk.org/Wiki/VTK

[Doxygen]: http://www.vtk.org/doc/nightly/html

[VTK Discourse]: https://discourse.vtk.org/