



# Starting a new workspace with a clone of a Git repository

Working with Che in your browser involves multiple URLs:

- The URL of your organization's Che instance, used as part of all the following URLs
- The URL of the **Workspaces** page of your Che dashboard with the workspace control panel
- [The URLs for starting a new workspace](#)
- The URLs of your workspaces in use

With Che, you can visit a URL in your browser to start a new workspace that contains a clone of a Git repository. This way, you can clone a Git repository that is hosted on GitHub, a GitLab instance, or a Bitbucket server.

## TIP

You can also use the **Git Repo URL** \* field on the **Create Workspace** page of your Che dashboard to enter the URL of a Git repository to start a new workspace.

## Prerequisites

- Your organization has a running instance of Che.
- You know the FQDN URL of your organization's Che instance: `https://<che_fqdn>`.
- Your Git repository maintainer keeps the `devfile.yaml` or `.devfile.yaml` file in the root directory of the Git repository. (For alternative file names and file paths, see [Optional parameters for the URLs for starting a new workspace](#).)

## TIP

You can also start a new workspace by supplying the URL of a Git repository that contains no devfile. Doing so results in a workspace with the Che-Theia IDE and the Universal Developer Image.

## Procedure

To start a new workspace with a clone of a Git repository:

1. Optional: Visit your Che dashboard pages to authenticate to your organization's instance of Che.
2. Visit the URL to start a new workspace using the basic syntax:

```
https://<che_fqdn>#<git_repository_url>
```

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You can extend this URL with optional parameters:

```
https://<che_fqdn>#<git_repository_url>?<optional_parameters> ①
```

① See [Optional parameters for the URLs for starting a new workspace](#).

#### Example 1. A URL for starting a new workspace

```
https://che-openshift-operators.apps.ci-ln-yp1cppt-72292.origin-ci-int-gce.dev.rhcloud.com#https://github.com/che-samples/cpp-hello-world
```

#### Example 2. The URL syntax for starting a new workspace with a clone of a GitHub-hosted repository

With GitHub and GitLab, you can even use the URL of a specific branch of the repository to be cloned:

- `https://<che_fqdn>#https://github.com/<user_or_org>/<repository>` starts a new workspace with a clone of the default branch.
- `https://<che_fqdn>#https://github.com/<user_or_org>/<repository>/tree/<branch_name>` starts a new workspace with a clone of the specified branch.
- `https://<che_fqdn>#https://github.com/<user_or_org>/<repository>/pull/<pull_request_id>` starts a new workspace with a clone of the branch of the pull request.

After you enter the URL to start a new workspace in a browser tab, it renders the workspace-starting page.

When the new workspace is ready, the workspace IDE loads in the browser tab.

A clone of the Git repository is present in the filesystem of the new workspace.

The workspace has a unique URL: `https://<che_fqdn>#workspace<unique_url>`.

#### TIP

Although this is not possible in the address bar, you can add a URL for starting a new workspace as a bookmark by using the browser bookmark manager:

- In Mozilla Firefox, go to `☰ > Bookmarks > Manage bookmarks Ctrl+Shift+O > Bookmarks Toolbar > Organize > Add bookmark`.
- In Google Chrome, go to `⋮ > Bookmarks > Bookmark manager > Bookmarks bar > ⋮ > Add new bookmark`.

### **Additional resources**

- [Optional parameters for the URLs for starting a new workspace](#)
- [Basic actions you can perform on a workspace](#)

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