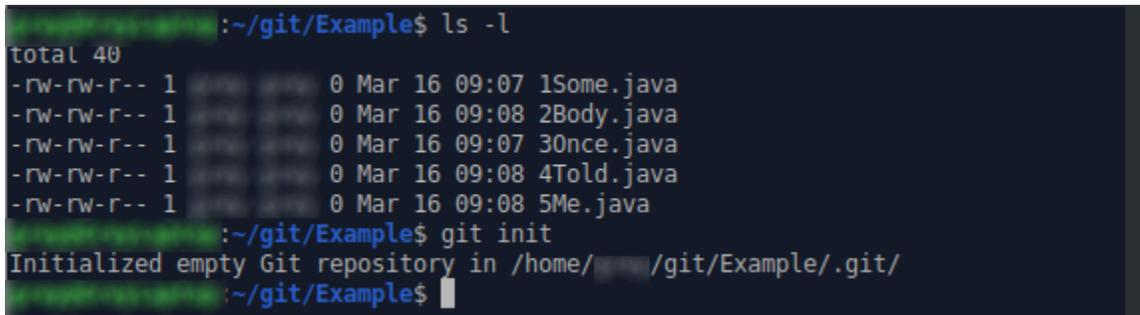# Using Init to Set Up a GitLab Remote Repo for a Local, non-Git Project

So you've got a project you're proud of, but you started it locally, without version control, and you want to change that and upload it to GitLab. Have no fear! Git's `init` command, and GitLab, are here to help you.

Turning Your Project Into a Repository

The process is simple, though you will need to use a Terminal/console. First, navigate to the top folder of your project.

Now, use the command `git init`.

This turns the directory into a fully-functional git repository. However, you still need to add your project files to the repository so it knows about them and to track them.

You'll then add your project to the newly-created local repository using `git add`.

And commit the initial version using `git commit`.

```
                    :~/git/Example$ ls -l
total 40
-rw-rw-r-- 1          0 Mar 16 09:07 1Some.java
-rw-rw-r-- 1          0 Mar 16 09:08 2Body.java
-rw-rw-r-- 1          0 Mar 16 09:07 3Once.java
-rw-rw-r-- 1          0 Mar 16 09:08 4Told.java
-rw-rw-r-- 1          0 Mar 16 09:08 5Me.java
                    :~/git/Example$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in /home/     /git/Example/.git/
                    :~/git/Example$ git add .
                    :~/git/Example$ git commit
[master (root-commit) 17dcc99] Starting version.
 5 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 1Some.java
 create mode 100644 2Body.java
 create mode 100644 3Once.java
 create mode 100644 4Told.java
 create mode 100644 5Me.java
                    :~/git/Example$
```
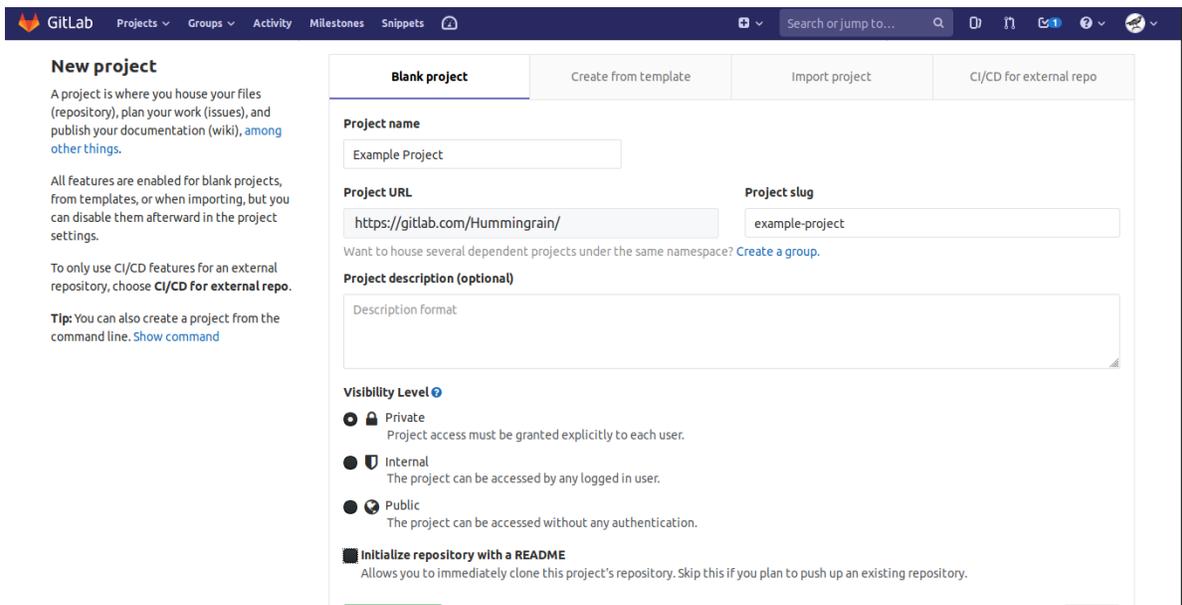
(There will be a prompt that comes us asking you to write a message for the commit. I'd recommend putting something like "initial commit" or another comment that denotes this is the starting point for your project.)

Uploading the Project to GitLab

Now comes the part where we upload our project to our remote server of choice, GitLab.

Create a New Project On Your Remote Instance

Create a new project on your gitlab instance. Be sure to leave the "Initialize Repository With a README" checkbox **unchecked**. This is important so we can push our local project repository to this repository.

Also be sure you have your SSH key for your GitLab account set up and ready to go. See the SSH documentation for more details.

Push Your Project From Your Local Repository

Add the remote repository you want to push to as the origin (default) repository.

```
git remote add origin (YOUR PROJECT URL)
```

And now push everything to the origin (remote) repository.

```
git push -u origin --all
```

```
git push -u origin --tags
```


You're Done!

And now your project is all checked-in, has a remote repo set, is uploaded to GitLab, and is otherwise ready to go! Celebrate your victory.