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TRAINING & CONSULTING

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GitHub Copilot in 2026: Chat, Edits, Agents, Spaces, and CLI

Class Duration

14 hours of live training delivered over 2-3 days to accommodate your scheduling needs.

Student Prerequisites

- Professional software development experience in at least one language
- Active GitHub Copilot subscription (Individual, Business, or Enterprise)
- One supported host editor installed: VS Code, Visual Studio, a JetBrains IDE, or another Copilot-supported editor

Target Audience

Software engineers, tech leads, platform engineers, and DevEx teams who want a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of GitHub Copilot's current capabilities—moving well beyond basic code completion into chat, multi-file edits, agentic workflows, Spaces, and MCP server integration. Supersedes earlier single-topic Copilot courses.

Description

GitHub Copilot has evolved into a comprehensive AI development platform, and this course covers the full current feature set. We start with the foundations (setup, model selection, inline suggestions, Next Edit Suggestions with inline previews, context) and move through the complete chat surface (Ask, Edit, Agent modes), multi-file edits, coding agents for longer-horizon tasks, the Copilot CLI for terminal-based agentic workflows, and the Spaces feature for collaborative AI workflows. We also cover deep integration via custom instructions, prompt files, chat modes, MCP servers, and Copilot Extensions—giving teams the tools to standardize how Copilot works across the organization.

Learning Outcomes

- Configure GitHub Copilot end-to-end: plan, model selection, IDE setup, extensions.

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- Use inline suggestions effectively with context awareness and ghost text navigation.
- Use Next Edit Suggestions, including inline edit previews and far-away edits.
- Drive all three chat modes—Ask, Edit, and Agent—for progressively autonomous tasks.
- Manage multi-file edits using Copilot Edits and agent-driven workspace modifications.
- Use the Copilot CLI for terminal-based agentic tasks and shell-driven workflows.
- Set up and use GitHub Copilot Spaces for collaborative, context-rich AI sessions.
- Customize Copilot behavior with instructions files, prompt files, and custom chat modes.
- Integrate MCP servers to ground Copilot in internal tools, APIs, and data sources.
- Apply code review, commit message, and PR automation features to the full development cycle.
- Mitigate privacy, security, and public code match risks.

Training Materials

Comprehensive courseware is distributed online at the start of class. All students receive a downloadable MP4 recording of the training.

Software Requirements

Active GitHub Copilot subscription, a supported host editor with the GitHub Copilot extension installed (VS Code, Visual Studio, or a JetBrains IDE such as IntelliJ IDEA, PyCharm, WebStorm, or Rider), and Git.

Training Topics

Setup and Configuration

- Subscription plans and enterprise policy controls
- Model selection and switching across Anthropic, OpenAI, and Google models (e.g., Claude Opus/Sonnet 4.6, GPT-5.3-Codex, Gemini 3 Pro), plus `auto` and enterprise model-availability policies

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- Supported host editors: VS Code, Visual Studio, JetBrains IDEs (IntelliJ, PyCharm, WebStorm, Rider, GoLand), Eclipse, Xcode, Vim/Neovim, and Azure Data Studio
- IDE installation and feature flags
- Privacy settings and content exclusions

Inline Suggestions and Context

- Ghost text, accept/reject, and partial acceptance
- Next Edit Suggestions: inline edit previews and far-away edits
- Context sources: open files, workspace, and imports
- Improving suggestion quality with context
- Language-specific behaviors

Chat Modes: Ask, Edit, Agent

- Ask mode: conversational exploration and Q&A
- Edit mode: targeted inline code changes
- Agent mode: multi-step autonomous task execution
- Choosing the right mode for the task
- How the in-IDE agent relates to the cloud coding agent on github.com (deep-dived in the dedicated *Agentic Coding with GitHub Copilot* course)

Multi-File Edits and Copilot Edits

- Initiating and reviewing multi-file changes
- Edit rollback and selective acceptance
- Large refactors with agent assistance

GitHub Copilot CLI

- Installation and authentication; generally available since February 2026
- Terminal-based agent sessions with named, resumable sessions
- Agent picker: Agent mode (default) and Plan mode (`/plan`) to agree on a plan before implementation
- Specialized agents: Explore (codebase analysis), Critic (reviews plans and complex work with a complementary model), Research (orchestrator/subagent deep research), and Rubber Duck (`/rubber-duck`) for an independent critique
- Running and managing multiple concurrent agents with `/tasks`

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- Autopilot mode (`/autopilot`) for autonomous, lower-supervision workflows
- Context management with `/compact`; session history and standups via `/chronicle`
- `/remote`: drive a running CLI session from github.com or the GitHub Mobile app
- Model selection, including `auto` to let Copilot pick the best available model
- Copilot Spaces in the CLI via the GitHub MCP server
- Shell-driven workflows and scripting Copilot from the command line
- When to reach for the CLI vs. the IDE agent vs. the cloud coding agent

GitHub Copilot Spaces

- Creating and configuring a Space
- Sharing context and prompt packs across a team
- Using Spaces for onboarding and knowledge transfer
- Space-level instruction and tool configuration

Custom Instructions, Prompt Files, and Chat Modes

- Writing `.github/copilot-instructions.md`
- Prompt files for repeatable workflows
- Custom chat modes for specialized personas
- Team-wide instruction management
- Pairing Copilot with GitHub Spec Kit for spec-driven workflows (covered in depth in the dedicated Spec Kit course)

MCP Servers and Extensions

- What MCP servers do and how Copilot uses them
- Connecting local and remote MCP servers
- GitHub Copilot Extensions ecosystem
- Building a simple internal MCP tool
- The Copilot SDK (GA) for building custom agents and integrations on Copilot
- Coexisting with the OpenAI Codex IDE extension in the same VS Code workspace

Code Review, Commits, and PRs

- Copilot code review in VS Code and on GitHub
- Generating commit messages from diffs

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- PR description and summary automation
- Security scanning integration

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