

Ghub User and Developer Manual

for version 2.0.0

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1 Introduction

Ghub is a library that provides basic support for using the Github API from Emacs packages. It abstracts access to API resources using only a handful of functions that are not resource-specific.

Ghub handles the creation, storage and use of access tokens using a setup wizard to make it easier for users to get started and to reduce the support burden imposed on package maintainers. It also comes with a comprehensive manual to address the cases when things don't just work as expected or in case you don't want to use the wizard.

Ghub is intentionally limited to only provide these two essential features — basic request functions and guided setup — to avoid being too opinionated, which would hinder wide adoption. It is assumed that wide adoption would make life easier for users and maintainers alike, because then all packages that talk to the Github API could be configured the same way.

Fancier interfaces can be implemented on top of Ghub, and one such wrapper — named simply Ghub+ — has already been implemented. The benefit of basing various opinionated interfaces on top of a single library that provides only the core functionality is that choosing the programming interface does no longer also dictate how access tokens are handled. Users can then use multiple packages that access the Github API without having to learn the various incompatible ways packages expect the appropriate token to be made available to them.

Ghub uses the built-in `auth-source` library to store access tokens. That library is very flexible and supports multiple backends, which means that it is up to the user how secrets are stored. They can, among other things, choose between storing secrets in plain text for ease of use, or encrypted for better security.

Previously (as in until this library is widely adapted) it was up to package authors to decide if things should be easy or secure. (Note that `auth-source` defaults to "easy" — you have been warned.)

Ghub expects package authors to use a dedicated access token instead of sharing a single token between all packages that rely on it. That means that users cannot configure Ghub once and later start using a new package without any additional setup. But Ghub helps with that.

When the user invokes some command defined in some package and that ultimately results in `ghub-request` being called and the appropriate token is not available yet, then the user is guided through the process of creating and storing a new token, and at the end of that process the request is carried out as if the token had been available to begin with.

2 Getting Started

If you would like to use a package that uses this library, then just do so. If the necessary information isn't available when it attempts to make a request, then you will be asked to provide it.

2.1 Setting the Username

If you haven't set the Git variable `github.user` yet when making a request, then you will be asked:

```
Git variable 'github.user' is unset. Set to:
```

You are expected to provide your Github username here. The provided value will be saved globally (using `git config --global github.user USERNAME`).

If you need to identify as another user in a particular repository, then you have to set that variable locally, **before** making a request:

```
cd /path/to/repo
git config github.user USERNAME
```

For Github Enterprise instances you have to specify where the API can be accessed **before** you try to access it and a different variable has to be used to set the username. For example if the API is available at `https://example.com/api/v3`, then you should do this:

```
# Do this once
git config --global github.example.com/api/v3.user EMPLOYEE

# Do this for every corporate repository
cd /path/to/repo
git config github.host example.com/api/v3
```

If you do not set `github.example.com/api/v3.user`, then you will be asked to provide the value when trying to make a request, but you do have to manually set `github.host`, or Ghub assumes that you are trying to access `api.github.com`.

2.2 Interactively Creating and Storing a Token

Ghub uses a different token for every package as well as for every machine from which you access the Github API (and obviously also for every Github instance and user). This allows packages to only request the scopes that they actually need and also gives users the opportunity to refuse access to certain scopes if they expect to not use the features that need them.

Usually you don't have to worry about creating and storing a token yourself and can just make a request. Note however that you don't have to use the setup wizard described below. Alternatively you can perform the setup manually as described in the next section.

If you make a request and the required token is not available yet, then the setup wizard will first ask you something like this:

```
Such a Github API token is not available:
```

```
Host:    api.github.com
```

```

User:      USERNAME
Package:   PACKAGE

Scopes requested in 'PACKAGE-github-token-scopes':
  repo
Store on Github as:
  "Emacs package PACKAGE @ LOCAL-MACHINE"
Store locally according to option 'auth-sources':
  ("~/.authinfo" "~/authinfo.gpg" "~/.netrc")

```

If in doubt, then abort and first view the section of the Ghub documentation called "Manually Creating and Storing a Token".

Create and store such a token? (yes or no)

If you don't have any doubts, then answer "yes". Lets address some of the doubts that you might have:

- **Host** usually is "api.github.com" and that is usually what you want. If you are trying to access a Github Enterprise instance, then it should be something else and you have to set the value manually as described in the next section.
- **User** should be your Github.com (or Github Enterprise instance) username. If it is something else, then you made a mistake at the first prompt or during the step described in the previous section and have to refer to that in order to fix this issue.
- **Package** should be the name of the package you are using to access the Github API. If it is `ghub`, then the package author disregarded that convention and you should probably report a bug in the issue tracker of that package.

Or you yourself are using `ghub-request` or one of its wrappers directly, in which case this is expected and perfectly fine. In that case you might however want to abort and change the value of the variable `ghub-github-token-scopes` before triggering the wizard again.

- Each `PACKAGE` has to specify the tokens that it needs using a variable named `PACKAGE-github-token-scopes`. The doc-string of that variable should document why the various scopes are needed.

The meaning of the various scopes are documented at <https://magit.vc/goto/f63aeb0a>.

- The value of `auth-sources` is shown. The default value causes secrets to be stored in plain text. Because this might be unexpected, Ghub additionally displays a warning when appropriate.

```

WARNING: The token will be stored unencrypted in "~/.authinfo".
         If you don't want that, you have to abort and customize
         the 'auth-sources' option.\n\n" (car auth-sources)

```

Whether that is something that needs fixing, is up to you. If your answer is yes, then you should abort and see Section 2.4 [How Ghub uses Auth-Source], page 4, for instructions on how to save the token more securely.

- When creating a token it is necessary to provide a token description. Ghub uses descriptions that have the form "Emacs package PACKAGE @ LOCAL-MACHINE".

Github uses the token description to identify the token, not merely as something useful to humans. Token descriptions therefore have to be unique and in rare cases you get an additional prompt, asking you something like:

```
A token named "Emacs package PACKAGE @ LOCAL-MACHINE"
already exists on Github. Replace it?
```

You might see this message when you have lost the old token and want to replace it with a new one, in which case you should obviously just proceed.

Or two of your computers have the same hostname, which is bad practice because it gains you nothing but leads to issues such as this. Or you are dual-booting on this machine and use the same hostname in all operating systems, which is a somewhat reasonable thing to do, but never-the-less leads to issues like this.

In either case you will have to use something other than the value returned by `system-name` to identify the current machine or operating system. Or you can continue to identify different things using the same identifier, in which case you have to manually distribute the token.

The former is recommended and also easier to do, using the variable `ghub-override-system-name`. See Section 5.3 [Configuration Variables], page 12, for details.

After the above prompt you are also asked for your username and password. If you have enabled two-factor authentication, then you also have to provide the authentication code at least twice. If you make sure the code is still good for a while when asked for it first, then you can just press `RET` at the later prompt(s).

2.3 Manually Creating and Storing a Token

If you cannot or don't want to use the wizard then you have to (1) figure out what scopes a package wants, (2) create such a token using the web interface and (3) store the token where Ghub expects to find it.

A package named `PACKAGE` has to specify the scopes that it wants in the variable named `PACKAGE-ghub-token-scopes`. The doc-string of such variables should document what the various scopes are needed for.

To create or edit a token go to <https://github.com/settings/tokens>. For Gitlab.com use https://gitlab.com/profile/personal_access_tokens.

Finally store the token in a place where Ghub looks for it, as described in Section 2.4 [How Ghub uses Auth-Source], page 4.

2.4 How Ghub uses Auth-Source

Please see `auth` for all the gory details about Auth-Source. Some Ghub-specific information and important notes follow.

The variable `auth-sources` controls how and where Auth-Source stores new secrets and where it looks for known secrets. The default value is ("`~/authinfo`" "`~/authinfo.gpg`" "`~/netrc`"), which means that it looks in all of these files in order to find secrets and that it stores new secrets in `~/authinfo` because that is the first element of the list. It doesn't matter which files already do or don't exist when storing a new secret, the first file is always used.

Secrets are stored in `~/.authinfo` in plain text. If you don't want that (good choice), then you have to customize `auth-sources`, e.g. by flipping the positions of the first two elements.

Auth-Source also supports storing secrets in various key-chains. Refer to its documentation for more information.

Some Auth-Source backends only support storing three values per entry, the "machine", the "login" and the "password". Because Github uses separate tokens for each package, it has to squeeze four values into those three slots, and it does that by using "USERNAME^P PACKAGE" as the "login".

Assuming your username is "ziggy", the package is named "stardust", and you want to access **Github.com** an entry in one of the three mentioned files would then look like this:

```
machine api.github.com login ziggy^stardust password 012345abcdef...
```

Assuming your username is "ziggy", the package is named "stardust", and you want to access **Gitlab.com** an entry in one of the three mentioned files would then look like this:

```
machine gitlab.com/api/v4 login ziggy^stardust password 012345abcdef...
```


3 Using Ghub in Personal Scripts

You can use `ghub-request` and its wrapper functions in your personal scripts of course. Unlike when you use Ghub from a package that you distribute for others to use, you don't have to specify a package in personal scripts.

```
;; This is perfectly acceptable in personal scripts ...
(ghub-get "/user")
```

```
;; ... and actually equal to
(ghub-get "/user" nil :auth 'ghub)
```

```
;; In packages you have to specify the package using AUTH.
(ghub-get "/user" nil :auth 'foobar)
```

When you do not specify the AUTH argument, then a request is made on behalf of the `ghub` package itself. Like for any package that uses Ghub, `ghub` has to declare what scopes it needs, using, in this case, the variable `ghub-github-token-scopes`.

The default value of that variable is `(repo)` and you might want to add additional scopes. You can later add additional scopes to an existing token, using the web interface at <https://github.com/settings/tokens>.

If you do that, then you might want to also set the variable accordingly, but note that Ghub only consults that when **creating** a new token. If you want to know a token's effective scopes use the command `ghub-token-scopes`, described in the next section.

4 Using Ghub in a Package

Every package should use its own token. This allows you as the author of some package to only request access to API scopes that are actually needed, which in turn might make it easier for users to trust your package not to do unwanted things.

The scopes used by PACKAGE have to be defined using the variable `PACKAGE-github-token-scopes`, and you have to tell `ghub-request` on behalf of what package a request is being made by passing the symbol PACKAGE as the value of its AUTH argument.

```
(ghub-request "GET" "/user" nil :auth 'PACKAGE)
```

`PACKAGE-github-token-scopes` [Variable]

This variable defines the token scopes requested by the package named PACKAGE. The doc-string should explain what the various scopes are needed for to prevent users from giving PACKAGE fewer permissions than it absolutely needs and also to give them greater confidence that PACKAGE is only requesting the permissions that it actually need.

The value of this variable does not necessarily correspond to the scopes that the respective token actually gives access to. There is nothing that prevents users from changing the value **after** creating the token or from editing the token's scopes later on.

So it is pointless to check the value of this variable before making a request. You also should not query the API to reliably determine the supported tokens before making a query. Doing the latter would mean that every request becomes two requests and that the first request would have to be done using the user's password instead of a token.

`ghub-token-scopes` [Command]

Because we cannot be certain that the user hasn't messed up the scopes, Ghub provides this command to make it easy to debug such issues without having to rely on users being thoughtful enough to correctly determine the used scopes manually.

Just tell users to run `M-x ghub-token-scopes` and to provide the correct values for the HOST, USERNAME and PACKAGE when prompted, and to then post the output.

It is to be expected that users will occasionally mess that up so this command does not only output the scopes but also the user input so that you can have greater confidence in the validity of the user's answer.

```
Scopes for USERNAME^PACKAGE@HOST: (SCOPE...)
```

5 API

This section describes the Ghub API. In other words it describes the public functions and variables provided by the Ghub library and not the Github API that can be accessed by using those functions. The latter is documented at <https://developer.github.com/v3>.

5.1 Making Requests

```
ghub-request method resource &optional params &key query [Function]
             payload headers unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback
             errorback url value error extra method*
```

This function makes a request for RESOURCE using METHOD. PARAMS, QUERY, PAYLOAD and/or HEADERS are alists holding additional request data. The response body is returned and the response header is stored in the variable `ghub-response-headers`.

- METHOD is the http method, given as a string.
- RESOURCE is the resource to access, given as a string beginning with a slash.
- PARAMS, QUERY, PAYLOAD and HEADERS are alists and are used to specify request data. All these arguments are alists that resemble the json expected and returned by the Github API. The keys are symbols and the values are stored in the `cdr` (not the `cadr`) and can be strings, integers and lists of strings and integers.

The Github API documentation is vague on how data has to be transmitted and for a particular resource usually just talks about "parameters". Generally speaking when the METHOD is "HEAD" or "GET", then they have to be transmitted as a query, otherwise as a payload.

- Use PARAMS to automatically transmit like QUERY or PAYLOAD would depending on METHOD.
- Use QUERY to explicitly transmit data as a query.
- Use PAYLOAD to explicitly transmit data as a payload. Instead of an alist, PAYLOAD may also be a string, in which case it gets encoded as UTF-8 but is otherwise transmitted as-is.
- Use HEADERS for those rare resources that require that the data is transmitted as headers instead of as a query or payload. When that is the case, then the Github API documentation usually mentions it explicitly.
- If SILENT is non-nil, then progress reports and the like are not messaged.
- If UNPAGINATE is t, then this function make as many requests as necessary to get all values. If UNPAGINATE is a natural number, then it gets at most that many pages. For any other non-nil value it raises an error.
- If NOERROR is non-nil, then no error is raised if the request fails and `nil` is returned instead. If NOERROR is `return`, then the error payload is returned instead of `nil`.
- If READER is non-nil, then it is used to read and return from the response buffer. The default is `ghub--read-json-response`. For the very few resources that do not return json, you might want to use `ghub--read-raw-response`.

- If `USERNAME` is non-`nil`, then the request is made on behalf of that user. It is better to specify the user using the Git variable `github.user` for "api.github.com", or `github.HOST.user` if connecting to a Github Enterprise instance.
- Each package that uses `Ghub` should use its own token. If `AUTH` is `nil` or unspecified, then the generic `ghub` token is used instead. This is only acceptable for personal utilities. A packages that is distributed to other users should always use this argument to identify itself, using a symbol matching its name.

Package authors who find this inconvenient should write a wrapper around this function and possibly for the method specific functions also.

Beside `nil`, some other symbols have a special meaning too. `none` means to make an unauthorized request. `basic` means to make a password based request. If the value is a string, then it is assumed to be a valid token. `basic` and an explicit token string are only intended for internal and debugging uses.

If `AUTH` is a package symbol, then the scopes are specified using the variable `AUTH-github-token-scopes`. It is an error if that is not specified. See `ghub-github-token-scopes` for an example.

- If `HOST` is non-`nil`, then connect to that Github instance. This defaults to "api.github.com". When a repository is connected to a Github Enterprise instance, then it is better to specify that using the Git variable `github.host` instead of using this argument.
- If `FORGE` is `gitlab`, then connect to Gitlab.com or, depending on `HOST` to another Gitlab instance. This is only intended for internal use. Instead of using this argument you should use function `glab-request` and other `glab-*` functions.
- If `CALLBACK` and/or `ERRORBACK` is non-`nil`, then this function makes one or more asynchronous requests and calls `CALLBACK` or `ERRORBACK` when finished. If an error occurred, then it calls `ERRORBACK`, or if that is `nil`, then `CALLBACK`. When no error occurred then it calls `CALLBACK`. When making asynchronous requests, then no errors are signaled, regardless of the value of `NOERROR`.

Both callbacks are called with four arguments.

- For `CALLBACK`, the combined value of the retrieved pages. For `ERRORBACK`, the error that occurred when retrieving the last page.
- The headers of the last page as an alist.
- Status information provided by `url-retrieve`. Its `:error` property holds the same information as `ERRORBACK`'s first argument.
- A `ghub--req` struct, which can be passed to `ghub-continue` (which see) to retrieve the next page, if any.

`ghub-continue` *args*

[Function]

If there is a next page, then this function retrieves that.

This function is only intended to be called from callbacks. If there is a next page, then that is retrieve and the buffer that the result will be loaded into is returned, or `t` if the process has already completed. Otherwise `nil` is returned.

Callbacks are called with four arguments (see `ghub-request`). The fourth argument is a `ghub--req` struct, intended to be passed to this function. A callback may use the struct's `extra` slot to pass additional information to the callback that will be called after the next request. Use the function `ghub-req-extra` to get and set the value of that slot.

As an example, using `ghub-continue` in a callback like so:

```
(ghub-get "/users/tarsius/repos" nil
         :callback (lambda (value _headers _status req)
                    (unless (ghub-continue req)
                        (setq my-value value))))
```

is equivalent to:

```
(ghub-get "/users/tarsius/repos" nil
         :unpaginate t
         :callback (lambda (value _headers _status _req)
                    (setq my-value value)))
```

To demonstrate how to pass information from one callback to the next, here we record when we start fetching each page:

```
(ghub-get "/users/tarsius/repos" nil
         :extra (list (current-time))
         :callback (lambda (value _headers _status req)
                    (push (current-time) (ghub-req-extra req))
                    (unless (ghub-continue req)
                        (setq my-times (ghub-req-extra req))
                        (setq my-value value))))
```

ghub-response-headers [Variable]

A select few Github API resources respond by transmitting data in the response header instead of in the response body. Because there are so few of these inconsistencies, `ghub-request` always returns the response body.

To access the response headers use this variable after `ghub-request` has returned.

ghub-response-link-relations *headers* [Function]

This function returns an alist of the link relations in `HEADERS`, or if optional `HEADERS` is nil, then those in `ghub-response-headers`.

ghub-override-system-name [Variable]

If non-nil, the value of this variable is used to override the value returned by `system-name` for the purpose of identifying the local machine, which is necessary because Ghub uses separate tokens for each machine. Also see Section 5.3 [Configuration Variables], page 12.

ghub-github-token-scopes [Variable]

PACKAGE-github-token-scopes [Variable]

Such a variable defines the token scopes requested by the respective package `PACKAGE` given by the first word in the variable name. `ghub` itself is treated like any other package. Also see Chapter 4 [Using Ghub in a Package], page 7.

ghub-head *resource &optional params &key query payload headers* [Function]
unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback errorback

ghub-get *resource &optional params &key query payload headers* [Function]
unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback errorback

These functions are simple wrappers around **ghub-request**. Their signature is identical to that of the latter, except that they do not have an argument named METHOD. The http method is instead given by the second word in the function name.

As described in the documentation for **ghub-request**, it depends on the used method whether the value of the PARAMS argument is used as the query or the payload. For the "HEAD" and "GET" methods it is used as the query.

ghub-put *resource &optional params &key query payload headers* [Function]
unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback errorback

ghub-post *resource &optional params &key query payload headers* [Function]
unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback errorback

ghub-patch *resource &optional params &key query payload headers* [Function]
unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback errorback

ghub-delete *resource &optional params &key query payload headers* [Function]
unpaginate noerror reader username auth host callback errorback

These functions are simple wrappers around **ghub-request**. Their signature is identical to that of the latter, except that they do not have an argument named METHOD. The http method is instead given by the second word in the function name.

As described in the documentation for **ghub-request**, it depends on the used method whether the value of the PARAMS argument is used as the query or the payload. For the "PUT", "POST", "PATCH" and "DELETE" methods it is used as the payload.

ghub-wait *resource &optional duration &key username auth host* [Function]

Some API requests result in an immediate successful response even when the requested action has not actually been carried out yet. An example is the request for the creation of a new repository, which doesn't cause the repository to immediately become available. The Github API documentation usually mentions this when describing an affected resource.

If you want to do something with some resource right after making a request for its creation, then you might have to wait for it to actually be created. This function can be used to do so. It repeatedly tries to access the resource until it becomes available or until the timeout exceeds. In the latter case it signals **ghub-error**.

RESOURCE specifies the resource that this function waits for.

DURATION specifies for how many seconds to wait at most, defaulting to 64 seconds. Emacs will block during that time, but the user can abort using C-g.

The first attempt is made immediately and often that will actually succeed. If not, then another attempt is made after two seconds, and each subsequent attempt is made after waiting as long as we already waited between all preceding attempts combined.

See **ghub-request**'s documentation above for information about the other arguments.

ghub-graphql *graphql &optional variables &key username auth host* [Function]
callback

This function makes a GraphQL request using GRAPHQL and VARIABLES as inputs. GRAPHQL is a GraphQL string. VARIABLES is a JSON-like alist. The other arguments behave like for ‘ghub-request’ (which see).

The response is returned as a JSON-like alist. Even if the response contains **errors**, this function does not raise an error. Likewise cursor-handling too is left to the caller.

5.2 Authentication

ghub-create-token [Command]

This command creates a new token using the values it reads from the user and then stores it according to variable **auth-sources**. It can also be called non-interactively, but you shouldn’t do that yourself.

This is useful if you want to fully setup things before attempting to make the initial request, if you want to provide fewer than the requested scopes or customize **auth-sources** first, or if something has gone wrong when using the wizard that is used when making a request without doing this first. (Note that instead of using this command you can also just repeat the initial request after making the desired adjustments — that is easier.)

This command reads, in that order, the HOST (Github instance), the USERNAME, the PACKAGE and the SCOPES in the minibuffer, providing reasonable default choices. SCOPES defaults to the scopes that PACKAGE requests using the variable **PACKAGE-github-token-scopes**.

ghub-token-scopes [Command]

Users are free to give a token access to fewer scopes than what the respective package requested. That can of course lead to issues and package maintainers have to be able to quickly determine if such a (mis-)configuration is the root cause when users report issues.

This command reads the required values in the minibuffer and then shows a message containing these values along with the scopes of the respective token. It also returns the scopes (only) when called non-interactively. Also see Chapter 4 [Using Ghub in a Package], page 7.

5.3 Configuration Variables

The username and, unless you only use Github.com itself, the Github Enterprise instance have to be configured using Git variables. In rare cases it might also be necessary to specify the identity of the local machine, which is done using a lisp variable.

github.user [Variable]

The Github.com username. This should be set globally and if you have multiple Github.com user accounts, then you should set this locally only for those repositories that you want to access using the secondary identity.

`github.HOST.user` [Variable]

This variable serves the same purpose as `github.user` but for the Github Enterprise instance identified by `HOST`.

The reason why separate variables are used is that this makes it possible to set both values globally instead of having to set one of the values locally in each and every repository that is connected to the Github Enterprise instance, not Github.com.

`github.host` [Variable]

This variable should only be set locally for a repository and specifies the Github Enterprise edition that that repository is connected to. You should not set this globally because then each and every repository becomes connected to the specified Github Enterprise instance, including those that should actually be connected to Github.com.

When this is undefined, then "api.github.com" is used (define in the constant `ghub-default-host-host`, which you should never attempt to change.)

`ghub-override-system-name` [Variable]

Ghub uses a different token for each quadruple '(USERNAME PACKAGE HOST LOCAL-MACHINE)'. Theoretically it could reuse tokens to some extent but that would be more difficult to implement, less flexible, and less secure (though slightly more convenient).

A token is identified on the respective Github instance (Github.com or a Github Enterprise instance) using the pair '(PACKAGE . LOCAL-MACHINE)', or more precisely the string "Emacs package PACKAGE @ LOCAL-MACHINE". USERNAME and HOST do not have to be encoded because the token is stored for USERNAME on HOST and cannot be used by another user and/or on another instance.

There is one potential problem though; for any given '(PACKAGE . LOCAL-MACHINE)' there can only be one token identified by "Emacs package PACKAGE @ LOCAL-MACHINE", Github does not allow multiple tokens with the same description because it uses the description as the identifier. (It could use some hash instead, but alas it does not.)

If you have multiple machines and some of them have the same name, then you should probably change that as this is not how thing ought to be. However if you dual-boot, then it might make sense to give that machine the same name regardless of what operating system you have booted into.

You could use the same token on both operating systems, but setting that up might be somewhat difficult because it is not possible to download an existing token from Github. You could of course locally copy the token, but that is inconvenient and would make it harder to only revoke the token used on your infected Windows installation without also revoking it for your totally safe *BSD installation.

Alternatively you can set this variable to a unique value, that will then be used to identify the local machine instead of the value returned by `system-name`.

6 Gitlab Support

Support for Gitlab.com and other Gitlab instances is implemented in the library `glab.el`. This library is build on top of `ghub.el` and is maintained in the same repository, but it is distributed as a separate package.

When accessing Gitlab.com or another Gitlab instance, use `glab-request` instead of `ghub-request`, `glab-get` instead of `ghub-get`, etc. Likewise use the Git variables in the `gitlab` group instead of those in the `github` group, i.e. `gitlab.user`, `gitlab.HOST.user` and `gitlab.host`.

The Gitlab API cannot be used to create tokens, so Glab cannot provide a setup wizard like Ghub does. As a consequence if the user makes a request and the necessary token cannot be found, then that results in an error.

You have to manually create and store the necessary tokens. Tokens can be created at https://gitlab.com/profile/personal_access_tokens, or the equivalent URL for another Gitlab instance. To store the token locally, follow the instructions in Section 2.3 [Manually Creating and Storing a Token], page 4, and Section 2.4 [How Ghub uses Auth-Source], page 4.

Packages can that use Glab, can define `PACKAGE-gitlab-token-scopes` for documentation purposes. But unlike `PACKAGE-github-token-scopes`, which is used by the setup wizard this is optional.

And a random hint: where you would use `user/repo` when accessing Github, you have to use `user%2Frepo` when accessing Gitlab, e.g.:

```
(glab-get "/projects/python-mode-devs%2Fpython-mode")
```