

Final 06: User Feedback with GitHub Discussions & Giscus

Start

Our last step in this introduction to basic web development will be to be able to get user feedback



Learning Objectives



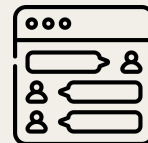
Explain the importance of user feedback in web development



Enable GitHub Discussions in a repository



Configure and install Giscus as a feedback system



Embed a comment section into your website pages



Post, read, and respond to feedback professionally

 These objectives focus on collaboration, communication, and continuous improvement.

Deliverables



✓ **GitHub Discussions enabled in your repository**



✓ **A working Giscus comment section embedded in your website**




✓ **At least one feedback comment posted on your own site**



✓ **At least one constructive comment posted on a classmate's site**



✓ **A brief reflection on how feedback could improve your project**

 If your website can receive feedback and you know how to use it, you have succeeded.



AI Learning Support for This Lesson

In this lesson, the AI tutor will support reflection and improvement.

A guided prompt is available to help you work with feedback professionally. You can use it to help you:

- Understand the purpose of user feedback
- Configure GitHub Discussions and Giscus
- Write constructive feedback for others
- Interpret feedback you receive on your own site
- Reflect on how feedback can guide future improvements

💡 Use the AI to reflect and improve — not to respond automatically.
Lesson Prompt.



Why User feedback Matters

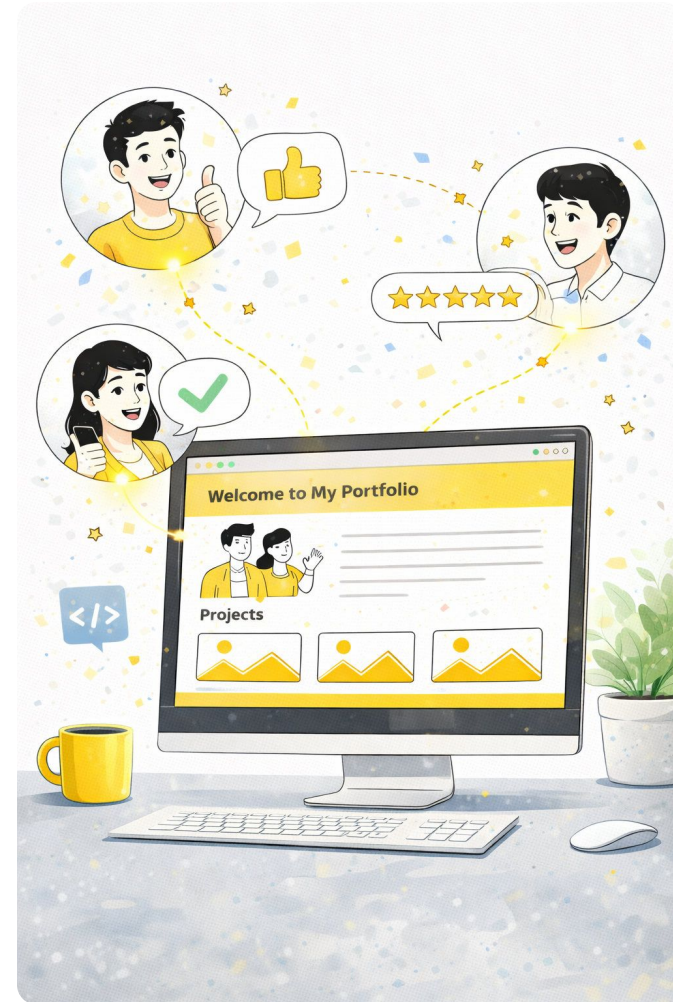
A real website is not static.

Feedback allows you to:

- Improve content
- Detect problems
- Understand users
- Show collaboration skills

💡 Feedback is a professional feature, not an extra.

Next



GitHub Discussions



What is GitHub Discussions?

GitHub Discussions is:

- A forum-like space inside your repository
- A place for questions, ideas, and feedback
- Linked directly to your project



What Discussions are used for?

You can use Discussions to:

- Collect user feedback
- Answer questions
- Discuss improvements
- Build a small community around your site



Enabling GitHub Discussions

Steps:

1. Open your GitHub repository
2. Go to Settings
3. Enable Discussions
4. Choose a default discussion category



From Discussions to Website Comments (Part 1/4)



Discussions alone live on GitHub.

To **show them on your website**, we use:
👉 **Giscus**

Giscus connects:

- GitHub Discussions
- Your website pages

giscus May 15, 2021 (App)

[giscus](#)

A comments system powered by [GitHub Discussions](#). Let visitors leave comments and reactions on your website via GitHub! Heavily inspired by [utterances](#).

- [Open source](#) 🟢
- No tracking, no ads, always free. 🙋🚫
- No database needed. All data is stored in GitHub Discussions. 🤖
- Supports [custom themes](#)! 🎨
- Supports [multiple languages](#). 🌐
- [Extensively configurable](#). ⚙️
- Automatically fetches new comments and edits from GitHub. 🔄
- [Can be self-hosted](#)! 🏠

Note

Giscus is:

- A GitHub app
- A comment system based on Discussions
- Privacy-friendly
- Easy to embed

🧠 It turns GitHub Discussions into website comments.



Installing Giscus.

Steps:

1. Open the Giscus GitHub App page
2. Install Giscus
3. Select your repository
4. Grant required permissions

🔑 Giscus needs access to Discussions:

<https://github.com/apps/giscus>



3R





arcadeatyourplace / portfolio

Type / to search

<> Code

Issues

Pull requests

Discussions

Actions

Projects

Wiki

Security

Insights

Welcome to portfolio Discussions!

Announcements · arcadeatyourplace

is:open

Sort by: Latest activity

Label

Filter: Open

New discussion

Categories

View all discussions

Announcements

General

Ideas

Polls

Q&A

Show and tell

Discussions

0

portfolio/mobile

giscus bot started last week in General

3

0

portfolio/index

giscus bot started last week in General

2

0

portfolio/ai

giscus bot started last week in General

2

1

Welcome to portfolio Discussions!

arcadeatyourplace announced last week in Announcements

1

Most helpful

Be sure to mark someone's comment as an answer if



arcadeatyourplace.github.io/portfolio/

Inbox - arcadeatyou...

arcadeatyourplace.g...

GitHub

Discussion General

0 reactions

3 comments

– powered by giscus

OldestNewest

arcadeatyourplace

Dec 22, 2025

Owner

Another one for mobile.

↑ 1

🗨

0 replies

Write a reply

EstebanGameDevelopment

Dec 22, 2025

Contributor

From my main account to mobile discussion.

↑ 1

🗨

0 replies

Write a reply

EstebanGameDevelopment

Dec 29, 2025

Contributor

Another message

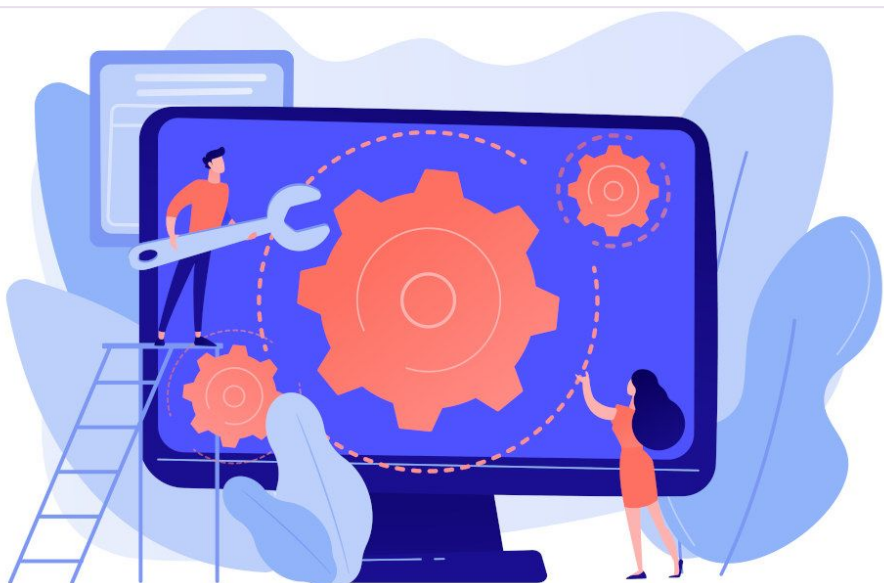
↑ 1

🗨

0 replies

Write a reply

From Discussions to Website Comments (Part 2/4)



Configuring Giscus

Now configure the integration.

[+info](#)

```
475 <h2 style="text-align:center; margin-top:40px;">
476   Discussion General
477 </h2>
478
479 <script src="https://giscus.app/client.js"
480   data-repo="arcadeatyourplace/portfolio"
481   data-repo-id="T_kgYOQoD2Gg"
482   data-category-id="CAT_kwD0QtT1Gssj0Iat"
483   data-mapping="pathname"
484   data-strict="0"
485   data-reactions-enabled="1"
486   data-emit-metadata="0"
487   data-input-position="bottom"
488   data-theme="preferred_color_scheme"
489   data-lang="en"
490   crossorigin="anonymous"
491   async>
492 </script>
493
494 </section>
495
496 <footer>
497   © 2025 Esteban Gallardo García – All rights reserved.
498 </footer>
499
500 </body>
```

Understanding the Giscus Script

The script:

- Connects your page to GitHub
- Loads comments dynamically
- Requires no backend

[+info](#)



2C






Steps:

- Open <https://giscus.app>
- Select:
 - Repository
 - Discussion category
 - Mapping method (page ↔ discussion)
- Choose:
 - Theme
 - Language

☒ **This generates a script.**



 You **don't need to understand** the code — you need to know where to place it.

```
<script src="https://giscus.app/client.js"  
  data-repo="username/project"  
  data-repo-id="R_qgDRutD9Gg"  
  data-category-id="CAT_kwDIotD7Gt4C0lat"  
  data-mapping="pathname"  
  data-strict="0"  
  data-reactions-enabled="1"  
  data-emit-metadata="0"  
  data-input-position="bottom"  
  data-theme="preferred_color_scheme"  
  data-lang="en"  
  crossorigin="anonymous"  
  async>  
</script>
```

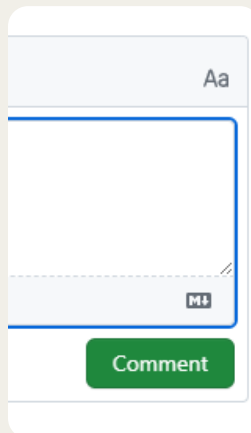
From Discussions to Website Comments (Part 3/4)

Adding Giscus script to index.html

Steps:

- 1) Open index.html in VS Code
- 2) Paste the Giscus script (near the page's bottom)
- 3) Save the file
- 4) Check locally with Live Server

💡 You should see a comment section.

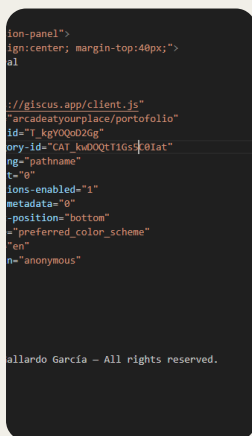


How Giscus works behind the scenes

When a user posts:

- A GitHub Discussion is created (or reused)
- Messages sync automatically
- Your website stays static

🧠 Static site + dynamic feedback = best of both worlds.



First Interaction: Posting a Message

Steps:

1. Open your page in the browser
2. Scroll to the comments section
3. Log in with GitHub
4. Post a message

💬 You've created your first live discussion.



6





Post a message

Write

Preview


Aa

My first comment

[Sign out](#)


Comment

Check the message

 **EstebanGameDevelopment** [Dec 29, 2025](#)


Another message

↑ 1




0 replies

Write a reply

 **arcadeatyourplace** [2 seconds ago](#)

My first comment

↑ 1



0 replies

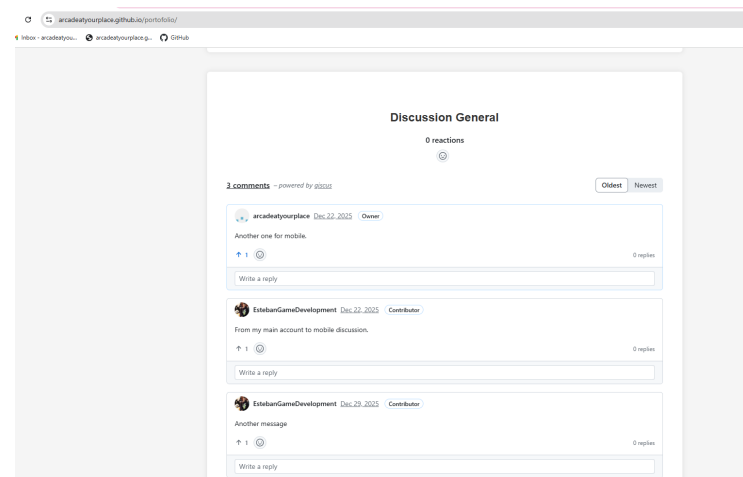
Write a reply



Paste the Giscus script

```
473
474 <section id="discussion-panel">
475   <h2 style="text-align:center; margin-top:40px;">
476     Discussion General
477   </h2>
478
479   <script src="https://giscus.app/client.js"
480     data-repo="arcadeatyourplace/portfolio"
481     data-repo-id="T_kgYOQo02Gg"
482     data-category-id="CAT_kw00QtTIGs5f0Iat"
483     data-mapping="pathname"
484     data-strict="0"
485     data-reactions-enabled="1"
486     data-emit-metadata="0"
487     data-input-position="bottom"
488     data-theme="preferred_color_schema"
489     data-lang="en"
490     crossorigin="anonymous"
491     async>
492   </script>
493 </section>
494
495 <footer>
496   © 2025 Esteban Gallardo García – All rights reserved.
497 </footer>
498
499
500 </body>
501 </html>
502
```

Check locally with Live Server



From Discussions to Website Comments (Part 4/4)



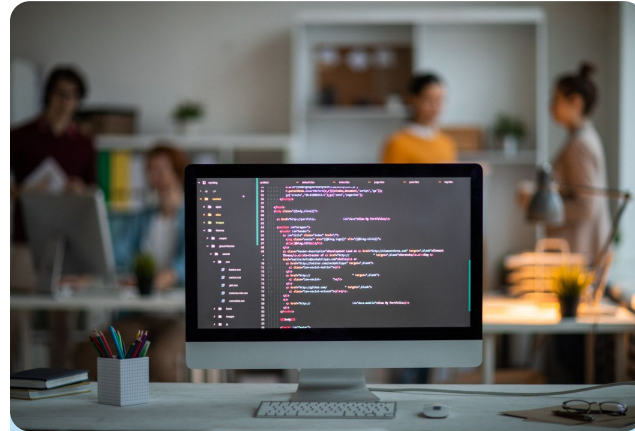
Adding Giscus to each different page.

Now we scale the idea.

Goal:

- One discussion per page
- Contextual feedback

+info

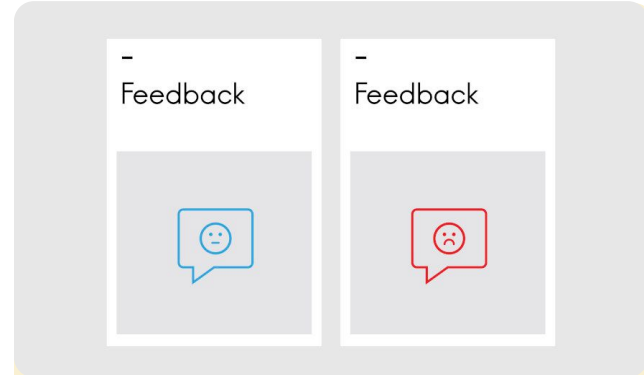


Adding the script to the pages

Steps:

1. Open mobile.html
2. Paste the Giscus script
3. Repeat for ai.html
4. Save and check locally

+info



Testing the full feedback system

Before publishing:

- Navigate between pages
- Post comments on each page
- Check discussions in GitHub

🧠 Always test as a real user.

+info



3C



What You've Achieved

By the end of the course, you can:

- Build a complete portfolio website
- Use AI as a development partner
- Work locally and deploy professionally
- Create multi-page navigation
- Collect and manage real user feedback

🚀 This is **portfolio-grade work**.

Next






Final Message

You didn't just learn:

- GitHub Pages
- VS Code
- AI tools

You learned:

How to think like a modern web creator.

 **Congratulations on completing the course.**

Next



Knowledge Test Questions

User Feedback with GitHub Discussions & Giscus



Purpose of User Feedback

Question



GitHub Discussions

Question



Role of Giscus

Question



Professional Use of Feedback

Question





Why is user feedback important for a real-world website or portfolio?

Because it automatically
fixes errors in the website

Because it replaces the
need for testing

Because it helps improve
the project and
understand users' needs



Which behavior best reflects a professional approach to user feedback?

Ignoring negative
comments

Reading feedback
carefully and using it to
guide improvements

Deleting feedback that
disagrees with your ideas



What is the main role of GitHub Discussions in this course?

To deploy the website

To collect and manage
user feedback and
discussions related to the
project

To store website files



What does Giscus allow you to do on your website?

Automatically generate
new content using AI

Embed a comment section
connected to GitHub
Discussions

Replace GitHub Pages
hosting

Help us to improve

With your feedback we will keep improving for you to get the best results



How did this lesson change (or reinforce) your understanding of user feedback in web development?

Write your answer here.

Send

Which part of setting up or using GitHub Discussions and Giscus was the most difficult for you, and why?

Write your answer here.

Send

What change would most improve this final lesson for future students?

Write your answer here.

Send

