Deploy a CI/CD Pipeline via GitLab Self-Hosted

This guide walks you through deploying a CI/CD pipeline using a self-hosted GitLab instance on Elestio.

Prerequisites

Before you begin, make sure you have:

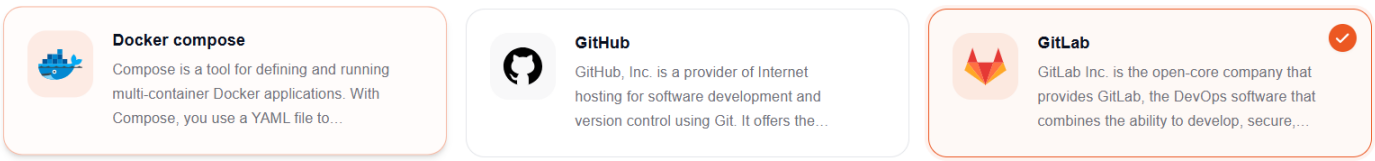
- A running self-hosted GitLab instance (e.g. `https://gitlab.example.com`)
- A **Personal Access Token (PAT)** with the `api` **scope** *(see note below)*
- A repository hosted on your GitLab instance
- An active project in Elestio

> ⚠ **Important:** Only the `api` scope is required. Additional scopes like `read_repository` or `read_user` are not necessary when `api` is enabled.

You can follow our documentation to generate the PAT.

Step 1: Select Deployment Method

1. Open your project in the Elestio dashboard
2. Navigate to **CI/CD → Create Pipeline**
3. Under **Deployment Method**, select **GitLab**

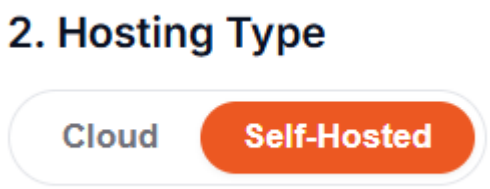


Step 2: Choose Hosting Type

After selecting GitLab, choose your hosting type:

Option	Description
Cloud	Connect to GitLab.com via OAuth
Self-Hosted	Connect using your own GitLab instance and PAT

Select **Self-Hosted** to continue.

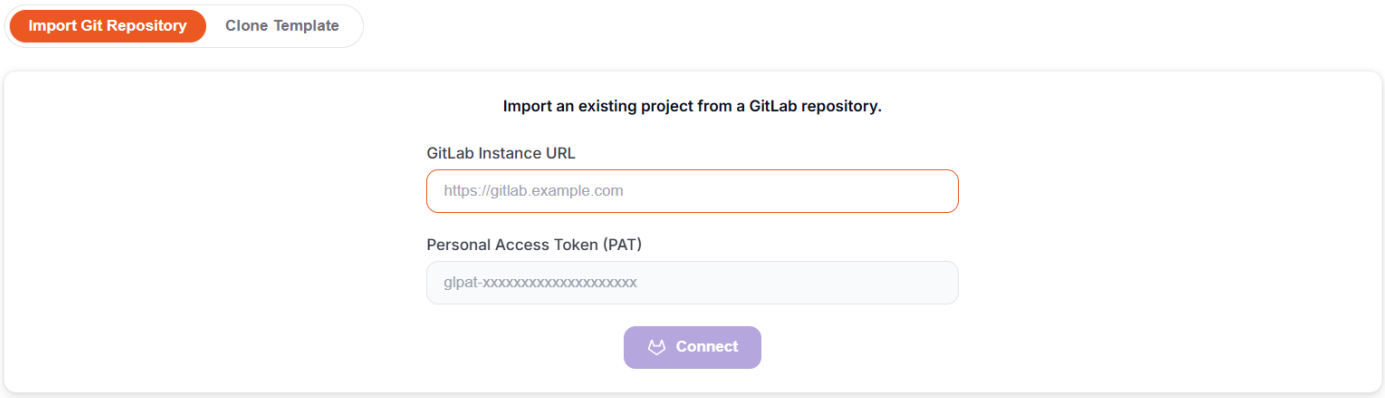


> Switching between Cloud and Self-Hosted will reset previously selected repositories and settings.

Step 3: Connect Your Self-Hosted GitLab Instance

Enter your connection details:

1. **GitLab Instance URL**
   - Example: `https://gitlab.example.com`
   - Must include protocol (`http://` or `https://`)
   - No trailing slash
2. **Personal Access Token (PAT)**
   - Paste your token (`glpat-xxxxxxxxxxxx`)
   - Field is masked for security
3. Click **Connect**



Expected result

- □ Connected message:
  “Connected as [username] on [instance URL]."
- Repository selection UI loads automatically

If connection fails

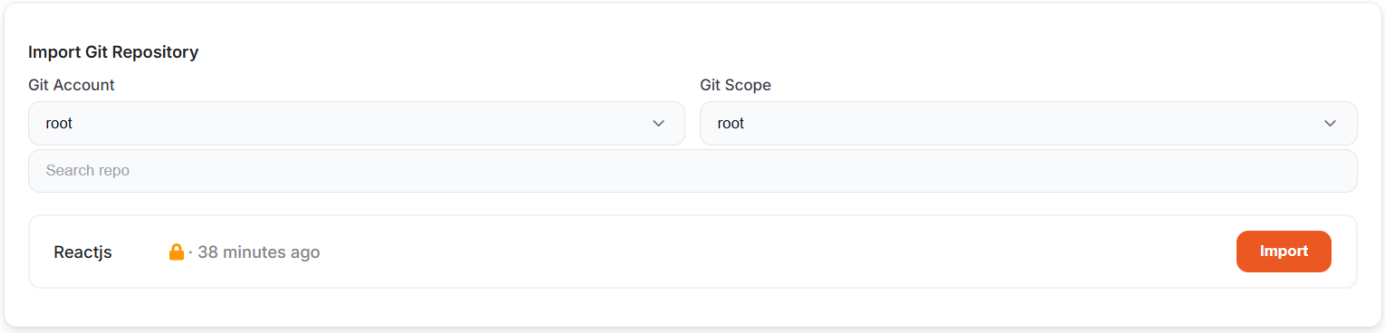
Check:

- Instance is publicly reachable
- Token includes `api` scope
- Token has not expired

Step 4: Select a Repository

Once connected, the **Import Git Repository** section appears.

1. **Git Account**
   - Your connected account is pre-selected
   - Use **Add Git Account** to connect another instance
2. **Git Scope** *(if available)*
   - Select a user, group, or organization
3. **Repository List**
   - Search or browse repositories
   - Private repos show a □□ icon
   - Click **"Import"** on your chosen repository



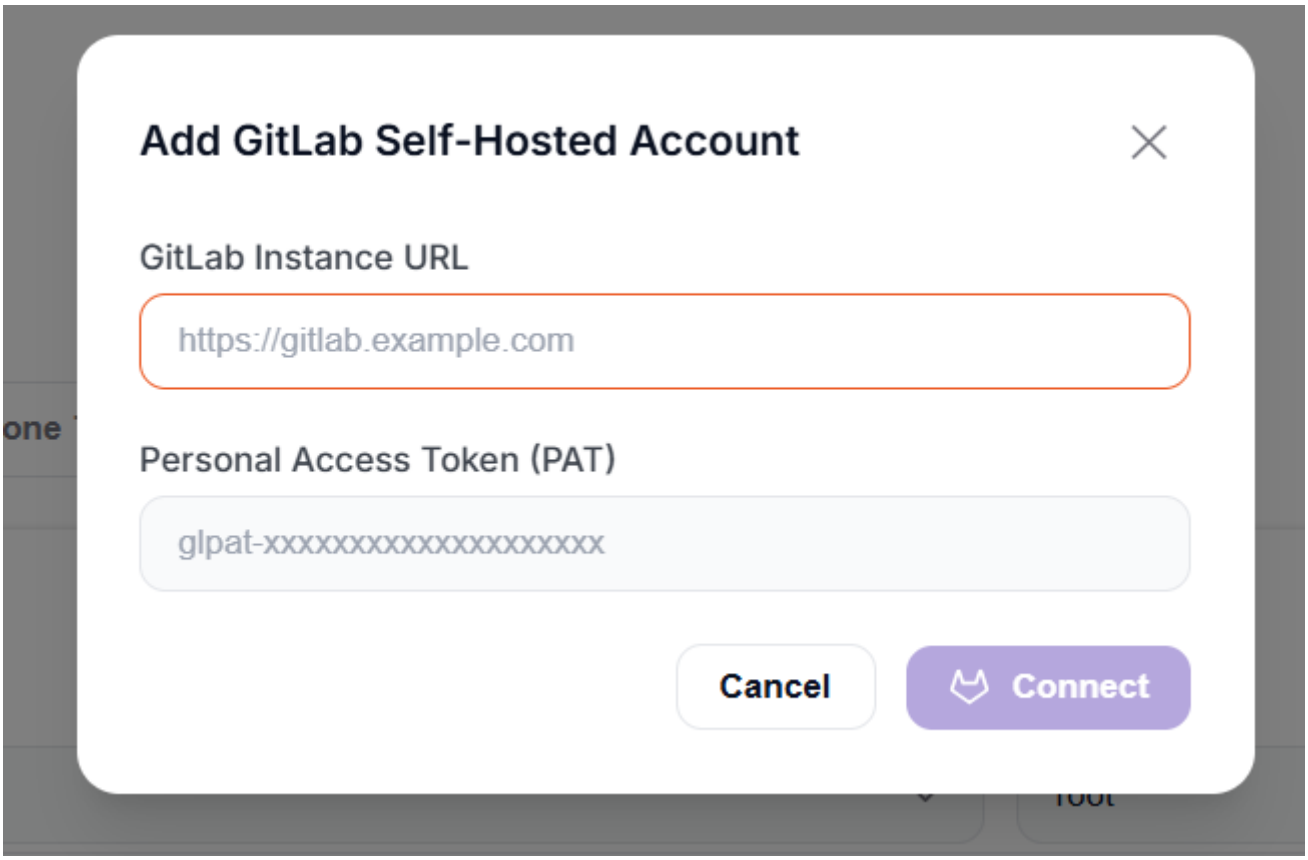
> Now, click **"Next,"** then choose the cloud provider, region, and plan. After that, configure the pipeline settings by selecting the application type, runtime, and port configuration to proceed with the deployment.

Adding Additional Self-Hosted Accounts

To connect another GitLab instance:

1. Open the **Git Account** dropdown
2. Click **Add Git Account**
3. Enter:
   - Instance URL
   - Personal Access Token (`api` scope)
4. Click **Connect**

The new account becomes active immediately.



Troubleshooting

Issue	Likely Cause	Fix
Connection fails	Invalid URL or token	Verify URL format and regenerate the PAT.
No repositories listed	Missing `api` scope	Recreate token with `api`
Branch not found	Empty repo or wrong branch	Ensure branch exists and has commits

Revision #1
Created 2026-05-15 15:03:52 UTC by Amit Shukla

Updated 2026-05-15 15:25:39 UTC by Amit Shukla