

Final?-Why Technical Writers Should Use Github to Host their Portfolios?

Although Github is not designed as a platform to host portfolios it does offer the key elements you may be looking for as a technical writer when deciding where to host your portfolio. Github provides hosting for software development and version control. This means Github has built into its foundation many qualities you may find useful for hosting your portfolio. Using Github to host a technical writing portfolio is a natural extension of Github's capabilities. This is especially relevant if you are looking to work in the IT/Tech fields of technical writing, but this does not bar entry for any technical writer no matter their career path as you can use Github to host your own webpage, which will be mentioned at the end of this article. So, what makes Github a good place to host your portfolio?

Accessibility

When considering where to host your portfolio one of the first aspects to consider is its visibility to anyone looking for it. Github can be made publicly accessible to anyone. Using Github will give you access to a platform in which you can host and organize your portfolio that is well established and already used by millions. This can be an indispensable tool when working to build your career as well as promote visibility of your projects/documents. Github also has a simple built in profile system in which you can connect with other users to view, share, and edit documentation. Having this all inclusive model will put yourself and your work into a network of professionals. This network can be used to further your contacts and perhaps your career goals within the industry.

Organization and Ease of Editing

Github provides a built in file structure that can be edited and adjusted to suite your needs. Although there is a learning curve for using Github the basics can be grasped by reading the well made documentation. All of your files can be organized around central repositories, which can be created with a built in readme document allowing anyone to look over a brief description of the documents contents or how to use the document for their needs. Github also has a built in changelog, remember this is also a version control platform, so these changelogs are very thorough. These changelogs can allow you to keep track of edits you have made to documentation as well as allow people that are seriously viewing your portfolio a glimpse into your writing process. It is important to note that this changelog will only reflect changes made to files uploaded to Github and edited on Github, which seems obvious, but this is relevant to the arguably most important final point.

Applicable Industry Knowledge

So when looking for a place to host a tech writing portfolio you may ask, why even with the above mentioned benefits should I consider using Github? The fact of the matter is, especially in tech, most companies are going to use Github to host and track their software. Simply using Github to host your own portfolio shows immediately that you are familiar with its services and tools. So just by virtue of

using Github to host a simple portfolio you are already showing a potential employer that you are competent with tools and services that are widely used in the industry. As Github has a wide variety of tools used extensively in the tech industry, so you will have to be familiar with it at some point in your tech writing career, Why not start immediately with it? Knowing how Github works and using it to host your portfolio is a simple boon that requires a little time investment upfront, but will pay off as you progress in the tech field.

Conclusion

Hosting your portfolio on Github does have a learning curve, but once the necessary vocabulary and functions are learned you will find Github to be wholly suitable for hosting a tech writing portfolio. Github is a service that is simple in its foundation and usage while remaining complex in its scope. The good thing is that this scope is entirely up to what you wish to do with the platform. It can remain as a simple service to host your files or can become a thorough and complex tool used for archiving all of your documentation and code. So it is flexible to what the user needs or desires, but it is a fact that Github is used extensively in the tech industry and learning it, even the basics, is more helpful than harmful. One of these key services mentioned briefly above is the ability to host your own webpage through Github with the use of "Github Pages". If you find you still desire a standalone webpage to personalize and use to host your portfolio this option is always available to you. These facts coupled with the already built in profile system of Github itself really provide professionals with the tools they need to break into or further their career goals in technical documentation.