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Experiment 10

Aim: To study and implement deployment of ToDo PWA to GitHub Pages.

Theory:

GitHub Pages as a PWA Hosting Platform

GitHub Pages functions as a static content delivery network (CDN), with built-in behaviors that directly impact Progressive Web App (PWA) deployment:

- Static File Model: Only delivers pre-built static assets (HTML, CSS, JS) with no support for server-side logic.
- Automatic HTTPS: Provides TLS encryption by default, fulfilling PWA security requirements.
- JAMstack-Oriented: Adheres to the JavaScript, APIs, and Markup model for frontend-backend decoupling.

PWA Deployment Considerations

To operate seamlessly on GitHub Pages, a PWA must align with its platform constraints:

- Client-Side Rendering (CSR): Utilization of CSR patterns via frameworks (e.g., React, Vue) or native JavaScript to handle routing and dynamic rendering.
- API Integration: Requires CORS-compliant external APIs for real-time data fetching.
- Resource Linking: Careful handling of absolute and relative paths to ensure proper asset loading in subdirectory-hosted repositories.

Service Worker Design Constraints

Service worker integration must be carefully scoped and optimized:

- Scope Definition: Registration path must align with the GitHub Pages directory structure.
- Caching Strategy:
 - Use cache-first for static resources to improve offline capability.
 - Apply network-first for frequently updated dynamic content or API responses.
- Versioning & Cache Busting: Leverage file hashing during build to invalidate old cached versions.

Deployment Workflow

Repository Setup:

- Specify the target branch (main or gh-pages)
- Define the build output directory (e.g., /build, /dist)
- Configure custom domain (if applicable)

Build Optimization:

• Pre-compile and minify static assets

Name:Bhushan Mukund Kor

Division: D15C Roll No: 28

Academic Year:2024-2025

- Generate route manifests for routing
- Preload critical resources for performance

Deployment Activation:

- Enable GitHub Pages under repository settings
- Integrate CI/CD pipelines for automated builds and deployments

Network Characteristics

- Cache-Control Policies: Governed by GitHub's default headers (e.g., long cache lifetimes unless manually configured)
- CDN Distribution: Assets are distributed globally, with some propagation delay
- HTTP/2 Compatibility: Enables multiplexing for improved loading speed

Testing & Validation

- Lighthouse Reports: Evaluate PWA metrics like performance, accessibility, and offline readiness
- Offline Testing: Simulate slow or no-network conditions to validate cache fallback
- Cross-Browser Checks: Ensure consistent behavior and compatibility across major browsers

Platform Limitations

- No Backend Support: All logic must be handled on the client side
- Subdirectory Hosting Complexity: Resource paths must be adapted when apps are served from nested URLs
- Size Restrictions: GitHub imposes a soft limit of 1GB per repository

Steps:

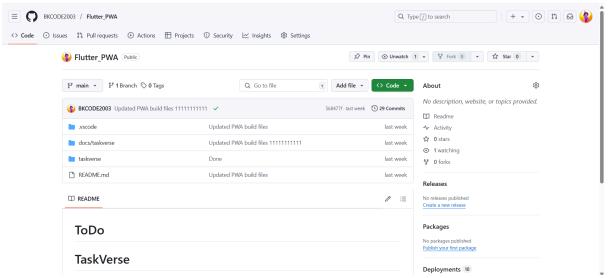
1. Create a new github repository for the project.

New repository	Q Type () to search	+ • (0) [n] (a) (
	Create a new repository A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere? Import a repository.	
	Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*). Repository template No template * Start your repository with a template repository's contents.	
	Owner * Repository name * BKCODE2003	
	Description (optional)	
	Private You choose who can see and commit to this repository. Private You choose who can see and commit to this repository.	

Name:Bhushan Mukund Kor Academic Year:2024-2025

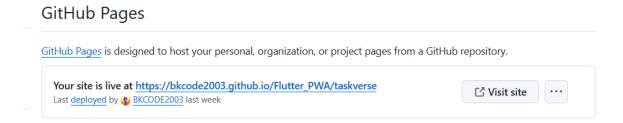
Division: D15C Roll No: 28

2. Commit all the files to the repository



- 3. Navigate to Settings -> Pages
- 4. Select source as "Deploy from a branch" and branch as the branch where your complete pwa app is.

5. After saving, wait for some time, and then reload the page. You will see the link for the hosted website.



PWA APP Link: https://bkcode2003.github.io/Flutter PWA/taskverse/

Name:Bhushan Mukund Kor Academic Year:2024-2025

Division: D15C Roll No: 28

GitHub Link: https://github.com/BKCODE2003/Flutter PWA

Conclusion: This experiment successfully showcased the deployment of a Progressive Web App (PWA) on GitHub Pages, proving it to be a viable, zero-cost hosting solution for production-ready PWAs. By carefully configuring build settings, managing asset paths, and optimizing the service worker, we confirmed that GitHub Pages fully supports essential PWA features such as offline capabilities, HTTPS security, and installability. The deployment process emphasized the significance of static site architecture and demonstrated that GitHub's infrastructure meets the technical requirements for hosting high-performance, secure progressive web applications with dependable global CDN distribution.