**Version Control – Articulate**

CSE 210 | BYU-Idaho | Nathan Parish

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May 1, 2024

Version Control is an important aspect of coding. It gives a person or group of people a record of the changes made over time and why the changes were made. As one makes a “commit” a message is required which will usually either explain what was changed or why. It also allows the person or group to go back in time, so to speak if ever needed. This has turned into one of the most valuable collaboration tools available for those in the IT world.

One very important benefit of Version Control is the ability to recover your work if a disaster or accident happens. We all know that accidents happen. We all have been in the middle of something when a disaster strikes. This disaster can be an accidental delete, some form of corruption to the file, or even a power outage. With version control all is not lost. It may not be the exact state you were working on, but you do not have to start from the beginning, saving hours, days, weeks, or even months of work.

As a student in the Web Development world version control allows me to work with fellow students on the same code but different aspects of the repository simultaneously. As a team collaborating to complete assignments and projects, version control allows each student to work on their portion while others are working on theirs. I will not be caught up waiting for another to “finish” their portion before I can begin working on my portion of the assignment. I can also see what changes another teammate has made, why, and review their work.

Git commands are shorthand codes that allow one to work from the terminal instead of the GUI. One git command that I used last semester was ***git init***. It allowed me to initialize the repository and begin working on the assignment. Another command that I used quite often was ***git pull,*** this command allowed me to update my local environment before I began working again, giving me the updated version which included the work of fellow teammates.

As we can see version control is important for anyone working alone or with a team on code over a period of time.