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GitHub is a multi-faceted Open Source developer platform in which new and upcoming programmers or older, more experienced developers can push, pull, and edit code that can then be accessed later by either themselves or others depending on the project they are working on. If they have other people also working on that project, those other people can see the edit that was done, the comments that were made with it, and then pull that code to their own desktop to edit. After they are done editing their own section, they can make what is called a ‘branch’, which just takes the code that is already on the GitHub section, make a different path that they have started to edit as to not mess with the original code, and so that if other people wanted to see what they have done without being able to mess with it, that is an option for the person making the branch.

Adding onto the branch, it can also be done as a separator for different uses for the same code. If a code can be used for three different sections but in different manners, it is possible to then make a branch of that code and make it so it can do those three specific things very well, and then merge them together to have all of them in the same document. However, doing it in different branches signifies that those are specific for the subsection it is being made for. After pushing something to a new branch, or putting your code as its next update to the code, you can then name the update and give it comments of what different things you may have changed. It is an extremely good tool for being organized and informative to your team members about what you may have been doing. It is also good in the case of if someone was possibly editing that same code themselves, if you changed something they were actively working on, they know not to pull that branch since it would get rid of their own progress.

GitHub can also be linked directly to certain IDE’s to make pushing and pulling sections of code easier and more efficient than having to download them each time from the GitHub website. Also, GitHub has their own desktop app, to make it easier and almost seamless to pull code and immediately start to work on whatever it is that is there. There is also a huge base of people that have used GitHub for multiple projects and for an abundant amount of time, so there is always someone who can help with any problems that may have appeared. I know that I needed to find a fix for my GitHub not connecting, and I found a fix from over 4 years ago that still worked today, so there will always be more and more people fixing problems and keeping it in a stable state.

There are also the bigger pictures from Branches, in which you can make a repository for those branches, almost like a huge folder. It holds all of the different files and code that you may want to upload to it, you can organize it how you wish, and you can make it Public, Private or only a certain number of people can be invited by their emails. If it is public, however, people can not update the original code. It will stay as it is but people can take and download that code for themselves. To fight tampering and to stop people from deleting someone else’s work forever just because they can, they have implemented that no one can physically mess with the saved code on the website except for the people who have been invited to edit the code by the owner. Being able to signify who can change the base code is an amazing feature to have, and it allows multiple people to make changes in a quick manner in case something goes wrong, or something isn’t what its supposed to be. Not to mention, things can just be deleted from the code and updated immediately. It will post an update on the main homepage, and if it was deleted improperly or wasn’t supposed to be deleted at all, that change can be reverted back to its previous state.