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MART 120

Homework 1

1-18-21

GitHub – To GUI or not to GUI?

I’ve previously used GitHub for a couple Computer Science classes. In both instances, I didn’t understand what it was doing or how it worked. We were instructed how to “push” and “pull” through the console in Linux and I just blindly copied what was typed out for us. I was able to work around it to some extent by manually uploading and downloading files through the web interface, but I know that’s not the correct or best way to use it. I look forward to learning more about it through using it in this course and hopefully I can get comfortable with at least one of the many ways to use it. The question is then: To GUI or not to GUI?

As much as I’m computer savvy and enjoy things like coding, I do like a nice GUI. Sure, you can pretend to be a master hacker, typing in commands in a console rather than dragging and dropping. But that simple act of visibly moving a file from one location to another requires significantly less brain power to accomplish. In these trying times we find ourselves in, reducing mental load is certainly a factor worth considering.

Installing the GitHub application was a breeze, though its usage was slightly less so. Perhaps it was more my incomplete understanding rather than the actual quality of the software, but I found it rather unintuitive to use. After tooling around for a bit, I found it pretty easy to drag files and folders into the GitHub app, but it took a little trial and error to find how to finally commit the change to my repository. Now that I know, I find it fairly easy to use, I just need to remember to jump through a couple hoops in the right order to commit changes.