*What is GitHub?*

GitHub is a web-based Git repository hosting service, which provides all of the distributed revision control and source code management (SCM) functionality of Git plus the addition of it own unique features.

*When was it created?*

Development of GitHub began on October 1, 2007. The website was active in April 2008 by Tom Preston-Werner, Chris Wanstrath, and PJ Hyett. It had been available for a few months prior in its beta phase. It was created because of a need for speed and distribution and the ability to handle large code bases within a distributed repositiory.

*What similar platforms exist?*

There are many platforms that are similar to GitHub; I will name at least five that have a similar purpose as GitHub.

1. **Source Forge** - is a web-based source code repository. It acts as a centralized location for software developers to control and manage open source software development.
2. **BitBucket** - is a code hosting site, for the Git and Mercurial version control systems. It provides a fully featured environment for managing development, including a wiki, a powerful issue tracker.
3. **Redmine - is** a flexible project management web application. Written using Ruby on Rails framework, it is cross-platform and cross-database.
4. **GitLab - is** a github like ruby webserver. It allows you to manage Git projects. It provides issue tracking, wiki, "project wall", snippet, and user profile.
5. **LaunchPad -** Launchpad is a collaboration and Bazaar code hosting platform for open-source software projects. Hosting is free for public projects

Repository – A location is where our files can be stored and additional files can be added and deleted.

Commit – Is to store our staged changes of our files.

Push – Tell us where to put our commits when we are ready.

Branch – A copy of our code we can make separate commits to.

Fork - creates a "copy" that you can then modify independently. This may be one of your own repositories, someone else's repository, or a private repository that somebody else has shared with you.

Merge - After you have finished implementing a new feature on a branch, you want to bring that new feature into the main branch, so that everyone can use it.

Clone - f you need to collaborate with someone on a project, or if you want to get a copy of a project so you can look at or use the code, you will clone it.

Pull – brings down the latest changes that were made.

Pull request - let you tell others about changes you've pushed to a repository on GitHub.