

DRP Git Usage

Preface

This document will describe my usage of git in this project and knowledge that might not apply here. This is part of the git transferability document but as the content doesn't fit in with the rest I decided to make a separate document for it.

Why use Git?

For this project I set up git repository on GitHub. My reason for this is quite simple, I believe that for any project some form of version control is a necessity. Some advantages of keeping a git repository are:

- Being able to easily recover old versions of the project if a mistake was made.
- Have multiple branches running of the same project for testing/developing/publishing.
- Using online repository hosting websites to share the project and allow for transferability.
- When using a website that host your git repository online, multiple developers are able to work in the same file(with some restrictions) and merge their combined work.
- Pull request for team leaders to see what changes are being made by what developer.

Usage of Git in DRP

Working from multiple computers

When I setup the Git(Hub) repository, my main goal was to be able to save and backup the project. And quickly transfer my work between my personal computer and my school laptop. As my pc is a lot more powerful than my laptop this allows me to still work on my notebooks while in the train or at school and then test them when I get home. And if there are still changes pending I am able to easily merge the 2 versions.

I also made use of the commit history to recover some of the old tutorial notebook files that I thought I no longer needed.

Extending functionality

While these are basic uses of Git, Github allows me to extend the version control functionality at any point if other developers were to join me for the project. If that was the case, I would be able to easily setup additional branches for both the model development and dashboard application, and create a main branch where they could be combined.

Conclusion

I've used git daily during development even while working as the only developer. The benefits of being able save and backup your project and continue working on it from anywhere are very high. These benefits become more a necessity as you start working on the project with multiple developers as the functionality expands greatly. Additionally non developers will be able to see the commit/pull/merge history of the project and learn what progress is being made.

The benefits of git make it a must have for any IT project, and I will continue to use it going forward with other projects.