**What is GitHub? When was it created? Why? By who? What similar platforms exist? Why would you use such a platform?**

GitHub is a website and cloud-based service that helps developers store and manage their code, as well as track and control changes to their code. GitHub is a web-based version-control and collaboration platform for software developers.

GitHub was developed by Chris Wanstrath, PJ Hyett, Tom Preston-Werner and Scott Chacon using Ruby on Rails, and started on February 08, 2008.

Platforms similar to GitHub are: Bitbucket, SourceForge, GitLab, Kiln, Codeplane, CodePlex, Beanstalk.

GitHub offers a cloud-based Git repository hosting service which makes it a lot easier for individuals and teams to use Git for version control and collaboration. Since, GitHub’s interface is user-friendly enough, even novice coders can take advantage of GitHub. Additionally, anyone can sign up and host a public code repository for free, which makes GitHub especially popular with open-source projects.

**Definitions:**

Repository- A repository, or Git project, encompasses the entire collection of files and folders associated with a project, along with each file’s revision history. The file history appears as snapshots in time called commits, and the commits exist as a linked-list relationship, and can be organized into multiple lines of development called branches.

Commit-It saves the snapshot to the project history and completes the change-tracking process. In short, a commit functions like taking a photo. Anything that’s been staged with git add will become a part of the snapshot with git commit.

Push- It updates the remote repository with any commits made locally to a branch

Branch-It shows the branches being worked on locally.

Fork- It is a copy of the repository. It allows to freely experiment with changes without affecting the original project.

Merge- It merges lines of development together. This command is typically used to combine changes made on two distinct branches.

Clone- It creates a local copy of a project that already exists remotely. The clone includes all the project’s files, history, and branches.

Pull- It updates the local line of development with updates from its remote counterpart. Developers use this command if a teammate has made commits to a branch on a remote, and they would like to reflect those changes in their local environment.

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