Visualize-R

BIOL 432 – Assignment 2

1. **Briefly explain the main differences between a ‘save’, ‘commit’, ‘branch’ and ‘merge’ when working with Git and GitHub**

*Save:* saves the project current changes without “committing” them to the official version history of the project

*Commit:* takes a snapshot of the project’s current changes and saves them to a version history of the project

*Branch:* allows you to create independent development environments within a single repository. So you can go back through your commits and create a new ‘branch’ from an older commit to create a slightly different version of your existing project (create a forked history)

*Merge:* allows you to merge independent lines of development back into a single branch (put a forked history back together)

1. **Why are commits more advantageous than regularly saving your files?**

Commits allow you to access the project history, so you can go back to older versions of your official project.

1. **What is the .gitignore file used for?**

The .gitignore file is used to store files that Git is explicitly told to ignore within the project

1. **What are ‘push’ and ‘pull’ used for?**

*Push:* used for sending the recent commit history from your local repository to a remote repository (upload from local repository to GitHub)

*Pull*: used to fetch and download content from a remote repository and immediately update the local repository to match that content (merge from GitHub to local repository)

1. **What’s the difference between Git and GitHub?**

Git is a version control system that lets you manage and keep track of your source code history. GitHub is a cloud-based hosting service that lets you manage Git repositories.

1. **What is your GitHub username?**

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