

Vellore Institute of Technology (Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

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Course Code: ITE1008

Course Name: Open Source Programming

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Course Slot: B1 + TB1

Assignment No.: 1 [Theory]

My GitHub Profile: https://www.github.com/aashish22bansal

My Portfolio Website: https://aashish22bansal.github.io

Assignment Link on Personal GitHub: https://github.com/aashish22bansal/VIT-

Assignments/tree/master/ITE1008%20PE%20Open%20Source%20Programming/Digital%20Assignment%201

Assignment Link on Classroom GitHub: https://github.com/JayakumarClassroom/fs20-ite1008-da1-b1-aashish22bansal

Case Study on GitHub Version Control

Question 1

Write down the step by step process of GitHub working methodology and different ways to access GitHub.

Answer

Working Methodology

GitHub is a web-based platform used for version control. Git simplifies the process of working with other people and makes it easy to collaborate on projects. Team mates can work on files and easily merge their changes in with the master branch of the project.

Step 1: What is GitHub?

GitHub is a file or code-sharing service to collaborate with different people. GitHub is a highly used software that is typically used for version control. It is helpful when more than just one person is working on a project. For example, a software developer team wants to build a website and everyone has to update their codes simultaneously while working on the project. In this case, GitHub helps them to build a centralized repository where everyone can upload, edit, and manage the code files.



Why is GitHub so popular?

GitHub has various advantages but many people often have a doubt as to why not use dropbox or any cloud-based system? Say more than two software developers are working on the same file and they want to update it simultaneously. Unfortunately, the person who save the file first will get precedence over the others. While in GitHub, this is not the case. GitHub document the changes and reflect them in an organized manner to avoid any chaos between any of the files uploaded. Therefore, using GitHub centralized repository, it avoids all the confusion and working on the same code becomes very easy.

If you look at the image on the right, GitHub is a central repository and Git is a tool which allows you to create a local repository. Now people usually get confused between git and GitHub but it's actually very different. Git is a version control tool that will allow you to perform all kinds of operations to fetch data from the central server or push data to it whereas GitHub is a core hosting platform for version control collaboration. GitHub is a company that allows you to host a central repository in a remote server.

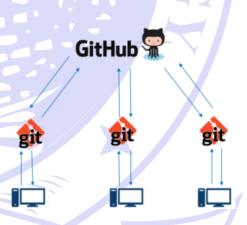
Now, ways in which GitHub makes git simple:

- GitHub provides you a beautiful visual interface which helps you to track or manage your version-controlled projects locally.
- Once you register on GitHub, you can connect with social network and build a strong profile.

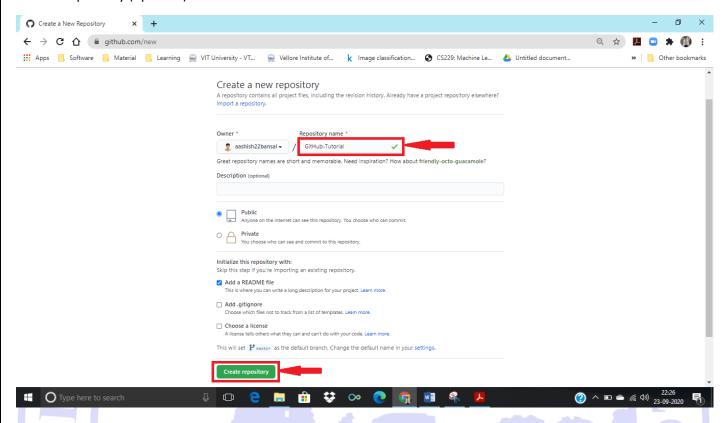
Step 2: How to create a GitHub Repository?

A repository is a storage space where your project lives. It can be local to a folder on your computer, or it can be a storage space on GitHub or another online host. You can keep code files, text files, images or any kind of a file in a repository. You need a GitHub repository when you have done some changes and are ready to be uploaded. This GitHub repository acts as your remote repository. So, let me make your task easy, just follow these simple steps to create a GitHub repository:

- Go to the link: https://github.com/. Fill the sign-up form and click on "Sign up for GitHub".
- Click on 'New' in the 'Repositories' Section.

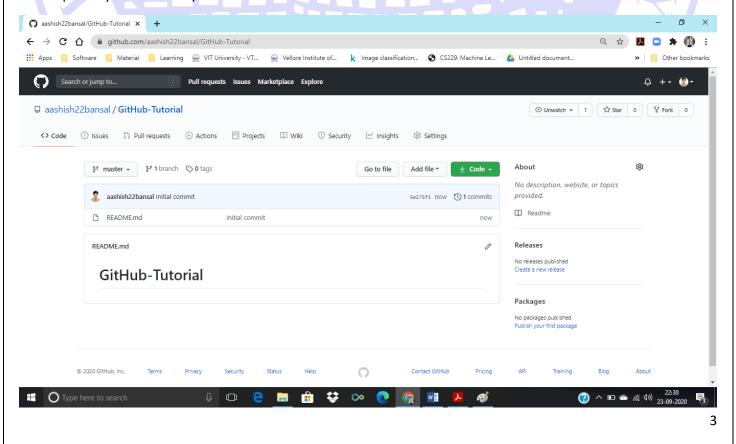


• Enter any repository name and click on "Create Repository". You can also give a description to your repository (optional).



Now, if you noticed by default a GitHub repository is public which means that anyone can view the contents of this repository whereas in a private repository, you can choose who can view the content. Also, private repository is a paid version. Also, if you refer the above screenshot, initialize the repository with a README file. This file contains the description of the file and once you check this box, this will be the first file inside your repository.

Your repository is successfully created! It will look like the below screenshot:



So now a central repository has been successfully created! Once this is done, you are ready to commit, pull, push and perform all the other operations.

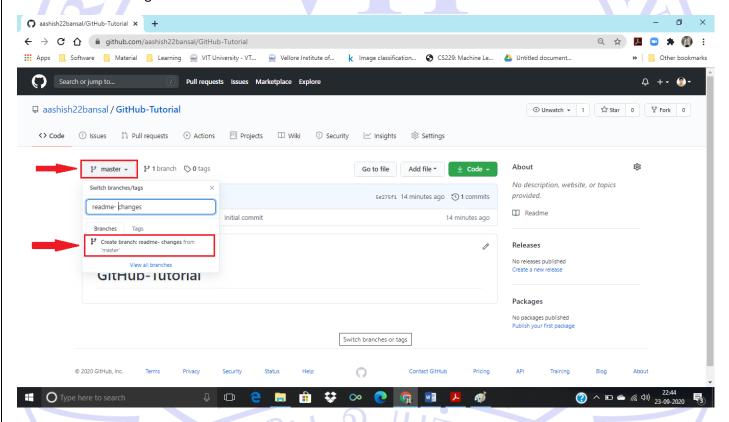
Step 3: Create Branches and Perform Operations

Branching: Branches help you to work on different versions of a repository at one time. Let's say you want to add a new feature (which is in the development phase), and you are afraid at the same time whether to make changes to your main project or not. This is where git branching comes to rescue. Branches allow you to move back and forth between the different states/versions of a project. In the above scenario, you can create a new branch and test the new feature without affecting the main branch. Once you are done with it, you can merge the changes from new branch to the main branch. Here the main branch is the master branch, which is there in your repository by default.

There is a master branch which has a new branch for testing. Under this branch, two set of changes are done and once it completed, it is merged back to the master branch. This is how branching works.

To create a branch in GitHub, follow the below steps:

- Click on the dropdown "Branch: master"
- As soon as you click on the branch, you can find an existing branch or you can create a new one. In my case, I
 am creating a new branch with a name "readme- changes". Refer to the below screenshot for better
 understanding.



Once you have created a new branch, you have two branches in your repository now i.e. read-me (master branch) and 'readme- changes'. The new branch is just the copy of master branch. So, let's perform some changes in our new branch and make it look different from the master branch.

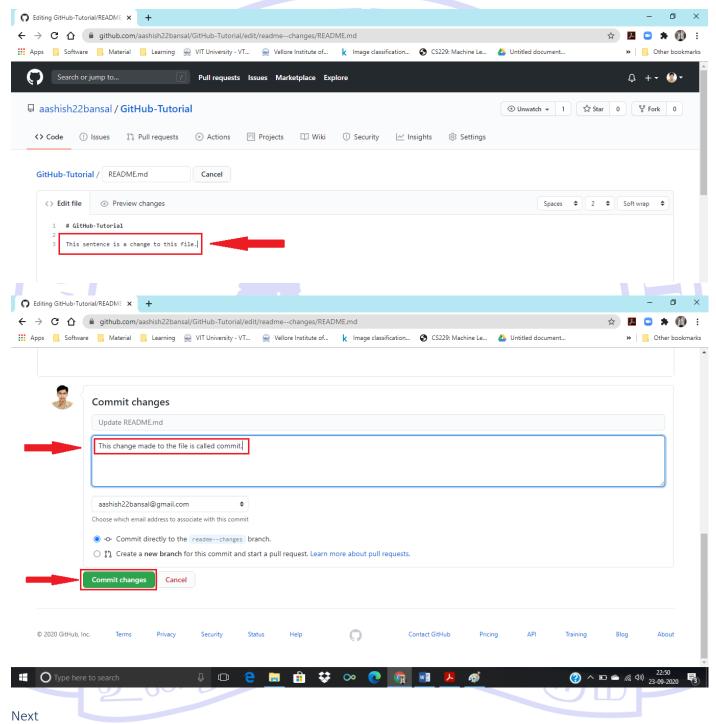
How to use GitHub: Operations

Commit Command:

This operation helps you to save the changes in your file. When you commit a file, you should always provide the message, just to keep in the mind the changes done by you. Though this message is not compulsory but it is always recommended so that it can differentiate the various versions or commits you have done so far to your repository. These commit messages maintain the history of changes which in turn help other contributors to understand the file better. Now let's make our first commit, follow the below steps:

- Click on "readme- changes" file which we have just created.
- Click on the "edit" or a pencil icon in the rightmost corner of the file.
- Once you click on that, an editor will open where you can type in the changes or anything.
- Write a commit message which identifies your changes.
- Click commit changes in the end.

Refer to the below screenshot for better understanding:



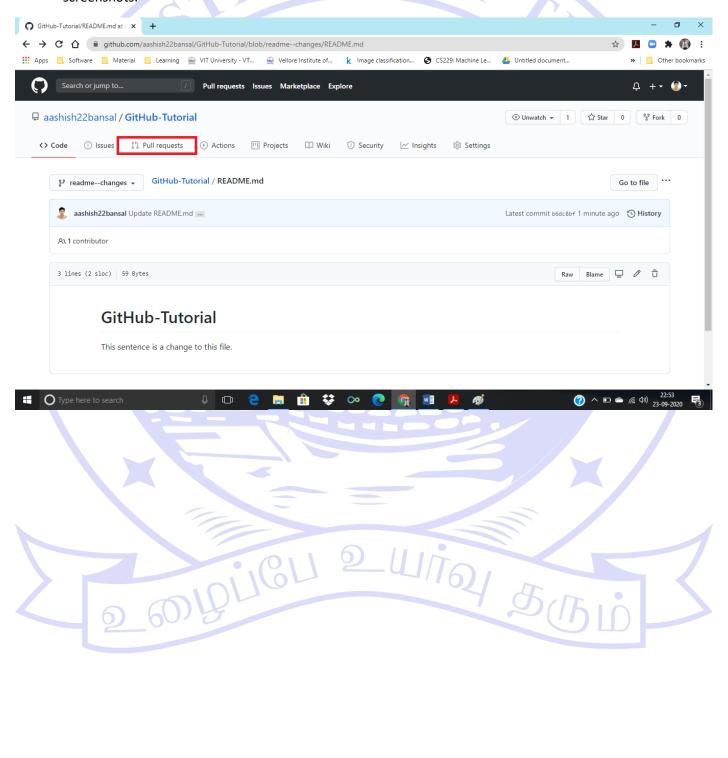
We have successfully made our first commit. Now this "readme- changes" file is different from the master branch. Next, let us see how can we open a pull request.

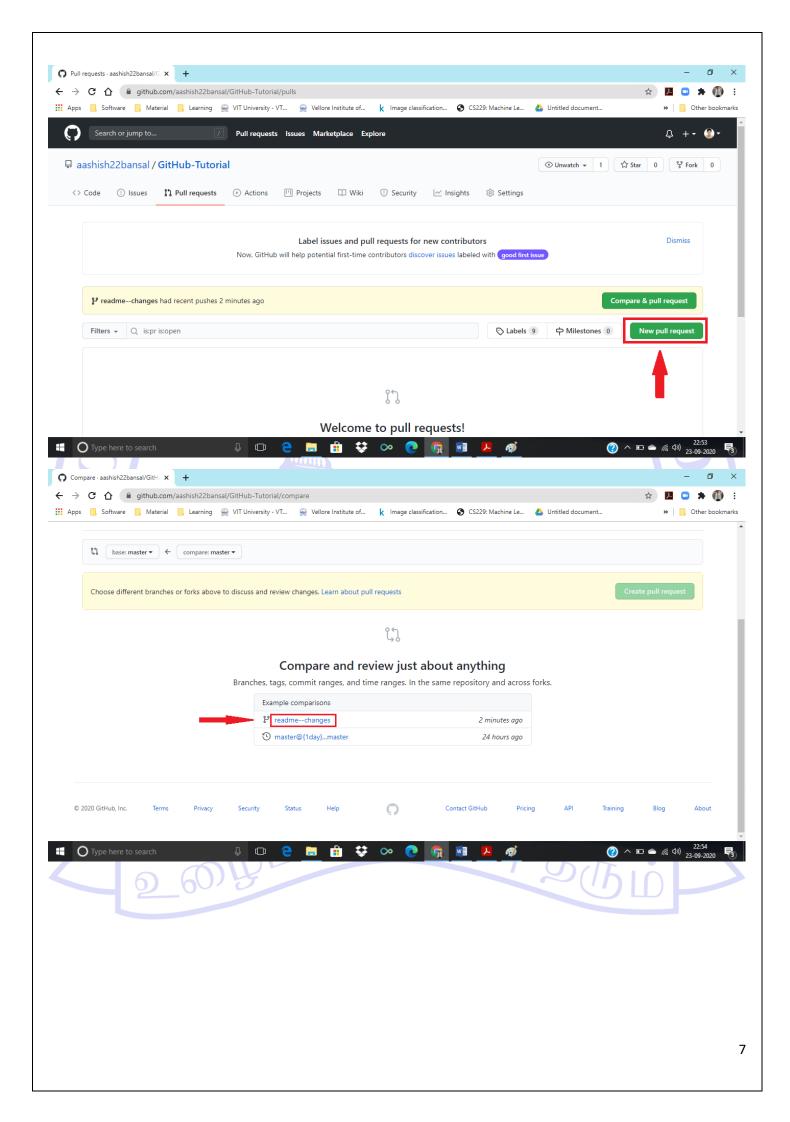
Pull Command

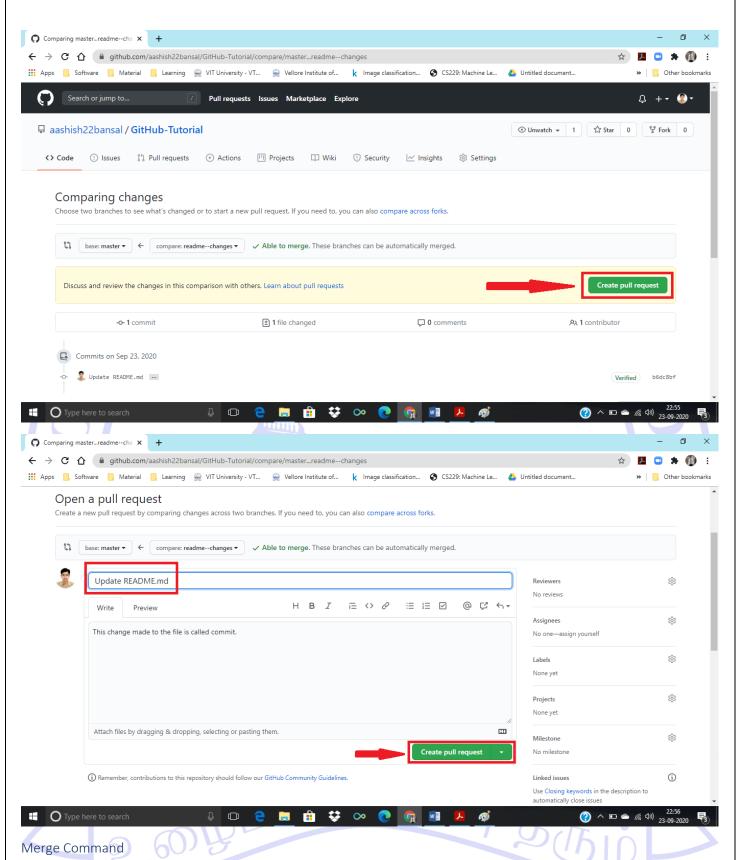
Pull command is the most important command in GitHub. It tells the changes done in the file and request other contributors to view it as well as merge it with the master branch. Once the commit is done, anyone can pull the file

and can start a discussion over it. Once it's all done, you can merge the file. Pull command compares the changes which are done in the file and if there are any conflicts, you can manually resolve it. Now let us see different steps involved to pull request in GitHub.

- Click the 'Pull requests' tab.
- Click 'New pull request'.
- Once you click on pull request, select the branch and click 'readme- changes' file to view changes between
 the two files present in our repository.
- Click "Create pull request".
- Enter any title, description to your changes and click on "Create pull request". Refer to the below screenshots.

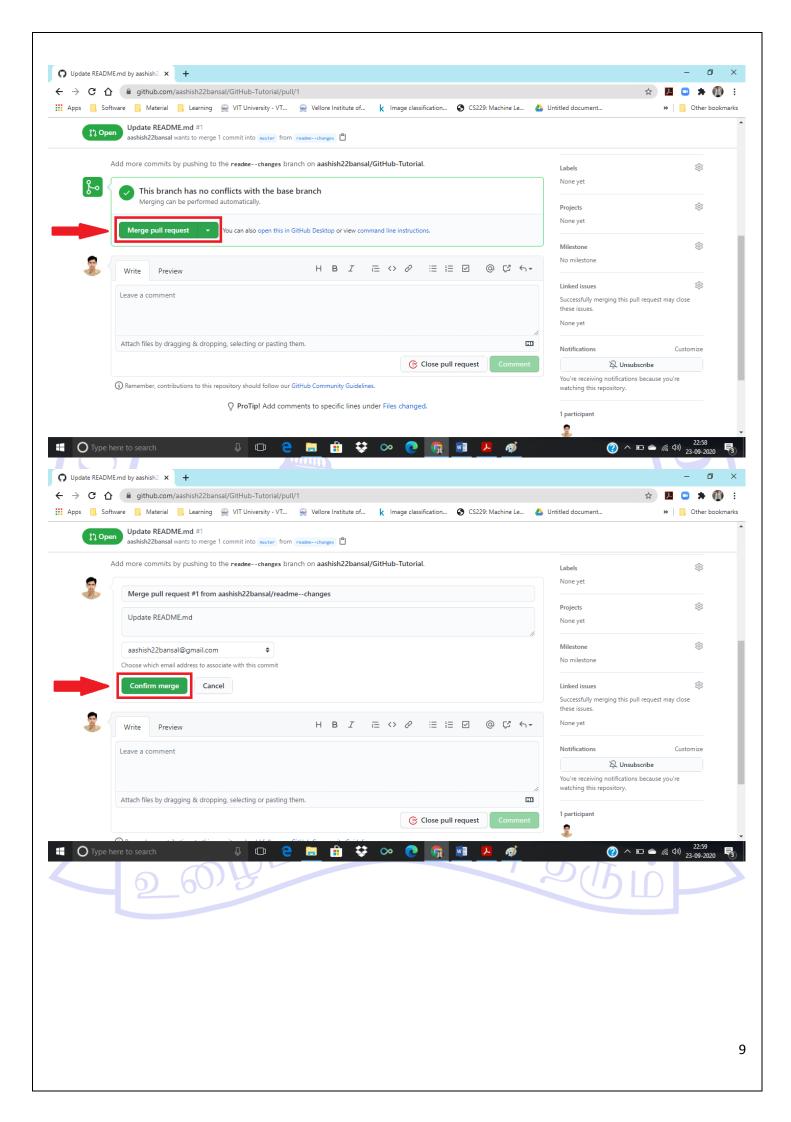


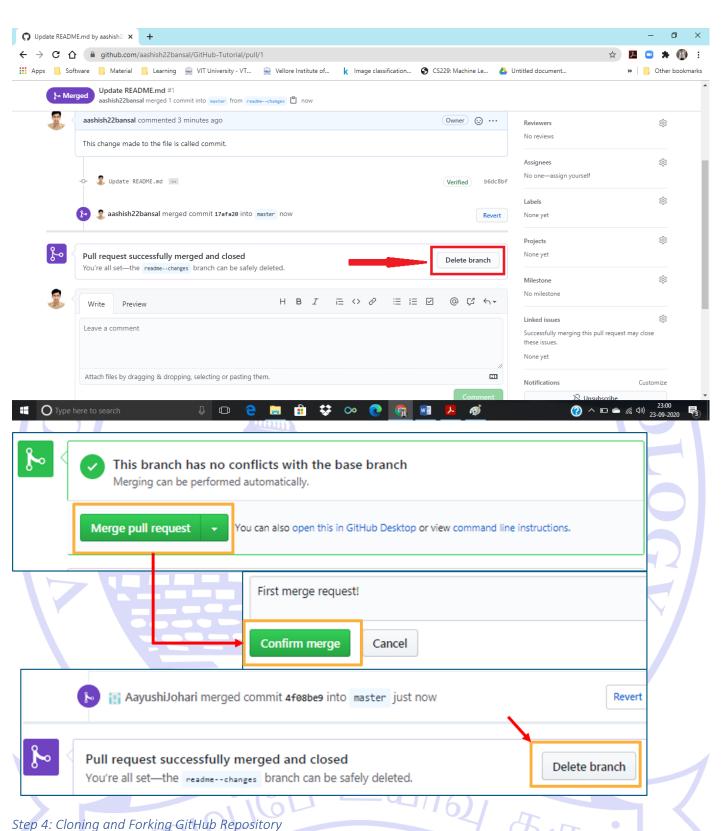




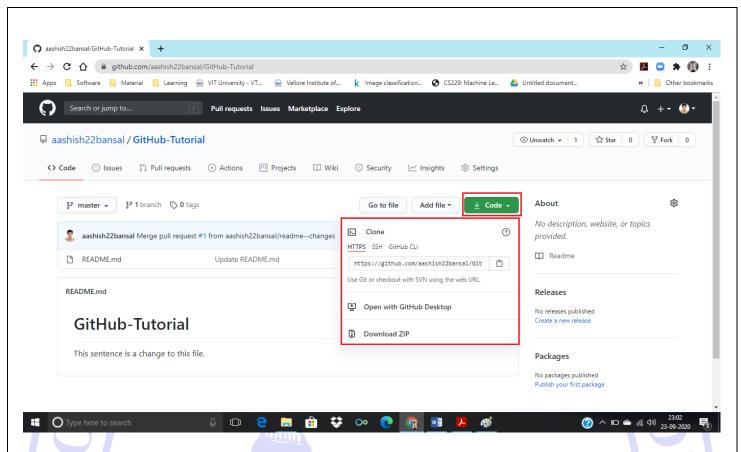
Here comes the last command which merge the changes into the main master branch. We saw the changes in pink and green colour, now let's merge the "readme- changes" file with the master branch/ read-me. Go through the below steps to merge pull request.

- Click on "Merge pull request" to merge the changes into master branch.
- Click "Confirm merge".
- You can delete the branch once all the changes have been incorporated and if there are no conflicts. Refer to the below screenshots.





Cloning: Suppose you want to use some code which is present in a public repository, you can directly copy the contents by cloning or downloading.



Forking: Suppose, you need some code which is present in a public repository, under your repository and GitHub account. For this, we need to fork a repository.

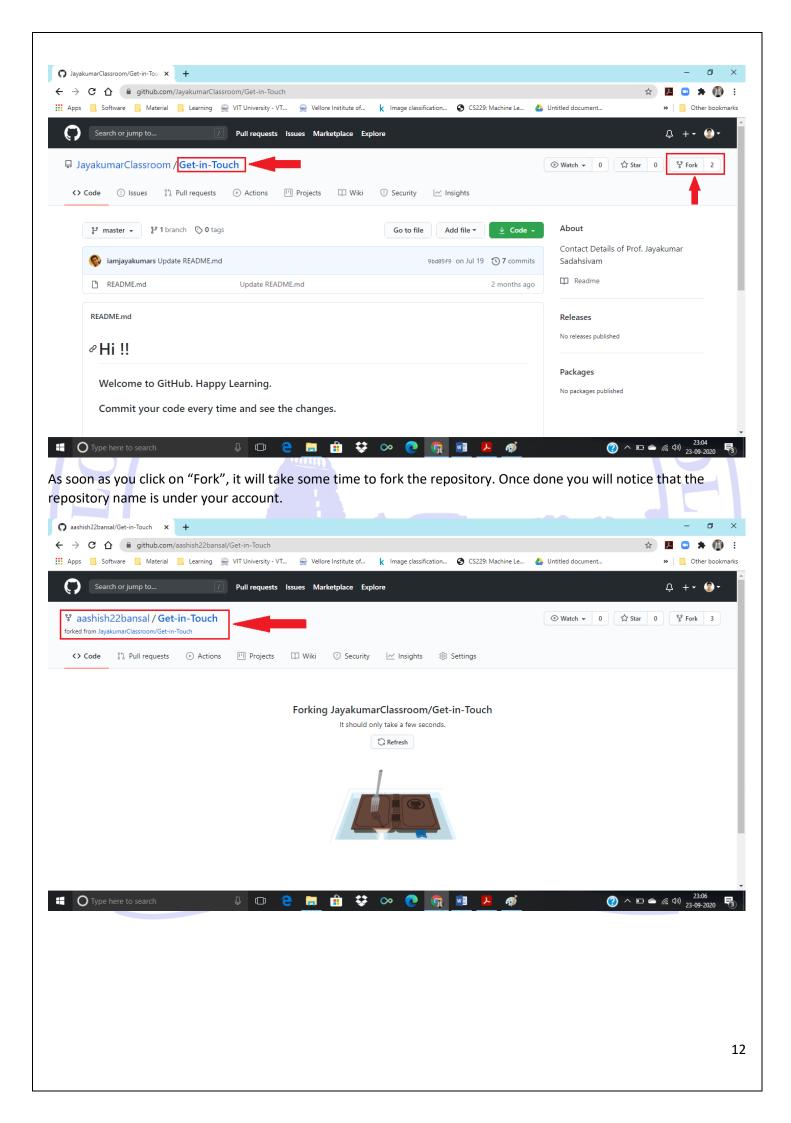
Before we get started with forking, there are some important points which you should always keep in mind.

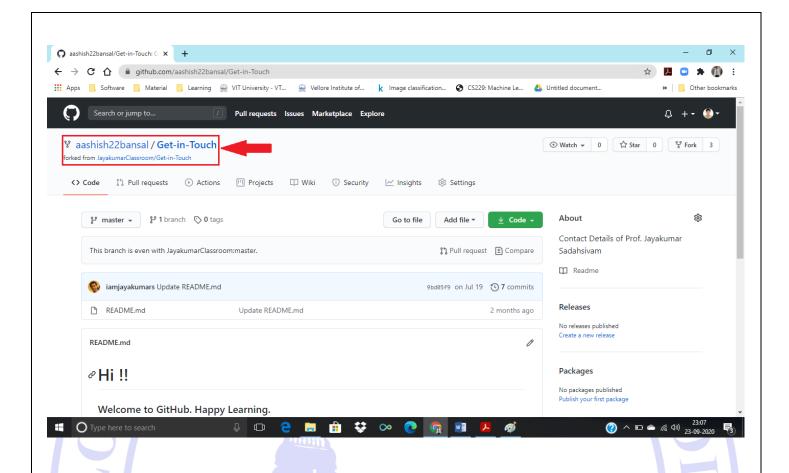
- Changes done to the original repository will be reflected back to the forked repository.
- If you make a change in forked repository, it will not be reflected to the original repository until and unless you have made a pull request.

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Now let's see how can you want to fork a repository. For that, follow the below steps:

• Click "fork". Note that this "Get-in-Touch" repository is already forked 2 times and it is under "google" account.





Different Ways to Access GitHub

While you can grant read/write access to collaborators on a personal repository, members of an organization can have more granular access permissions for the organization's repositories.

Personal user accounts

A repository owned by a user account has two permission levels: the repository owner and collaborators.

Organization accounts

Organization members can have *owner*, *billing manager*, or *member* roles. Owners have complete administrative access to your organization, while billing managers can manage billing settings. Member is the default role for everyone else. You can manage access permissions for multiple members at a time with teams

Enterprise accounts

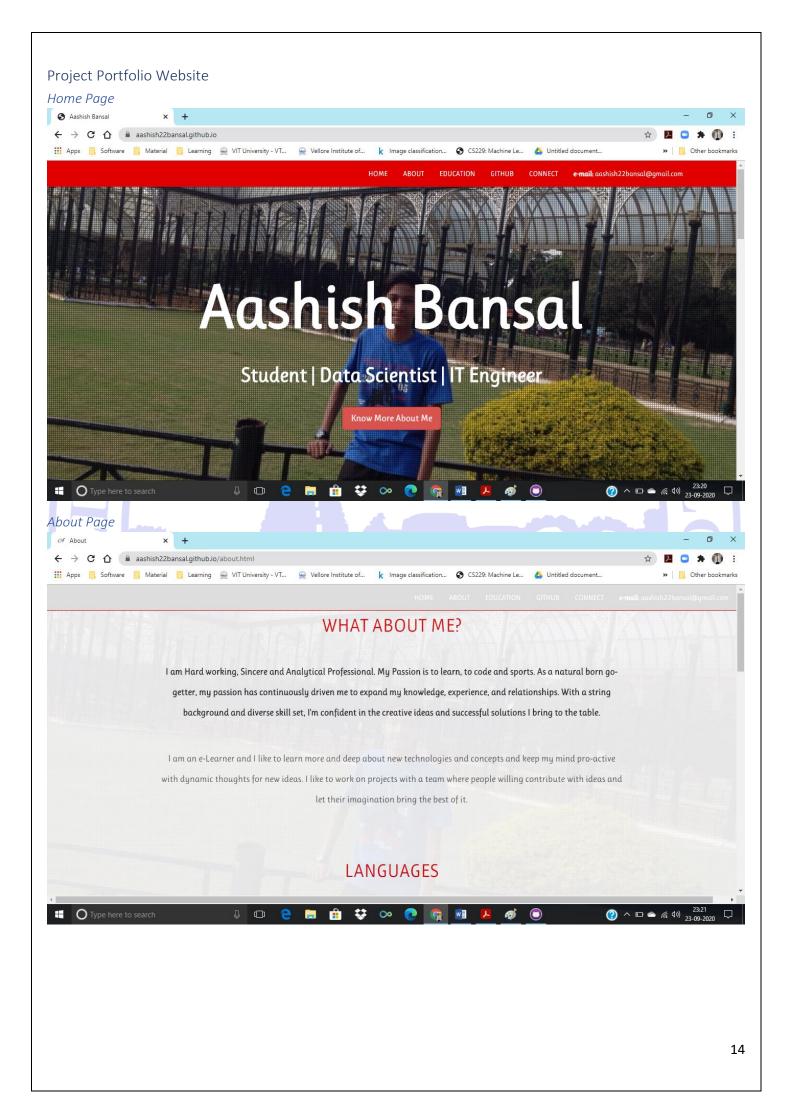
Enterprise owners have ultimate power over the enterprise account and can take every action in the enterprise account. Billing managers can manage your enterprise account's billing settings. Members and outside collaborators of organizations owned by your enterprise account are automatically members of the enterprise account, although they have no access to the enterprise account itself or its settings. Enterprise accounts are available with GitHub Enterprise Cloud and GitHub Enterprise Server.

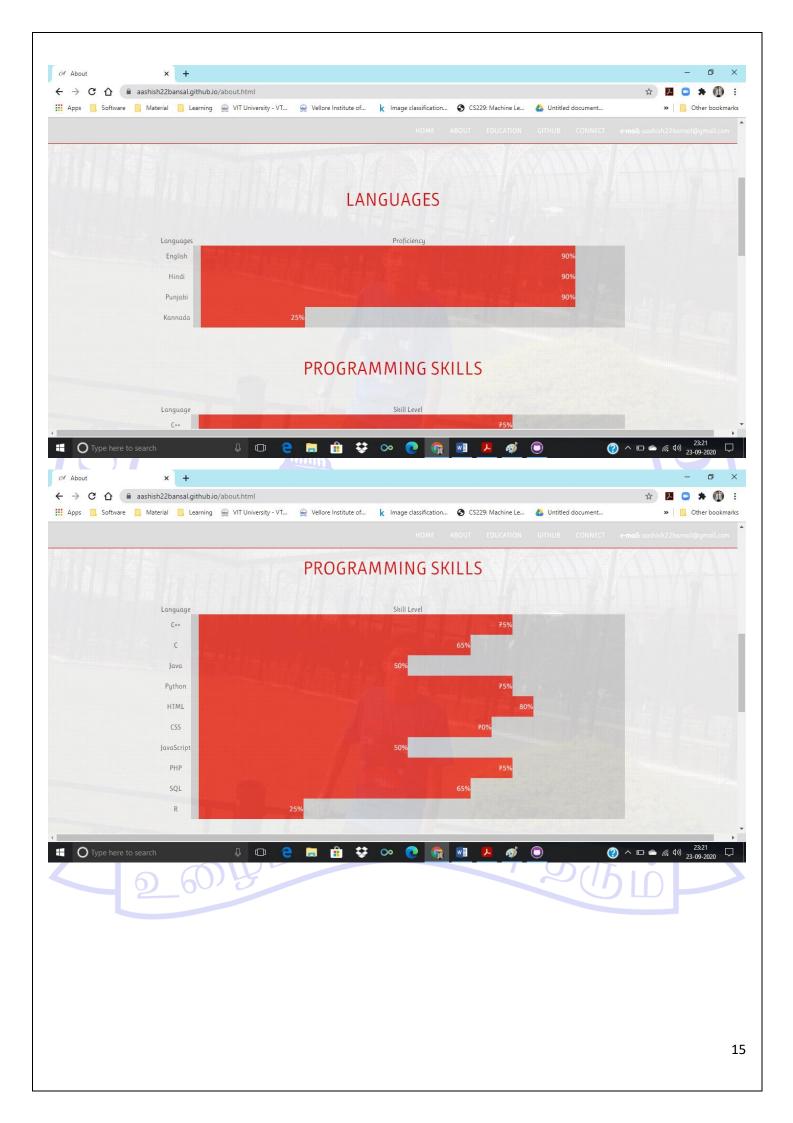
Question 2

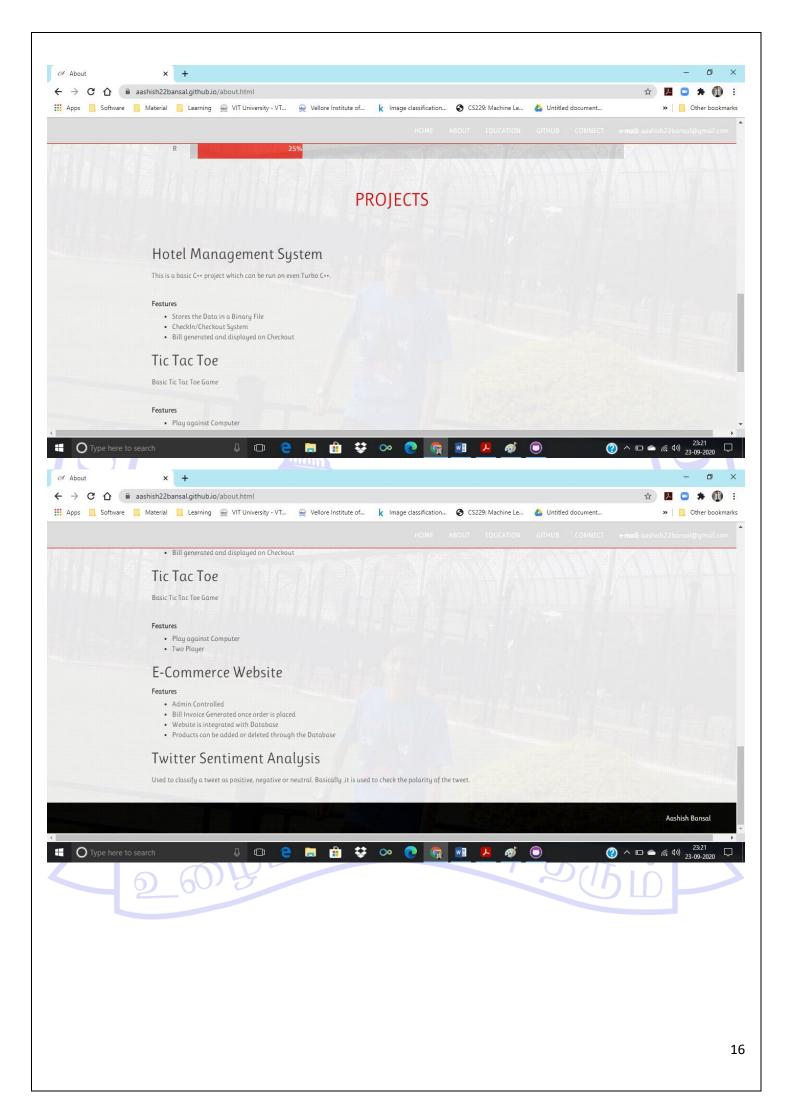
Host your Personal Portfolio in GitHub and provide the screenshot of the project and version history.

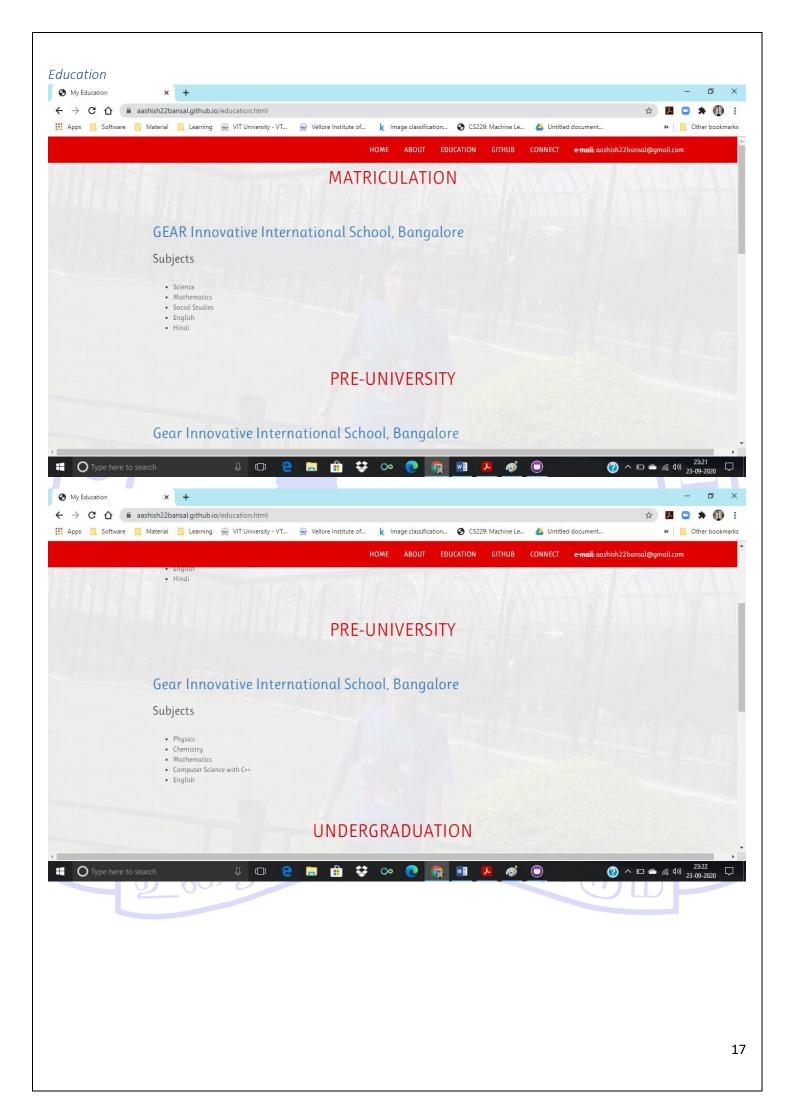
Answer

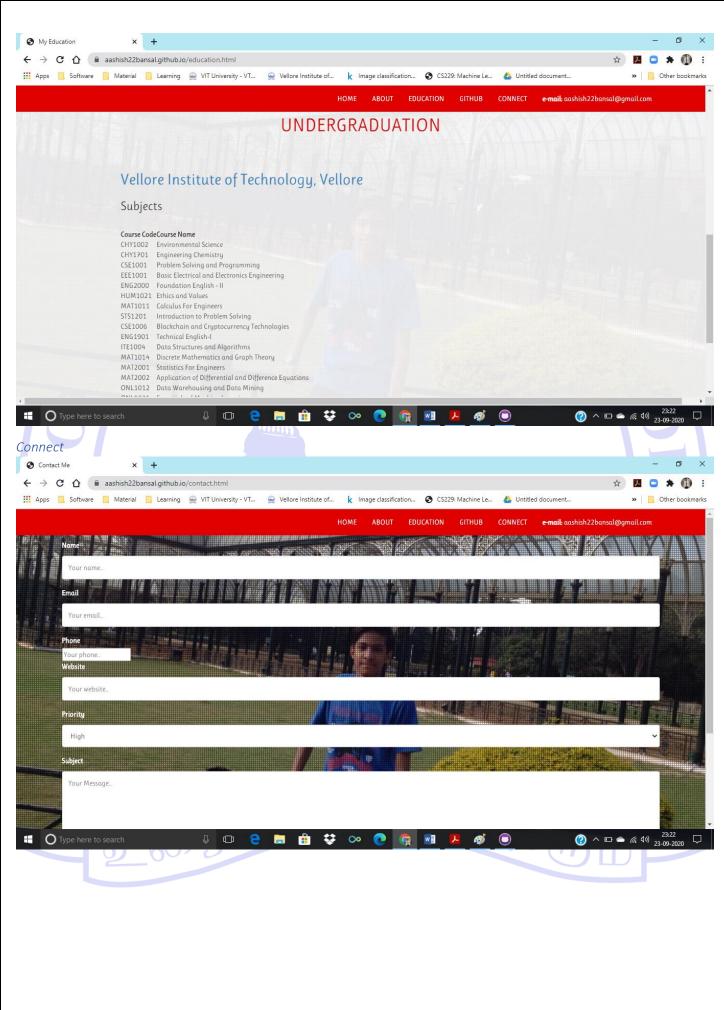
Website: https://aashish22bansal.github.io

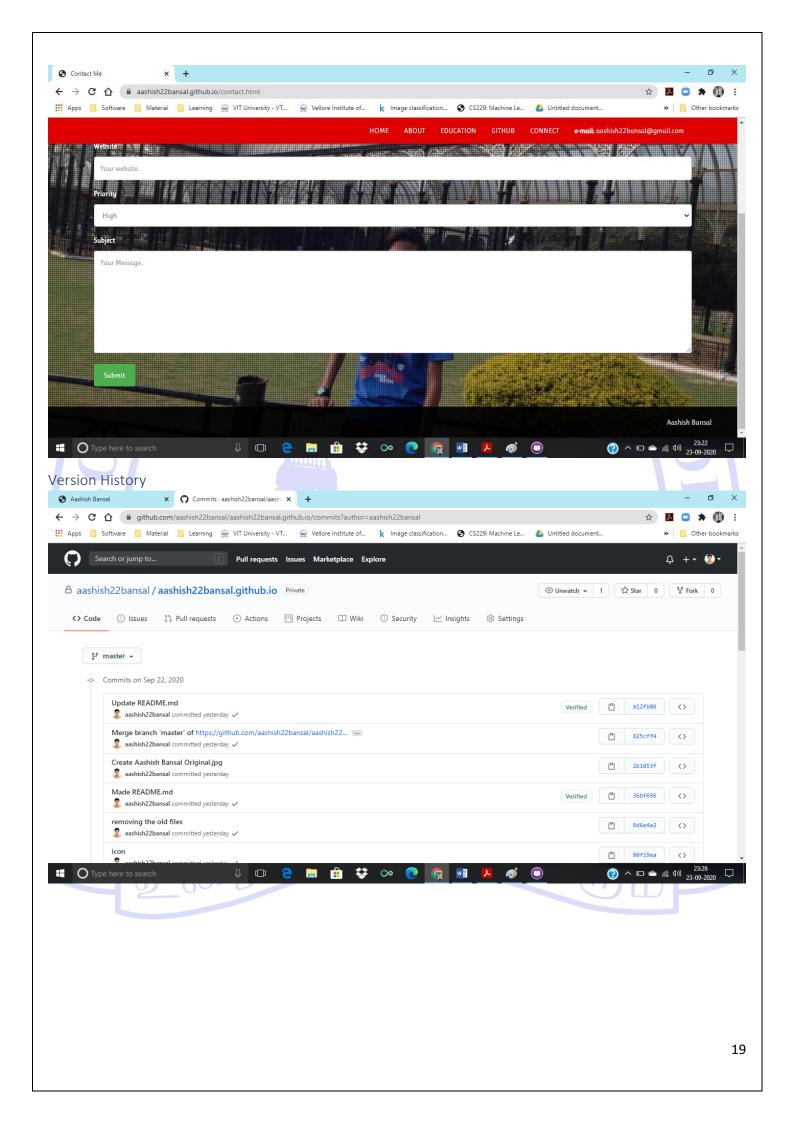


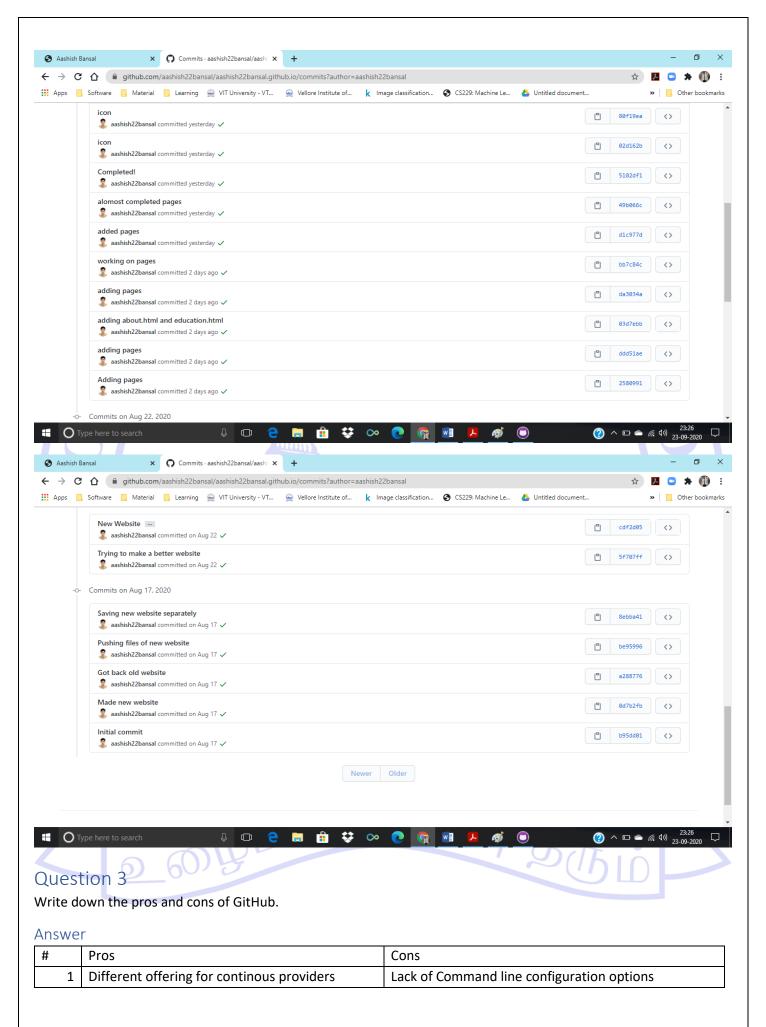












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2	brings social aspect of programming into future	Reviewing large pull requests can be tedious and it
		can be tough to identify recent changes in new files or
		files with a lot of changes.
3	It makes it fast and easy to develop projects in	It is hard to push unresolved merge conflicts
	versions/branches and easily to previous	
	versions when necessary	
4	GitHub has a powerful UI for creating pull	we have to be careful with merge operations because
	requests, with useful tools like inline	a bad reverse will be painful to reverse
	commenting and suggested changes	
5	Pull History is always maintained and easy to	when browsing the history of a file, GitHub could
	search	make it easier to see the file after a particular commit
		instead of just being able to quickly view the commit
6	It is easy for multiple team members to work on	Better handling or notification of deleted forked
	the same project and merge changes. All	repos. If you delete the repo, the pull request will
	contributors are tracked so it is easy to identify	show up as "unknown repository" which creates
	contributors.	odd dead ends
7	Chill, hone has it accounts find what and a has	
7	GitHub makes it easy to find what code has	There's so much you can do with GitHub that it's fairly
	been changed and when	common for a user to possibly only use a small
		fraction of what GitHub can do. Improving GitHub's
		discovery features would help surface some of the
	7	non-essential features that are quite useful.
8	It is easy to integrate with other tools	Lacks first-party support for mobile

Question 4

List down the features needs to be added in GitHub.

Answer

Some of the features which need to be added to GitHub are:

- Ability to move an issue from one project to another
- A way to distinguish the most active fork in a project
- Something to preview HTML based gists
- Ability to star issues
- A way to prioritize issues and sort by priority
- Prevent co-editing an issue comment
- Prevent editing another author comment/issue
- A Google group like or forum about a particular project

Question 5

Compare the minimum of three version control applications.

Answer

Concurrent Versions System (CVS)

CVS has been around since the 80s, and has been very popular with both commercial and open source developers.

It is released under the GNU license, and uses a system to let users "check out" the code they are going to work on and "check in" their changes.

Originally, CVS handled conflicts between two programmers by only allowing for the latest version of the code to be worked on and updated. As such, it was a first come, first serve system where the user must publish changes quickly to ensure that other users haven't beat them to the punch.

Now, CVS can handle branching projects so the developed software can diverge into different products with unique features and will be reconciled at a later time.

The CVS server runs on Unix-like systems with client software that runs on multiple operating systems. It is considered the most mature version control system because it has been developed for such a long time and does not receive many requests for new features at this time.

A fork project of CVS, CVSNT was created to run CVS on Windows servers, and it is currently being actively developed to increase functionality.

Pros:

Has been in use for many years and is considered mature technology

Cons:

- Moving or renaming files does not include a version update
- Security risks from symbolic links to files
- No atomic operation support, leading to source corruption
- Branch operations are expensive as it is not designed for long-term branching

Apache Subversion (SVN)

SVN was created as an alternative to CVS that would fix some bugs in the CVS system while maintaining high compatibility with it.

Like CVS, SVN is free and open source with the difference of being distributed under the Apache license as opposed to GNU.

To prevent corruption in the database from being corrupted, SVN employs a concept called atomic operations. Either all of the changes made to the source are applied or none are applied, meaning that no partial changes will break the original source.

Many developers have switched to SVN as it is a newer technology that takes the best features of CVS and improves upon them.

While CVS's branch operations are expensive and do not really lend themselves to long-term forks in the project, SVN is designed to allow for it, lending itself better to large, forked projects with many directions.

Criticism of SVN includes slower comparative speed and the lack of distributed revision control. Distributed revision control uses a peer-to-peer model rather than using a centralized server to store code updates. While a peer-to-peer model would work better for world-wide, open source projects, it may not be ideal in other situations. The downside to a dedicated server approach is that when the server is down, no clients are able to access the code.

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Pros:

- Newer system based on CVS
- Includes atomic operations
- Cheaper branch operations
- Wide variety of plug-ins for IDEs
- Does not use peer-to-peer model

Cons:

- Still contains bugs relating to renaming files and directories
- Insufficient repository management commands
- Slower comparative speed

Mercurial

Mercurial began close to the same time as Git and is also a distributed revision control tool.

It was originally made to compete with Git for Linux kernel development, and as Git was selected, Mercurial has seen less success in that area. However, that is not to say that it is not used as many major developments use it, including OpenOffice.org.

It's different from other revision control systems in that Mercurial is primarily implemented in Python as opposed to C, but there are some instances where C is used.

Due to its distributed nature and its creation in Python, the Python language developers are considering a switch to Mercurial as it would allow non-core developers to have easier access to creating new trees and reverting changes.

Users have noted that Mercurial shares some features with SVN as well as being a distributed system, and because of the similarities, the learning curve for those already familiar with SVN will be less steep. The documentation for Mercurial also is more complete and will facilitate learning the differences faster.

Some of the major drawbacks to Mercurial include that it doesn't allow for two parents to be merged and unlike Git, it uses an extension system rather than being scriptable. That may be ideal for some programmers, but many find the power of Git to be a feature they don't want to trade off.

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Pros:

- Easier to learn than Git
- Better documentation
- Distributed model

Cons:

- No merging of two parents
- Extension-based rather than script ability

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Less out of the box power