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IT 497

Assignment 1

Google drive is a cloud based service which allows a person to store their documents and media online. Google offers the added feature in drive of using Google Docs, Sheets and other applications to edit different file types. Because the service is cloud based, a person can access Google Drive from anywhere as long as they sign into their Google Account. I use currently use Drive to help manage my all of my course assignments and projects including programming and non-programming. I have separate folders for each class and I can work on my assignments from my laptop at home, and then when I am on campus I use my GA computer to continue working on the assignments. Drive allows me to easily organize all of my class related documents, and work on them at my convenience from anywhere. Drive also allows folders to be shared, which is very helpful with group projects. I used Google Drive for a group project, and we uploaded all of our resources and documents to one folder that was shared with everyone. This allowed other people and I to access the documents needed and also input our changes for everyone to view. In this way we all collaborated together to complete our project. Drive can also be used this way for programming courses, by storing code in folders which can mimic the organizational layout of a programming project, and having either an individual or group upload their respective changes or additions.

GitHub is an open-sourced project which manages and controls revisions of projects. There are repositories which contain all of the files associated with the project. If you wish to make a change you copy the main repository to your own system, which is known as forking. If you want to share your changes you can send a pull request to the original owner, and they can merge the changes you made in your repository with their original repository. In this way, I think that Github would be most useful for programming courses and group projects, because it allows code to be shared, and it is easy to view what changes have been made to the code. With the ability to follow and share with co-workers and classmates, Github is definitely a great collaboration tool. Github can allow group collaboration on an entire programming project via pull requests and merging changes. A student in a programming course can also benefit from Github’s features because they can modify their code without making an error in the original project. This would also work for an individual working on their own project, who just wants to keep track of the changes they have made to their code. Github may not be the best choice for non-programming courses because it is more focused on managing revisions which is most beneficial to programming. Nonetheless, if someone wanted to track the changes that they made to documents over time, or use repositories as an organization system, they could certainly use GitHub to do so.