**What does Version Control Mean?**

Version Control is a method of managing file versions, such that a developer or team of developers can work together on the same project on different devices and locations in a way that no one gets in the way of another’s work. This is done by bringing someone else’s work to the central project as we dispatch our work to that central project. Additionally, version control allows experimental work by creating branches of that teamed central project where ideas can be tried and tested and if approved, those ideas can be merged with the central project. This practice can help accelerate production, as well as provide a method of turning to a stable and working version of the product if for some reason new changes have negative effects. Version Control is not limited to software development, it can be used for virtually anything that uses files and it comes in different forms and sizes like Git or Microsoft SharePoint.

**Benefits of Version Control?**

When used correctly, benefits of version control include the ability to inform and educate team members of our contributions to the project by providing detailed and descriptive comments as part of the commit messages, this helps with rapid adoption. Other benefits include a robust and organized project workflow, supported by strong data integrity because of the pull-push exercise, this ensures that the project never suffers from missing or stale changes.

**Example of Version Control?**

In a web development team, you could have two main project arteries; backend and frontend, this project involves two separate teams which internally may branch into smaller teams. Working with version enables the two teams to work in tandem, this is critical as one artery cannot work without another, and better still they need to work a the same pace, performing different tasks, now let’s think ahead to project completion and deployment, it would be much harder to reach those milestones if the teams were not working together centrally on the same workspace, deployments maybe choppy or even delayed altogether, mis matched dependencies, environment variables, configurations could all contribute to the project failure. This is much less likely to occur when using version control coupled with collaboration platforms like GitHub.

Example of a Version Control command.

git - - version → This is command checks if Git is installed and running correctly on the local machine, if it doesn’t run as expected by logging the version of Git installed on the terminal window of the local machine, then Git isn’t installed correctly or at all, which means that devices has not version control capabilities, at least from Git.