To: Dr. Hayes  
From: Alexandra Wallace  
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Version control is important for any software development project. Individual developers or teams of developers can create branches to complete different parts of the project independently so it will not affect, or break, other parts of the project that other people are developing. For example, a company could be working to release an update to their software with several new features. These features can be completed and tested separately, then merged together where the entire update can be tested as a whole before it is released. It also helps to maintain accountability for changes made to the code. If multiple people are editing the same branch, their commits of code will be recorded and changes to the software can be credited to specific developers. That way, people’s contributions can be measured in a quantifiable way, either by lines of code, numbers of commits, or a combination of the two.

Another important function of version control is returning to previous versions before substantial errors were made. An error might not be detected until other changes are made, and sometimes it’s easiest to go back to a previous version before the error was initially created.

Version control systems such as Github can also be used primarily as a repository. This function allows a person to store their programming projects in a repository where it can be viewed and cloned by others. This can act as a sort of portfolio for software developers, so prospective employers can see their previous work and use that information to supplement their resume.