GitHub is a web-based Git repository hosting service, that allows source code management and version control. It was launched in April 2008 by Tom Preston-Werner, Chris Wanstrath, and PJ Hyett. It was created to offer a free public interface to git, making it possible for anyone to share code without managing a personal server. There are other similar platforms to GitHub, such as SourceForge, Bitbucket, Google Code Hosting, etc. Some other platforms, like Bitbucket, allow for free private repositories. GitHub only offers free public repositories, making it more appealing to those who post open source code. This platform is useful for anyone who wants to have the ability to revert to older versions of their code, in case of mistakes or unintended changes. It also allows many people to collaborate on the same pieces of code without overriding each other’s work.

Repository:

A repository contains all of the project files (including documentation), and stores each file's revision history.

Commit:

A commit, or "revision", is an individual change to a file (or set of files). It's like when you *save* a file, except with Git, every time you save it creates a unique ID (a.k.a. the "SHA" or "hash") that allows you to keep record of what changes were made when and by who.

Push:

Pushing refers to sending your committed changes to a remote repository such as GitHub.com. For instance, if you change something locally, you'd want to then *push* those changes so that others may access them.

Branch:

A branch is a parallel version of a repository. It is contained within the repository, but does not affect the primary or master branch allowing you to work freely without disrupting the "live" version.

Fork:

A fork is a personal copy of another user's repository that lives on your account. Forks allow you to freely make changes to a project without affecting the original.

Merge:

Merging takes the changes from one branch (in the same repository or from a fork), and applies them into another

Clone:

A clone is a copy of a repository that lives on your computer instead of on a website's server somewhere, or the act of making that copy.

Pull:

Pull refers to when you are fetching *in* changes *and* merging them. For instance, if someone has edited the remote file you're both working on, you'll want to *pull* in those changes to your local copy so that it's up to date.

Pull request:

Pull requests are proposed changes to a repository submitted by a user and accepted or rejected by a repository's collaborators.