IT 497 Group Assignment #1 Abhishek Varghese

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Kushal Tare

Mayank Shivansh

Nikita Upadhyay

**Introduction**

Technology advances continue to provide students with tools that greatly aid their ability to study and complete their coursework. A primary example of this are the plethora of document/assignment management and collaboration tools, such as Google Drive, Dropbox, Unbuntu One, GitHub, and Evernote, that allow students to more effectively manage and share documents for individual and team assignments.

**Blaze’s Part - GitHub**

Aid individual assignments

* Provides an organized view of changes to a document or collection of documents over time
* Enables reverting back if newer versions are lost, corrupted, or unwanted
* Built-in back-up system of files on a remote server
* Provides a structure to organize various files in a project or multiple projects and provides the platform to track changes to each at the file or project level
* Provides visualization tools to graphically display changes to documents and repositories over time – very useful if managing various projects at the same time

Aid group projects

* Provides all the benefits mentioned for an individual assignment, but allows multiple users access to the same repositories
* Provides an organized way for multiple students to access the same documents from different computers and maintain version control
  + One student can check out a document in a shared repository and lock access while they are editing, then check-in the document (“commit” the edits to the document in a shared repository) with comments on what they changed, and the system will log the changes and the comments and then allow access to everyone else at that point.

Programming course uses

* The tool was built by the creators of the Linux kernel with programming projects in mind
* It provides a platform for multiple programmers to work on the same project at the same time while maintaining version control and documenting changes to code files over time
* All of the previously mentioned benefits apply, but just to code files (txt, java, etc) instead of any other academic files
* It would be a great tool for a team project in a programming class; the team could create a repository that each member has access to and then work on the various files (e.g. - different class files) that comprise the assignment and maintain configuration control throughout while being able to see what others did and when.

Non-programming course uses

* It provides the same functionality, but just for a different type of file, such as a Word document
* For a group project in a research class like this one, the team could set up a shared repository to work on the same project report file, like a MS Word document, or a group of files that contribute to the same report. GitHub provides the platform and interface to allow all members to access all relevant documents, keep version control while any given member is doing work on any of the shared documents, and shows all members what has been changed, by whom, and when it was changed.

**Conclusion**

Various document/assignment management tools, such as Google Drive, Dropbox, Unbuntu One, GitHub, and Evernote, are giving students the capabilities to more effectively management and complete their projects and assignments.