Candice Jensen

Git ‘Em!

GitKraken and GitHub: a new way to store things online. This is accomplished by creating an open source distributed version control system designed for speed and efficiency, or Git. It’s quite different than anything I’ve ever done before, but hey, there’s always time to do something new! So Github.com is a website where you can upload your projects onto the internet, only to be shared with specific people, and then you pair that website with GitKraken, and that is a program which lets the instructor track what you are doing. It is a tiny bit complicated, but it’s efficient. It allows people to work locally, view the file history, differentials in projects, and commit changes. It also allows everyone to share an enormous repository that they wouldn’t normally have. The first thing that you need to do is to create a GitHub.com profile. Next, you need to install GitKraken and link the two accounts together. Next, you need to clone a repo, and this is done by creating a file on your computer(I prefer to put it on the desktop because that’s where I can see most things right away) and pairing it with the repository on Github.com that you want to be a sharer in. Next, you need to learn about pushing and pulling things. So when you upload something to Github.com, because it’s paired with GitKraken, you would think that the two programs would just automatically update each other. This is not the case. Once you’ve uploaded something to Github.com, you need to pull that same project onto Github.com, and then you also need to push it onto the repository so that the people in your group, or in this case, our instructors, can see what you have done. Otherwise, there is no proof that you’ve done anything remotely productive or interesting for homework. If you want to make any changes, you need to learn about committing. Say that someone in your group has shared a file with you and you go into it to edit that file. Say that you want to reupload it onto the repository. This will not be the case. You see, about two zillion other people in your class will all have their own projects that they are editing, and if you were to upload a brand new one, the same named file would become lost among the sea of chaos. This is where you commit changes. You have to select the files that you would like to submit for changes and then click the “Commit changes” button. This will replace the file that only you and the instructor can see and therefore it won’t confuse anyone else. In this way, we see that not only does GitKraken and Github provide classes and teachers with a way to change projects in a non-messy way, but it also will one day allow those of us who are able to get jobs at big companies a way to upload work projects to our bosses, whether our boss is John Lasseter or John Normal Man, who works at Vivint.