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Reflection Paper

Doing this assignment taught me how to save and get a React app from GitHub. At first, I really struggled with which commands to use and in what order. When I saw all the different Git commands for the first time, it felt overwhelming. I wasn’t sure if I was doing it correctly, and sometimes the terminal would give me error messages that confused me. But after practicing the main sequence of commands git init, git add, git commit, and git push I was able to upload my To-Do app to GitHub successfully. That was the first time I saw my own project appear in a repository online, and it felt rewarding because I knew I had figured it out step by step.

Once I had the app on GitHub, I learned how to make changes locally and push them to the remote repository. This was an important skill, because I realized that version control isn’t just about saving your code once—it’s about keeping track of all the changes you make over time. Every time I added a new feature, such as updating the header with my name or adjusting the style, I could use Git to commit those changes with a short message explaining what I did. Then I could push those updates to GitHub so they were saved online. That way, even if something went wrong on my computer, the code would still be backed up in the cloud.

Another big part of the assignment was practicing how to revert to a previous version. Using git log to view all the commits helped me see the history of my project. Each commit was like a snapshot in time with a unique ID. By copying one of those commit IDs and using git checkout, I could go back and see my project exactly as it looked at that point. At first, it was strange to see older versions of my app, but it helped me understand the power of Git. It means that mistakes aren’t permanent you can always roll back to a working version. That gave me a lot more confidence to experiment with my code, knowing that I could undo something if it broke.

The hardest part for me was definitely remembering the exact Git commands and when to use them. Sometimes I forgot whether to type git add . before committing, or I wasn’t sure which branch I was on. But reading the error messages carefully and looking at short online tutorials helped me get unstuck. I also realized how important it is to write clear commit messages. At first, I just wrote “changes” or “update,” but then I noticed that didn’t help me remember what I actually did. Writing messages like “ui: changed checkmark to star” made it much easier to look back and understand what had happened in each commit.

Overall, I feel much more comfortable using GitHub now than when I started. I understand that version control is not just a school requirement but a real professional skill that developers use every day. It helps organize projects, prevents mistakes, and allows you to collaborate with others more effectively. Even though I know I still need more practice to fully memorize the commands and become faster at using them, this assignment gave me a solid foundation. It showed me that I can create a project, connect it to a GitHub repository, manage changes, and even revert if necessary. That gives me confidence to keep building more apps and saving them the right way. This was a very good start, and I am glad I went through the process step by step.