

Write-Up

Our team was able to communicate relatively well with the help of email, Google Docs, and GitHub. Before any code was pushed to GitHub, email was our most effective mode of communication enabling us to decide what we wanted to build and which features we would include. Email also proved useful in divvying up the work before any code was written. Google Docs, especially the chat feature, also functioned as a form of communication for our group. It not only allowed all members to take part in the planning process when we wrote our project proposal, but it also helped us coordinate when writing up the documentation.

GitHub likewise allowed us to communicate more effectively as a group and as developers to try and finish our “Tab Saver” project. It was really helpful being able to have discussions in the comments section of different issues and pull requests. Additionally, the ability to make inline comments in the code of a commit really benefited our group when there was a particular line we were having trouble with or when there was something we thought should be changed.

We used many of the resources provided to us by GitHub. The two most important ones that we used were the issue tracker and pull requests. The issue tracking section allowed us to keep track of what exactly had to be done in the project. We found that the more we worked, the more issues would arise and the only way to keep track of it was this system. We could also select the issues that we wanted to work on, or the ones that we felt most comfortable working with, so that we didn’t have multiple people working on the same thing. On one occasion, we closed a bug report, and we were able to use it to fix another similar bug that came up after adding another feature.

The pull requests allowed us to review each other's code and decide on the best possible practices for our project. Furthermore, the branches and pull requests allowed us to keep a history of what features were added and where in the code they lived. Therefore, if there was a big problem that broke our application, we could easily revert the changes, which did happen on a few occasions.

Once the extension was completed, we utilized another one of GitHub’s features; its release feature. This allowed us to tag the specific point in our code where we determined that our project was complete. Marking a release makes it easier for our users find a stable version when they are trying to download our project.

Overall, the hardest part that we found was actually starting the project in such a way that we can each add our own parts and contribute equally, which is where email and Google Docs became useful. When an application is already started, it is easy with GitHub to branch in order to add features or fix bugs. But when there is no code, just getting a solid starting point was hard to do. Only after getting to that base with the aid of email and Google Docs could we begin to use GitHub effectively and all branch out and add our own features.