Week 02 Articulate: Version Control

**What is version control and why is it important?**

* Explain the meaning of Version Control
* Highlight a benefit of Version Control
* Provide an application of Version Control (how it could be used)
* Show a command used in Version Control (ex Git)

Version control is a fancy/tech way of saying “keeping track of your work.” A version control *system* (VCS) is a centralized place that will do this for you. As you make updates and push them to the VCS, it will make the updates while also keeping track of the work, allowing you to go back to previous versions. I would compare it to Google Docs, but a little different. Google Docs is great because multiple people can be working on it from anywhere, however, you can’t go back to previous work. VCS is similar in that multiple people can be working on a file/program and have access to all things needed. As each person makes updates, they are saved to a central location while also keeping track of previous work. This is useful because it doesn’t do real-time updates. You have to “push” your updated work to the VCS. You and others can view/edit the updated work while also comparing the changes or scrapping the updates altogether and starting back a step or building off that in a different direction.

Version control and version control systems are great for teams. Because the projects are often made of many smaller pieces and programs, having these all in one place allows teams to work on them individually but still see what others are doing. Whether in or out of office, VCS will work either way.

One great command in version control is Git. Git can allow you to do many things. For example, if I am working on a file in Documents called website.html, I can add it to be committed (basically a waiting area to be the official updated version) with the command:

git add website.html

Now it’s ready to be committed!