GIT is open source distributed version control system that is designed for speed and efficiency. GIT is a piece of software and it tracks all changes that each team member makes. GITHub offers hosting services for GIT repositories. GIT allows you to work locally, you don’t need an internet connection to make changes. GIT also allows you to work with repositories that aren’t on your local machine. A remote is a repository that is not on your machine.

GITKraken has the option to allow you to sign in with GITHub so you don’t need a separate GITKraken account to use it. When connected to your GITHub account you are able to more easily manage your GITHub repositories. The connection between GITHub and GITKraken uses an SSH key, and if you don’t already have one it can automatically set one up for you.

Clicking the folder icon on the upper left corner of GITKraken opens a menu that allows you to open existing repositories, clone existing repositories, or initiate a new repository. To clone a repository, you choose the Clone tab and if you are connected to GITHub, you can click on the GITHub.com tab and clone a repository connected to your account. If you don’t have a GITHub account connected, you can simply paste the URL of a repository in the URL tab.

When you make changes to a repository, either adding, removing, or editing files, you need to commit those changes before it will be updated on GITHub. Before being able to commit the changes, you must first stage any changes made. Staging allows you to see what files have been changed, and in certain cases, how it has been changed. Once all files have been staged, you then add a summary of the changes, then you are able to commit your changes. Committing allows you and team members to easily keep track of what changes were made, and who they were made by, in a project. After committing, you have updated your local repository, but the remote repository has not been updated. The screen in the middle of GITKraken shows all commits that have been made to the remote repository, indicated by an icon of a silhouetted cat, and commits made on your local machine, indicated by an icon of a computer. If your local files and the remote files are in sync, both icon will be together. If there are commits next to only the computer icon, that means those changes have not been updated on the remote repository and you must push those commits to GITHub. To do this simply click on the Push icon on the upper part of the GITKraken client.

 If there is a change to the remote repository, then GITKraken will show a commit change next to a lone silhouetted cat icon. To get the files updated on your local machine, simply click on the Pull icon on the upper part of the GITKraken client, and it certain cases, you will be able to see what changes have been made to the files.