GitHub Inc. is a web-based hosting service for version control using Git. It is mostly used for computer code. It offers all of the distributed version control and source code management (SCM) functionality of Git as well as adding its own features. It provides access control and several collaboration features such as bug tracking, feature requests, task management, and wikis for every project.

GitHub was developed by Chris Wanstrath, PJ Hyett and Tom Preston-Werner using Ruby on Rails, and started in February 2008. The company, GitHub, Inc., has existed since 2007 and is in San Francisco.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GitHub#cite_note-11)

On February 24, 2009, GitHub team members announced, in a talk at [Yahoo!](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahoo!) headquarters, that within the first year of being online, GitHub had accumulated over 46,000 public repositories, 17,000 of which were formed in the previous month alone. At that time, about 6,200 repositories had been forked at least once and 4,600 had been merge

On June 4, 2018, [Microsoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft) announced its intent to acquire GitHub for USD 7.5 billion.

GitHub is mostly used for code.

In addition to source code, GitHub supports the following formats and features:

Documentation, including automatically rendered README files in a variety of Markdown-like file formats (see README files on GitHub)

Issue tracking (including feature requests) with labels, milestones, assignees and a search engine

Wikis

Pull requests with code review and comments

Commits history

Graphs: pulse, contributors, commits, code frequency, punch card, network, members

Integrations Directory

Unified and split diffs

Email notifications

Option to subscribe someone to notifications by @ mentioning them.

Emojis

GitHub Pages: small websites can be hosted from public repositories on GitHub. The URL format is https://username.github.io

Nested task-lists within files

Visualization of geospatial data

3D render files that can be previewed using a new integrated STL file viewer that displays the files on a "3D canvas". The viewer is powered by WebGL and Three.js.

Photoshop's native PSD format can be previewed and compared to previous versions of the same file.

PDF document viewer

Security Alerts of known Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures in different packages

Github cannot be used as a net disk for videos since files over 25MB cannot be uploaded, however photos are small enough.

GitHub also operates other services: a [pastebin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pastebin" \o "Pastebin)-style site called **Gist**[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GitHub#cite_note-pastie-55) that is for hosting [code snippets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snippet_(programming)) (GitHub proper is for hosting larger projects), and a [slide hosting service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slide_hosting_service) called Speaker Deck.

Developed projects by Github include [Atom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atom_(text_editor)), a free and open-source text and source code editor, and [Electron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electron_(software_framework)), an open-source framework to use javascript-based websites as desktop applications.

Known problem: for group projects, only one programmer can edit and then submit code at the same time, changes from different users cannot be synchronized. Another problem is that after too many changes on the same branch the branch may stop accepting changes, so that the user is forced to create another branch to continue.

<https://githubengineering.com> this is the official site for github engineers to post news and notifications about github

<https://github.community/> this is the online forum for github for sharing and discussions.