**VERSION CONTROL**

Version control is crucial in software development as it enables developers to manage and track changes to their codebase systematically. It offers several benefits:

* Collaboration: Developers can work concurrently on the same project without interfering with each other's work. Version control systems (VCS) merge changes intelligently, reducing conflicts.
* History Tracking: VCS maintains a complete history of code changes, allowing developers to review, revert, or compare versions easily. This aids in debugging and understanding project evolution.
* Backup: It serves as a backup mechanism, safeguarding against data loss due to accidental deletions or system failures.
* Branching and Experimentation: Developers can create branches to experiment with new features or bug fixes, ensuring a clean separation between experimental and stable code.
* Code Quality: VCS encourages good coding practices by promoting documentation, commit messages, and code reviews.