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| Illinois sate university |
| IT496 Team Assignment#1 |
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| **Krishna Mohan Uppala, Jasmeet Sasan, Mohit Rathore, Obinna Mogbogu and Rajneesh Kumar Pandey** |
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# Evernote

# Evernote is a tool which is a set of services and programs with uniform design. It has the ability to share data. As we can understand by the name that it is basically for taking notes and you can also archive it. This way we don’t have to remember everything. A note could be from any source like an oral discussion from a meeting, lecture from a class, etc. Evernote is not limited to just note-taking, it also has ability to store a document, an audio, photographs or any other moment to remember. The best thing about Evernote is that once you have created an account in Evernote and stored your data, it is synchronized to all your devices with Evernote and we can access it anywhere in the world. Its specialty is that it can archive variety of data.

# Additionally, it has a few more interesting features like we can share our data to the world, in other words, we can make it public. Evernote provides multiple options to make it public which includes sharing in social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, email to someone and copy and paste URL for particular data in Evernote which can be accessed by anyone. Evernote also has the desktop and the mobile version. We can store and sync our data to all other devices by using these versions. Evernote has an option for synchronizing data manually; otherwise it automatically synchronizes data anyway. Overall, once you got the data in Evernote, there is no way to lose data.

# Moreover, it is very helpful for students in many ways towards their course projects and assignments. All the features discussed above can be very useful for students to do their group projects and assignments. For example, there is a group of 5 for a group project or assignment. Each team member can collaborate with each other and share their work with each other. Even, there is a facility of a chat window which also has the option of sharing work. These way students can save a lot of time by fewer group meetings. And when the project is done, it can be shared just by a link or email to anyone/anywhere. It is also helpful for individual assignments or projects. If a student is working on an assignment in the university lab and the student want to complete the rest of assignment at home, he/she can store his/her work in Evernote and then can access it at home to complete it. The Evernote tool is not exactly the tool for the programming courses, but it can be stored, shared and accessed anywhere. But, in case of non-programming courses like this one, Evernote plays a significant role. If we talk about this assignment which has been created in MS Word, we absolutely can use Evernote by attaching this file to the Evernote by creating a new Note. Then, copy the URL of this Note and submit to the ReggieNet. Through this Evernote URL link, the required file can be accessed by the Professor even without having an Evernote account.

# Google Drive

# Google Drive is one of the best services provided by Google. It provides an ease of storing and sharing of information. Users can store their documents and access them online on any device. Google Drive provides various features that make editing of documents very easy. It also provides free space to its users and they also have the freedom to store any kind of file they want.

# Google Drive is a very efficient tool to use while doing individual assignments. I have used Google Drive almost for all of my individual assignments. I have a MacBook Pro and initially there was no Microsoft Office installed on my laptop. So, I used to store all my assignments on Google Drive. Google Drive provided me ability to make a new document (can be .docx, .xlsx etc.) and edits it online. As I have all my stuff saved on Google Drive, I have never carried my laptop with me anywhere. I also have Google Drive Mobile App which helps me to make any required quick changes in my documents.

# Google Drive makes collaboration very easy and flexible. There were few courses where I have worked in teams and made use of Google Drive to collaborate our work. In one of my course, we had a group of five members in which three of them have a full-time job. It was really hard for us to decide a common time for our meeting. So, we decided to divide up our work and share it on Google Drive which resolves our issue of meeting in-person.

# I have used Google Drive in my first semester of one of my programming course. I had the Google Drive App installed on my laptop. I was working on one project which had different files like HTML, CSS, .java etc. The best feature of Google Drive for me is the auto-sync. So, whenever I made a change in any file, Google Drive automatically syncs it and stores the latest updated version of it. It really helped me in a way that I can access my project files from anywhere and don’t need to rely on only one system.

# Google Drive can also be used for non-programming courses. It can be used as a discussion forum where student can post their assignments and other students can comment on their peer’s work. Google Drive is also very helpful for professors, as they can share class material with the whole class and can also manage permissions. Google Drive offers a secure service which enables its users to store and share their information online.

# Dropbox

# Dropbox is a free-to-install third-party application (also available as a web app) on many devices, which can be used for uploading and sharing files amongst multiple users. The Dropbox app has some features which can be used in facilitating academic coursework amongst students, teachers, or both. The Dropbox app uses an enormous cloud service system to store files, such as individual or group assignment files on any one of its cloud server(s). Each stored file on the cloud can be accessible to a specific user or group of users who are authorized to access shared files.

# For almost any kind of assignment (i.e. individual assignment or group assignment), the Dropbox app can be used as a tool for coordinating and completing course assignments amongst students, teachers or both. The Dropbox app uses a shared link feature which allows students share their uploaded individual assignments with their teacher. Also, teachers can use the shared link feature to share new individual assignments to students at any given time. In group assignments, the cloud service can help members in a group; manage their storage space on their device by simply uploading assignment files to the cloud. Also, the cloud service allows group members who live far from each other to work on their group assignments at any given time and synchronize their files with other group members. Additionally students can use the Dropbox cloud service as a backup utility for backing up their assignment files. One important feature available in Dropbox is a password and permission security feature (available only to its premium users at an inexpensive price), which allows group members to protect their assignment files from being illegally accessed by other students or groups who have no authorization to their files.

# Not only can the Dropbox app be used for facilitating individual and group assignments, it can also be used in facilitating nearly any kind of academic course- programming or non-programming- in any given academic discipline. Folders can be uploaded in Dropbox, which is a good thing for most programming courses like a Java or C++ course, for example, that organizes its code files in packages and project folders. Likewise in a non-programming course such as an English course, an English teacher can use Dropbox to upload course materials such as slides, articles or syllabus –either as separate files or files grouped in a folder- and then share them with students. Teachers and students can use the optional message feature in Dropbox to add descriptions to files and folders before sharing it with others course members.

# The Dropbox app is a quality application which can be used by many academic disciplines in facilitating academic coursework.

# GitHub

GitHub is an open source project started by Linux creator Linus Torvalds, which is a platform for hosting and collaborating on projects. It is mostly considered as a code sharing service or social networking site for programmers. The best concept in GitHub is there is no need to install any software on the device you are can write the code and you don’t need to worry about storage space. Creating a personal account by signing up in GitHub website can give you the opportunity to write, save and share the code.

GitHub is used to manage any type of files or documents like MS Word, Power Point or .jpg images, etc. The repository in the GitHub can store folders and files, anything an assignment/project needs. With each individual repository that is created, a README.txt file can also be included where the description of the project can be provided.

GitHub has three powerful features: forking, pull request and merge. If a group of people are working on a project together using GitHub, the code of one user can be copied from one user’s account to another account, which is called ‘forking’. If any changes were made in the existing code/work by a user, he/she can send a ‘pull request’ notification to original user/owner. The changes can be saved using the ‘merge’ option.

Coding can be done using any kind of programming language, but a lot of applications and softwares need to be installed on the computers, which takes a lot of time and storage space. GitHub offers a different approach for coding and managing the data, where there is no need to install any applications and worry about the storage space. The projects can be managed across many computers and can be synced from anywhere.

Another useful feature GitHub provides is version control, where it takes the snapshots of the file every time a change is made. GitHub is not typically made to programmers or developers. The GUI (graphical user interface) offered by the GitHub makes it easy to use by anyone who would like to save or share the data/work in a day to day life.

# Bitbucket

Bitbucket is a web-based service which provides distributed revision control and source code management functionality, basically designed for computer programmers to work collaboratively or individually on software projects. It is basically a cloud-based code sharing and storing service. It can be used in two ways, one, using its web-application. Second, by installing its software called as SourceTree on desktop. Let’s say a team is working on a software project using Bitbucket, few frequently used terms include Repository which is basically a directory where users store their files. It can be created and imported; Clone means copying repositories (or files) of other users to your Bitbucket; Commit means making changes in the program files and saving them; Push means allowing committed changes to be included in the user’s (project) Bitbucket repository; Pull basically is a request by a contributor to include his/her work in the project; Fork allows user to contribute to others’ repositories, even if the user has no write access to it; Branch allows user to make changes in a file (let’s say). The changes would have been made in the new branched file, not in the actual file. User can create a branch to work on some specific part of the file

Most of the key features of Bitbucket are at their rudimentary stage since it is fairly new web service in this software domain and has less developed social community. Bitbucket offers several amazing features like it allows a team or a group of users to work collaboratively, and share information of a project and of users itself. Users can create unlimited private code repositories and also chat using HipChat. The service is free for a group of 5 users, however, for a bigger user group, Bitbucket offers multiple paid monthly plans based on the size of the group. It also has paid monthly plans for add-on services like Bamboo, Stash. Bamboo is a paid service of Bitbucket which allows the user to build their code and unit tests. Here, all team members can see the clear picture of deployments made and logs of previous work. Bitbucket has an API which allows users to gain access to their applications from anywhere, for example, using API, a software application deployed somewhere can access the Bitbucket resources. It comes with JIRA, an issue management system. It is a tracker for team planning and helps in building products, to capture and organize issues, assign work, and follow team activity. This feature also exists on its mobile platform. It also has a blog service which keeps users updated with the revisions and new features of it. Existing users also share their opinions about it. Bitbucket has an active support community which helps users in solving technical and non-technical problems. It has an organized documentation webpage covering all the relevant information like FAQ. Overall, it is a good package for a software development team or individuals to work collaboratively.

# Contribution of Each Member

Each member participated equally and provided their work for the tool they selected.

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| --- | --- |
| Member Name | Tool |
| Rajneesh Kumar Pandey | Evernote |
| Mohit Rathore | Google Drive |
| Obinna Mogbogu | Dropbox |
| Krishna Mohan Uppala | GitHub |
| Jasmeet Sasan | Bitbucket |