What is version control and why is it important?

What is version control? This is a new way to track and store changes to projects of code. In the past to track you would have to go through line up line and find for yourself what changes you made from the last saved copy of code. Also, in the past to store your code you would copy and paste your code to some other place on your hard drive or if you were lucky, you would have 2 hard drives and you would download your code and upload your code to a different hard drive as a backup. The cloud came along and made this easier to have it in two places at once to keep it safe. Now there is Version Control. This is an automated form of tracking and storing projects of code. Instead of copy and paste you now push and pull information. If you are working on a project and you want to save that version, you commit it or push it to a database called a repository that will then save all the changes made to that point and who made them. Then you continue working on the project and make more changes, when you push this version the differences between the last version and this current version are then stored and can be compared. This is very beneficial for reasons like if your code is working fine and then something breaks will progressing forward you can go back and compare, and it helps find bugs. This is also very helpful when collaborating with a team. You can pull what another team member has done and work on it at the same time. Later you can merge and put your different pieces together. Version control really has changed the ability of teamwork and made it so much easier to work on projects simultaneously.