

Profile: GitHub

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Rationale

GitHub is used by an enormous variety of hackers, including us, so we wanted to learn more about its origins

Organizational Details

- GitHub is a Corporation Registered in the State of Delaware
 - GitHub was founded, April 10th, 2008
 - GitHub's Founding Fathers:
 - Tom Preston-Werner
 - Chris Wanstrath
 - PJ Hyett
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- All of the original founders are still active with the exception of Tom Preston-Werner.
 - He left GitHub in 2014 after confirmed [harassment allegations](#)
 - GitHub is a private corporation and isn't publically traded
 - GitHub has acquired the following companies:
 - Easel - In Browser Web Design Tool Built for Collaboration
 - Ordered List - Gauges, Speaker Deck, Harmony
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- GitHub hasn't invested in any other companies
 - Interestingly enough the first investment in GitHub was for [\\$100M](#)
 - GitHub has 267 employees, some of which work at their HQ: 88 Colin P Kelly Jr St (at Brannan St), San Francisco, CA 94107, United States
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- GitHub doesn't have any other locations
 - <http://github.com>
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GitHub>
 - GitHub does not have any annual reports
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Communications

Social media for GitHub

- [Twitter](#)
- [Twitter](#) (Downtime reporting)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Communications channels for GitHub

- GitHub’s press page lists all of their awards that they have received. (<https://github.com/about/press>)
- GitHub also has a blog that has lots of interesting posts. (<https://github.com/blog>)
- They also include a Glossary so writers can better report about what the company does. (<https://help.github.com/articles/github-glossary/>)

GitHub Conference Participation

- GitHub hosts “GitHub Universe” which is their own conference about working on open source projects as well as gathering tons of people working in open source. (<http://githubuniverse.com/>)
- GitHub also hosts “CodeConf” a two day conference about open source, best practices, documentation, and collaboration. (<http://codeconf.com/>)
- GitHub also attends several other conferences including GDC. (<https://github.com/blog/1961-see-you-at-gdc>)

Community Architecture

Github and Government

- Website: <http://government.github.com>
- Repository: <http://github.com/github/government.github.com>
- The project is entirely documentation

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- **Github and Government** is a website dedicated to sharing open government efforts that involve Github
 - Started January 20, 2013, most recent commit March 5, 2015
 - Two people ([benbalter](#) and [jlord](#)) accept all of the [pull requests](#)
 - [benbalter](#) and [jlord](#) seem to be the only two maintainers (BDFLs)
 - The original developers have remained with the project the entire time.

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- Development has been active throughout its lifetime
 - The project would continue fine if one of the two main devs were eaten by a velociraptor

- Not if the [top 20% of the contributors](#) were in a freak bus accident, though - that includes both BDFLs
 - No onboarding, since most of it is adding information instead of code
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- Ruled by a pair of individuals who try to make sure data is complete and accurate
- Is this the kind of structure you would enjoy working in? Why, or why not?
- This structure is well-suited for this project, but maybe not for a code-based project

Technology/Product

Section adapted from [EFF Worksheet](#)

The Technology Behind GitHub

GitHub is powered completely by [Git](#), a distributed source control system.

- Git was originally started by Linus Torvalds, creator of the Linux kernel.
- Git was initially started to track the Linux kernel and was then used by other projects.
- Lots of people interested in working on the same set of files or tracking changes in files could potentially use Git.

GitHub Using Git

- Created to be a highly distributed SCM, GitHub based their entire product on using Git.
- GitHub now uses git as the tool it uses to track most of their repos and interface with GitHub.
- Contrary to popular belief, Git existed before GitHub. GitHub created a nice visual front end and a great central area for code repos.

Copyright Law and Creation of Git

- The Linux kernel was originally tracked in BitKeeper, a proprietary SCM.

- Devs of BitKeeper rescinded license to use it and the kernel was left in the cold.
- Linus became fed up and created his own that would be FOSS so that incident could never happen again.

Controversy over GitHub and Copyright

- GitHub is not open source, leading to an ironic situation that one of the most central sites for FOSS software isn't FOSS itself.
- GitHub also has a default license that has been controversial over some of its terms.