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CS361: Assignment 1: Environment Setup

# Overview

Set up your development environment. In addition to an IDE or code editor (choose any you prefer), start a GitHub repository and choose a task management system.

# Instructions

Complete each item below by replacing the highlighted text (**Usability note**: double-click the text to select it).

## GitHub Repository

Create a GitHub account if you don’t already have one, create a Git repository hosted on GitHub. Make a **test commit**. The test commit should show up on GitHub.

* 1. What is your GitHub username?

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| linsam99 |

* 1. Provide a screenshot of your test commit.

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## Spike: Task Management Systems

For your portfolio project, you will be using a task management system to keep track of development tasks. Spike at least **three** task management systems you could use. A spike is a quick, directed effort focused on getting a question answered (e.g., researching the pros and cons of different technologies or strategies so that you can make an informed decision). Examples of task management systems you could spike: Trello, Jira, Asana. **Requirements for the task management systems**:

* Free tier
* Cross-platform
* Support for collaboration, task definition/deletion/updating, task priorities, task due dates, assigning people to tasks, setting task status, and organizing tasks into different columns.

To do a spike, you need to not only research the task management systems, you need to (1) try to **use** them, (2) **evaluate** them based on specific criteria, (3) **compare** them, and (4) **decide** which to use.

* 1. Which task management systems did you spike?

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| Trello |
| Asana |
| Wrike |

* 1. **Try** each system. Create a task then update it, assign it, delete it, etc. **Screenshot** your task in each system and paste below. Name the tasks **"CS361 Test Task"**.

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| Trello |
| Asana |
| Wrike |

* 1. For each, **evaluate** against at least these criteria:
     1. **Ease of use**. Ex: Is it intuitive to learn? Easy to remember how to use it? Do you find yourself making lots of errors trying to use it? Are there tutorials and documentation?

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| **Name of system** | **Evaluation** |
| Trello | Trello came with a starting workspace and board that contained a basic tutorial. There are also many templates to choose from, though these seem to affect the background color/picture more than the actual workspace. It was easy for me to learn. I created a new workspace for CS361, created a new board for Assignment 1, and added a new test task. I then updated the task, assigned myself to it, and explored other features. |
| Asana | Asana did not have much of a tutorial, but everything is laid out well and labeled, so I did not have a hard time finding and using the necessary features. I created a new project for CS361 and added a new test task within the board view. I also noticed that I could create further subdivisions using portfolio folders. |
| Wrike | Wrike provides a Getting Started tutorial and marks your progress through it on the top right of the screen which I found helpful. I was able to easily create a project for CS361 and add a new test task within the board view. I also noticed that I could create further subdivisions using folders. |

* + 1. **Speed / responsiveness**. Ex: Does it take an annoyingly long time to log in

/ load / create new projects / etc. or is it peppy?

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| **Name of system** | **Evaluation** |
| Trello | I was able to create new items, update existing items, and move everything around with no lag. Clicking into a task was fairly quick as well. |
| Asana | I was able to use the website with everything running fairly smoothly. Switching from board view to timeline/calendar view took a couple seconds the first time but was very fast afterwards. |
| Wrike | The website provides a button to choose table or board view, but switching between the two took a slight bit of loading time. It was not that long but I imagine it might become annoying if I were to use this system for a while. Other that that, every other action was fast and responsive. |

* + 1. **Feature set**. Ex: Besides the required features, does the system have other features you are likely to need?

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| **Name of system** | **Evaluation** |
| Trello | There are many other features besides the basics. Some seem fairly complex, but I am interested in trying them. For example, using automation to create rulesets. I liked that it was automatically set to dark mode which is my browser preference. |
| Asana | There are many views other than the board: timeline, calendar, dashboard, etc. These seem useful for getting different perspectives on the state of the project. I liked that it was automatically set to dark mode which is my browser preference. I did not explore many of the features because I was put on a 30-day trial for the premium plan automatically when I signed up which will convert to the basic plan after the time period is up. I did not want to become attached to any features that were premium only. I also liked that clicking on a task would open its information on the right side of the screen instead of having a pop-up. |
| Wrike | I saw from Wrike’s website that there are many different analytics you can view about your project and they do so in a very aesthetically pleasing manner. I also liked that clicking on a task would open its information on the right side of the screen instead of having a pop-up. |

* + 1. **Relevance / popularity**. Ex: Is it likely you will ever see the task management system again after the course?

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| **Task Management System** | **Evaluation** |
| Trello | Yes. I have heard of Trello many times before and know that it is quite popular, or at least well-known. |
| Asana | I had never heard of Asana, but their app on the Apple App Store has 14k reviews and is very highly rated. It seems to be well-known and well-liked, so I expect to meet other people who have used it before. |
| Wrike | Wrike seems to be less used, but it also has very high ratings. I may not encounter people who already use it but I think many would be open to trying it. |

* 1. **Compare** the systems by **ranking** them based on the criteria above. Best to worst for each criterion. List or table format.

If you are using numbers to rank, provide a legend to clarify which number means best and which number means worst.

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| **Task Management System** | **Ease of use** | **Speed / responsiveness** | **Feature set** | **Relevance / popularity** |
| Trello | Best | Best | Worst | Middle |
| Asana | Worst | Middle | Best | Best |
| Wrike | Middle | Worst | Middle | Worst |

* 1. Which system is **highest ranked?**

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| Asana |