**Questions – Answers**

What is GitHub? When was it created? Why? By who? What similar platforms exist? Why would you use such a platform?

GitHub is a website and cloud-based service that helps developers store and manage their code, as well as track and control changes to their code. Main part of GitHub is **Version control** that helps developers track and manage changes to a software project’s code, and **Git** that is a **distributed version** control system, which means that the entire codebase and history is available on every developer’s computer, which allows for easy branching and merging.

Chris Wanstrath, PJ Hyett, Tom Preston-Werner and Scott Chacon created GitHub on **February 8, 2008**. It was created for ease of developing a project and to maintain on going changes in any code or file or project by team members.

**Alternative to GitHub**

* BitBucket
* Beanstalk
* Launchpad
* SourceForge
* Phabricator
* GitBucket
* Gogs

We should use such platform for collaborative and personal work, especially it helps with version control and project distribution, it is open source so it is helpful for new ideas and exploration.

**Define the following terms**

* Repository: It is like a folder for all files of project, there can be multiple repository in your GitHub Account. It stores each file's revision history. Repositories can have multiple collaborators and can be either public or private.
* Commit: When you commit it is like saving updates in files . Commits usually contain a commit message, which is a brief description of what changes were made.
* Push: Pushing refers to sending your committed changes to a remote repository, such as a repository hosted on GitHub.
* Branch: A branch is a parallel version of a repository. It is contained within the repository, but does not affect the primary or master branch allowing you to work freely without disrupting the "live" version.
* Fork: A fork is a personal copy of another user's repository that lives on your account. Forks allow you to freely make changes to a project without affecting the original.
* Merge: Merging takes the changes from one branch (in the same repository or from a fork), and applies them into another. It’s simply to merge different braches.
* Clone: A clone is a copy of a repository that lives on your computer instead of on a website's server somewhere, or the act of making that copy.
* Pull: Pull refers to when you are fetching in changes and merging them.
* Pull request: Pull requests are proposed changes to a repository submitted by a user and accepted or rejected by a repository's collaborators.