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Connections Lab: Assignment 1

The connected application that I choose for this assignment is GitHub. This platform has become one of the most influential sites in the world because of how popular it is within the development community. I believe it is a very good example of what a connected application means given that it connects people from all around the world together in collaborative projects to achieve their goals.

What works with GitHub is the fact that you can very easily link your local files with the repository, and smoothly collaborate with others through commits that update on the system every two minutes, almost. I also like that GitHub has a decent free version that makes some people never need to upgrade to premium. The fact that you can access all the repositories of a person through GitHub really helps in sharing information, algorithms, and the newest libraries online. It also serves as a free portfolio medium for students and those aiming to demonstrate their coding skills first-hand to others. The way GitHub works makes it not exclusive to coding communities only, but actually a platform for collaborating on any type of files. I also like the README feature which provides aesthetically pleasing sections that can elaborately describe the work and provide useful steps for utilizing the uploaded files. Not only that, but GitHub even allows for GitHub pages, which opens the door to whole sites for documentation or any other purposes, where the sky is the limit when it comes to creativity. GitHub also provides many useful pieces of information such as the percentage of languages used in a repository, pull requests, actions, projects, security, issues, and even some insights about the project that give you a more well-rounded perspective.

But some things are not perfect. First of all, GitHub has a maximum amount of storage for users before they need to upgrade to premium. In my humble opinion, I believe such a connected application serves the whole world and should be non-profitable but rather funded by wealthy community members. Even if that was not the case and there was a premium, limiting the maximum file size to only 2GB is quite frustrating. I believe the threshold needs to increase to at least 4GB because nowadays everything is shared online and such storage capacities are not feasible for many emerging developers who might have actual potential in the future. Another main problem is that working on multiple projects requires you to do multiple folder clones. If you were to work on multiple projects simultaneously, you need to commit all changes in one of these projects before you can actually change branches. Another option is to stash your changes for future reference. A third option is to simply clone a new repository. All these options are hectic and require more time and effort to work efficiently. I would somehow allow a user to access multiple GitHub projects simultaneously through separate windows perhaps. One last problem is that Git commands for undoing commits which include "git revert", "git reset", and "git rebase". The process is very confusing to me, and apparently, to many other developers mainly because you need to identify the SHA of the commit first in addition to other annoying steps. I would limit undoing to only one command and have better manuals that explain how exactly the process should go.