5. GitHub vs GitLab

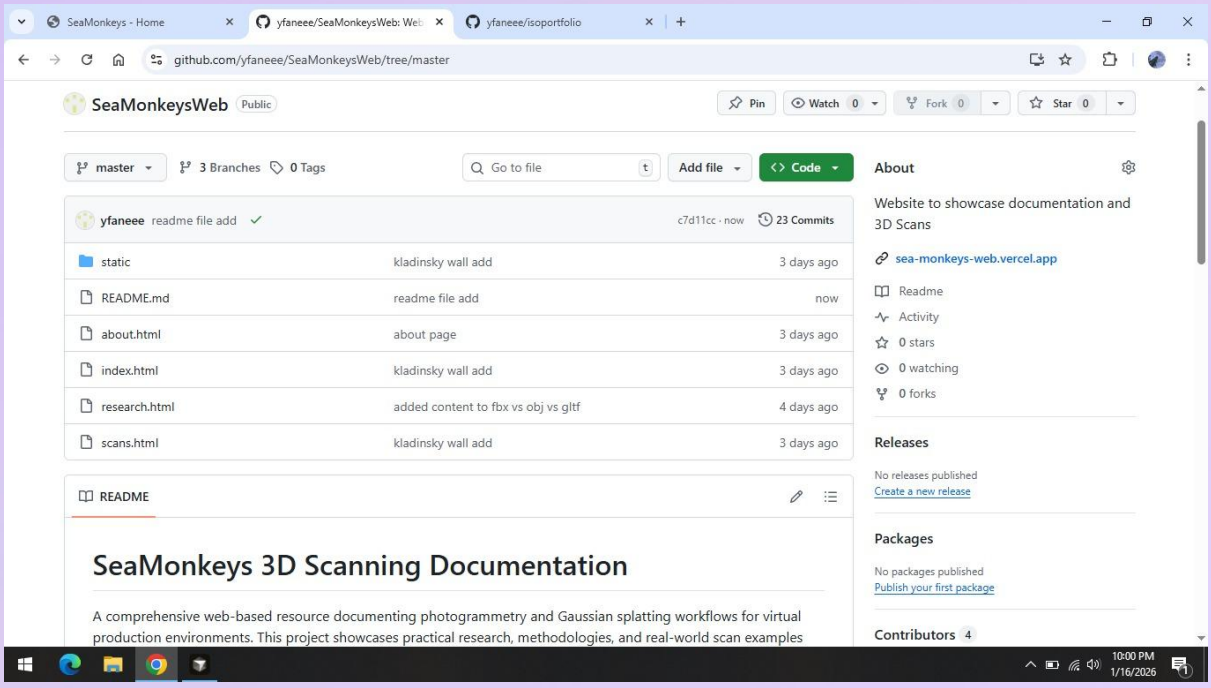
Intro

Going into creating our final delivery for the project, I explained my idea to my teammates of creating the SeaMonkeys website where users could read all our documentation and quickly view our scans. The idea was well received, so we decided to create a website as our main delivery platform.

At that point, we had to decide whether to use GitLab or GitHub for version control, since not only I but also other teammates were going to work on the project.

Process & Feedback

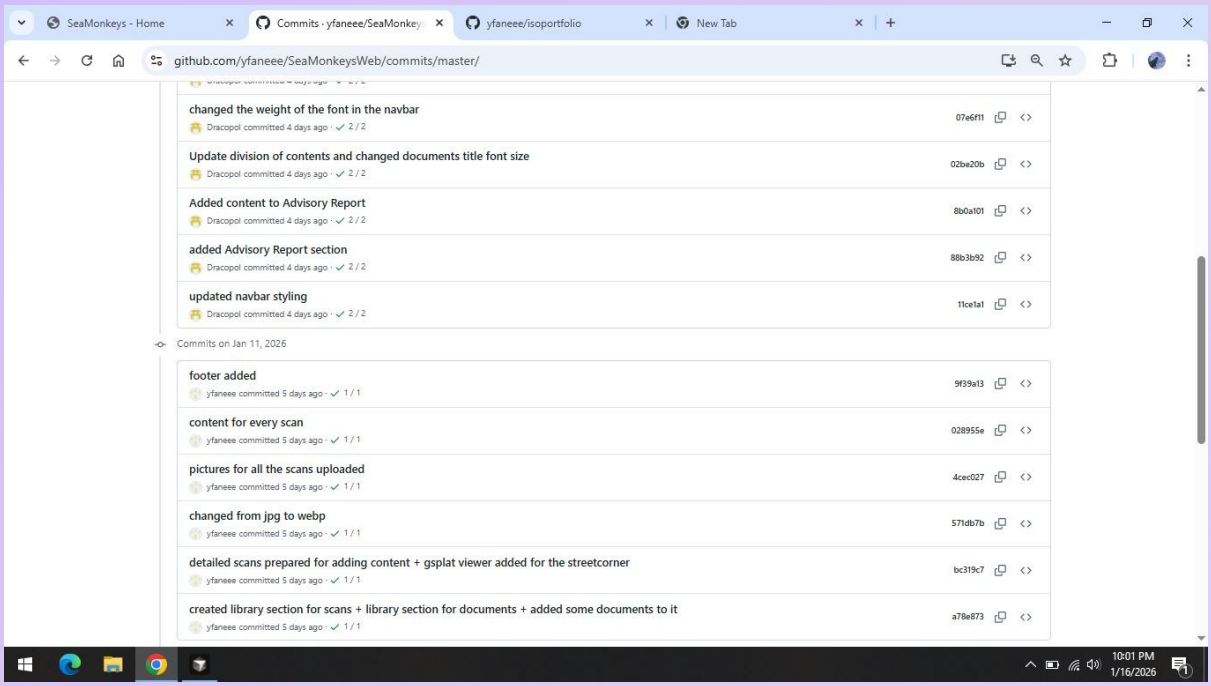
Thinking through the advantages and disadvantages of both GitHub and GitLab, I decided to use GitHub. This decision was strongly influenced by my prior experience with the school's GitLab. In several projects, GitLab sometimes did not work during weekends or failed unexpectedly, which created unnecessary delays.



Another major advantage of GitHub was the ability to easily host the website through Vercel. With GitHub and Vercel combined, every commit automatically updates the live version of the website.

This made collaboration much smoother, as everyone could instantly see the newest working version without additional steps. In contrast, hosting on Hera required manually updating the website each time the code changed and occasionally failed to deploy properly.

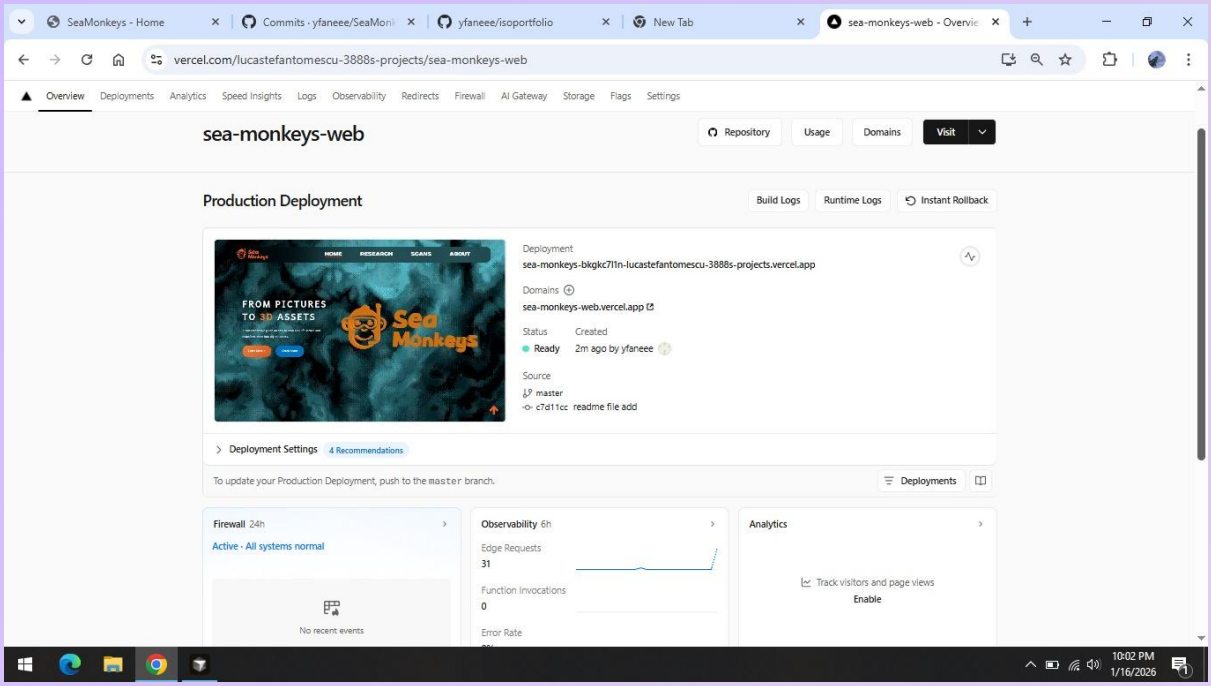
After making this decision, I created the GitHub repository, invited my teammates, and set up the project. Since there was a clear difference in skill levels regarding web development, I decided to let my teammates first create the basic structure of the website. This allowed them to contribute comfortably, while I could later build the more advanced features on top of that foundation.



Once the base prototype was finished, the development process went very fast. I was able to complete around 85% of the website in one day, since the structure was already in place and the content scope was clear. Hosting the website on Vercel made it extremely easy to share internally and externally.

For the final presentation day, opening the website directly from the Vercel link was reliable and stress-free. There was no need to run a local server or worry about something breaking last minute. This also meant we could safely share the website with the client, knowing it would remain accessible and functional after the project ended.

Reflection



Choosing GitHub over GitLab was a decision based on reliability, accessibility, and long-term usability. From previous experiences, I knew that unstable version control or hosting can negatively impact teamwork and deadlines. By choosing GitHub combined with Vercel, I ensured that everyone in the team could work confidently, knowing that changes would be tracked properly and deployed automatically.

This setup also improved communication with stakeholders. Having a live, always-updated website made it easier to present progress, gather feedback, and share results with teachers and the client. Instead of explaining changes verbally or through screenshots, we could simply share a link that reflected the latest version.

Overall, this experience showed me how important technical infrastructure decisions are for transferable production. Version control and hosting are not just technical choices, but tools that directly affect collaboration, transparency, and the professional quality of a project's delivery.

GitLink: https://github.com/yfaneee/SeaMonkeysWeb

Vercel: https://sea-monkeys-web.vercel.app/