Data Sharing, Distribution and Updating Using Social Coding Community Github and LATEX Packages in Graduate Research

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Some Facts



- Octocat (Octopus + Cat) is a symbol of GitHub. It symbolizes sharing a project.
- GitHub is available for free which is useful for students and researchers
- Slogan of GitHub: 'Social Coding', i.e. 'let's code it together'.
- It refers to the programming, but in this presentation I show using GitHub for MSc thesis

- GitHub a web-service for hosting (i.e. serving and maintenance) of IT-projects online, as well as their development by multiple authors (incl. graduate projects development).
- GitHub is initially aimed at version control system Git (used in programming)
- GitHub is written in the programming language "Erlang" and "Ruby", a framework Ruby on Rails
- GitHub was created by GitHub, Inc, USA. The first private repository was established in 2008.

GitHub: Shared Creativity

GitHub allows viewing and editing texts: make edits, change current versions in collective access; work together on the current version of the project; add new colleagues for collective work (convenient, for example, when a group of students write a common fieldwork report). GitHub maintains colored syntax highlighting: added parts of code/text are colored green, deleted parts of code/text – red. Example: below (fragment of my MSc thesis code).

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GitHub: Creative Sharing

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- Github allows adding various data types: code, graphics, etc.
- Github allows control latest changes, discuss and discuss work with students, post any comments directly into the text, add online comments
- Github allows registered users to add current version changes to the repository of the current project.
- Github keeps all update versions in the current projects online
- Github gives the opportunity for data sharing
- Github enables coworking

Advantages of Web-Service GitHub



- Online repositories
- Possibilities for co-authorship
- Creating PhD/MSc/BSc theses
- Presenting research works
- Writing and updating articles
- Archive of scientific works
- Sharing with colleagues
- Notification of current updates

LATEX : Advantages over Traditional Text Editors

There are a number of drawbacks when using traditional programs for writing theses (e.g., MS Word). These difficulties are essential when writing a thesis:

- Continuous numbering of the test and illustrations breaks when changing or adding new ones in the middle of the text (which must be corrected manually)
- In case of MS Word, student has to double-check all references to literary sources again, which complicates the work and leads to mechanical difficulties and lengthy monotonous corrections.
- LATEX has a built-in flexible system of bibliographic cross-referencing in the list of references, which enables making automatic linking to the bib sources, as well as updating links.
- LATEX has a built-in BibTeX package that enables compiling bibliography in active mode and leaves hyper refs a d live links toreferences, i.e. Instantly editable if necessary.

Step 1: Key Generation

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Step 2: User Registration

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ee 'git help config' and search for 'push	default' for further information.
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Step 3: Generating Project

Key Commands and Tools:

Github commands.txt git init git add files #all that I want to add git commit -a -m "My first random commit message" git diff git remote add origin git@github.com:paulinelemenkova/CV.git git push origin master git add picture.jpg #may be something more to add git commit -a -m "added my picture" git push touch .gitignore
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'git init' - initiation project from scratch. 'git add files' - selecting all files for the project. (texts, tables, graphs, maps, figures).

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Project Push and Update



- git commit -a -m 'name of update'
- e.g.: git commit -a -m 'added tables No 14, 15, 17'
- 'git diff' a key command of GitHub,
- 'git diff' detects and recognizes all updates in the text
- 'git diff' highlights them green/red, respectively

Typesetting Thesis in LATEX

Example of structuring text in a thesis with the help of mark up language used to highlight text when writing codes with a high level of nesting, allows you to quickly navigate the work: paragraphs, highlighting text, indentation, multi-level markings, making tabs, hierarchical structuring (chapters, sections, sub-sections, paragraphs), multi-level indents from the red line. This allows to quickly read and navigate within the text.

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Syntax Coloring



- Important feature of Github: built-in color management for updated code
- All recent updates are syntactically highlighted green in the command line

- Added text, lines and whole fragments and paragraphs of paragraphs are colored green
- On the contrary, selected sections of text deleted from the last session are colored red.



Advantages of GitHub in Academia

Time Monitoring

Using GitHub facilitates monitoring research progress and to assess the work done recently, to timely response to the comments and corrections of colleagues.

Retrospective Editing

Retrospective and comparative editing of texts in the Github environment allows to return to the old, previous version of the work, saved a while ago, to cancel updates.



System of Control and Revision

All versions and changes of the thesis are recorded and available in the system. Thus, using GitHub revision control system and text code management, the project was regularly updated. Hence, supervisors can regularly monitor the project.



Unpublished Works

Both public and private repositories are maintained: the colleague/co-author/supervisors may receive private links to the current version of research and have access to the work.



Online Feature of GitHub: Data-Sharing

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JavaScript game engines	Game off winners	Web games
Learn or level up your L307 game dev skills and build amazing games together for web, desitop, or mobile.	The winners of our annual game jam, where contestants have 1 month to build an open source game that is playable in the web browser.	Who says that coding has to be boring? Have some fun with these open source games.
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Data visualization	Game Engines	Open Source Operating Systems

Github's use of the standard command line interface in programming

- Adding current version changes to the repository of the current project.
- Supports both a public repository and a closed one in limited access (private).
- Keeping closed unpublished works, with restricted access to coworkers.
- Successfully defended dissertations, master's projects and theses can be posted in open access.
- Access is configured for both the general public and the university archive.
- Data can be stored there for an unlimited time.

A Case Study of Using GitHub



A case study of using GitHub: my MSc thesis.

- MSc Thesis "Seagrass Mapping and Monitoring Along the Coasts of Crete, Greece", defended in Netherlands, University of Twente, Faculty of GIS and Earth Observation, 2011.
- Written using text editor LaTEX using GitHub
- Original source: on my GitHub webpage.

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Project Interface in the Github Environment

Opportunities

GitHub: excellent opportunities in academia for supervisors, students, lecturers, researchers.

Monitoring

The use of $\ensuremath{\mathbb{A}\text{T}}_{E\!X}$ and Github provided timely access for the project's supervisors to monitor research progress

Examples

Updating Unlike traditional MS Word, combination of LaTEX and Github allowed supervisors to check current progress on-line as updates, comments and corrections made.

Example of Research Progress

New text is highlighted in green, deleted paragraphs are highlighted in red.

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Current research progress can be easily monitored and specific project updates highlighted and commented



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Actuality of Using GitHub

Audience

Despite obvious advantages and prospects of the GitHub service, the majority of its users are programmers and IT specialists. Using GitHub in academia is still limited.

Popularization in Academia

There is an need to popularize and demonstrate the GitHub service and environment in the student and academic environment: in research centers, universities, institutes.

Examples

Geologists: Getting acquainted with GitHub would be of especial advantage for faculties of natural and Earth sciences, since they often have common fieldwork data and projects.

Conclusion

Current problem with GitHub and $\[mathbb{E}X$ is their non-popularity in academia caused by following reasons.

Student Works

Some students are not informed about the LATEX or GitHub and do not know how to use them. The functionality of these tools, multifunctional environments should be popularized.

Difficulty of Learning Curve

GitHub and $\[Mathebaarefted{ETEX}$ are sometimes regard ed as difficult programs. The basics of using $\[Mathebaarefted{ETEX}$ and GitHub should be initially studied for some time, but it is rewarding. Further advantages of using TeX and GitHub are obvious and worth the efforts and time to master them.

Examples

Advantages: Joint combination of using LATEX and GitHub facilitates writing, typesetting and managing versions upgrades while working on a project.

Discussion

Opportunities

Traditional for IT industry and programmers, GitHub offers great opportunities for effective collaboration such as 'student-supervisor' or 'group of students' or 'group of colleagues'. Unlike traditional programs, the use of innovative technologies of text editors, such as LATEX and data archiving such as GitHub allows supervisor to monitor student's research progress.

Advantages

A great advantage of GitHub consists in its color syntax and maintaining history of updates versions. The presentation demonstrated conceptual principles of the Github and LATEX.

Possibilities

The possibilities for collaborative data sharing, research progress updating and creative works are illustrated. Current work is a technical illustration of using IT in education.

Résumé

Résumé

This work aimed to give an example of the effective use of the GitHub web service specifically in an academic environment. The case study was given to a MSc thesis that was written completely using $\[MText{EX}\]$ and GitHub. The presentation illustrated how specifically one can apply new technologies and innovative approaches in the educational environment.

Highlights

Technical issues of running project, creating repositories, making updates, adding new files to the system are demonstrated with a series of screenshot illustrations of the process. Important conceptual features and advantages of using Github and LATEX in the academic environment are listed and discussed.

Thanks

Thank you for attention !

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