

Introduction to GitHub:

A Crash Course for Social Science Researchers

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Lesson Outline

- Setting the Stage
 - Why GitHub? Why Now?
- Frameworks and Principles
 - Git, GitHub, and GitHub Desktop, Oh My
- Getting Started
 - Level 1: GitHub as Google Drive but Worse
 - Level 2: GitHub as a Dissemination Tool
 - Level 3: GitHub as a Version Control Platform
 - Level 4: GitHub as a Facilitator of Complex Collaboration
- Next Steps

Setting the Stage



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Frictions and dangers in analytic work abound

Frameworks and Principles





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Version Control Systems	File Repository Services	Desktop Clients
Git	GitHub	GitHub Desktop
Subversion	BitBucket	SourceTree
•••	•••	•••

Getting Started

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- Quick Demo: COVID Dashboard

Level 2: GitHub as a Dissemination Tool

• Level 1 plus:

- Can share public "repositories" (repos) easily and freely
- Can keep it updated at all times
- Can write simple "read-me's" for public use
- Looks fancier than it is

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• Quick Demo: Education Deserts w/ Dan

Level 3: GitHub as a Version Control Platform

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- Can be edited simultaneously by multiple users w/o conflict
- Easily identify who changed what, and when
- Easily revert erroneous or catastrophic changes to code
- Force yourself to write good notes on each update

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- Quick Demo: N2FL Text Analysis

Level 4: GitHub as a Facilitator of Complex Collaboration

• Level 3 plus:

- Can formally request changes, document bugs, and keep track of future changes needed
- Can incorporate suggestions *from* total strangers, or suggest your own changes *to* total strangers ("open source!")
- Can allow for the same codebase to exist in many forms at once, be many things to different people
- Automate codebase updates

• Quick Demo: Parttree Package

Next Steps



Resources to Explore

- GitHub's Hello World tutorial
- Similar tutorial from HubSpot
- Similar tutorial, but using more of the back-end command line
- Just play around with it!

Any Questions?

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Thank you!

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