# A Beginner’s Guide to GitHub

You may have heard mention of “Git” or “GitHub” from a friend, a professor, or maybe on Reddit.

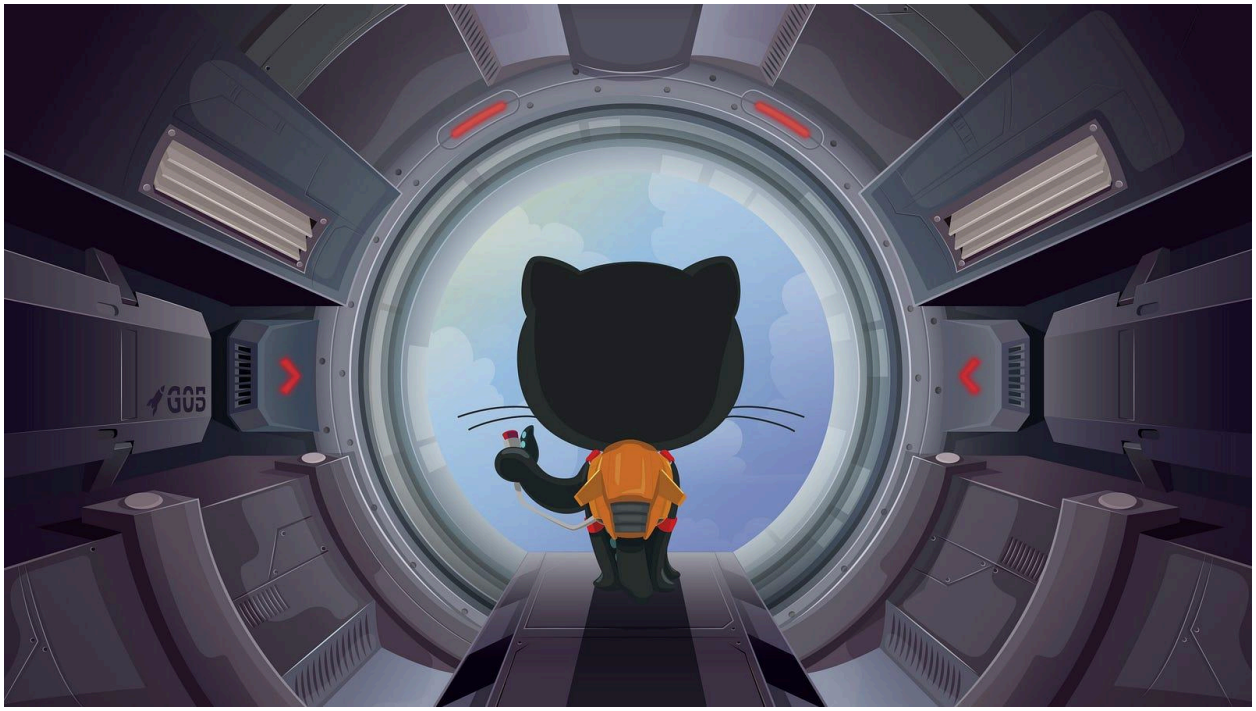

Photo by 0x604 on wallhaven

I won’t go into heavy detail in this guide, as this is for those that want a beginner-level understanding of GitHub and may just be starting out in tech. My goal is **not** to scare you away, but to encourage you to learn more.

Now, let’s demystify this powerful and widely-used tool!

## Taking Photos

Let's suppose you are working on a project and you write some code or program like this:

```
def function(random):
  if (random > 0):
    print(random)

print("Take a picture of this!")
```

Couple hours later you decide to slightly change it to this:

```
def function(random):
  if (len(random) > 0):
    print(random)

function("Take a picture of this!")
```

You now decide you are gonna get some sleep and come back to the project the next day. Basically, you want to be able to come back to your work at some point in the future.

It's now the next day and you will need to try and recall the changes you made yesterday. You also need a friend's help on this particular project, so you'll need to show them your code. Are you gonna bring your computer to their house? Maybe FaceTime them and pray they can read that?

This is where Git *saves* the day!

Git will happily take a picture of your code and save it in GitHub where you can access it later or more importantly share it with others.

**GitHub** uses Git and acts as the hub or center where all the main magic happens. **Git** is a tool that is the main back-end of GitHub.

## Why is GitHub Important?

You may be wondering how Git is different from regular screenshots? What are the features of this Git snapshot?

Not only can you more easily take photos of all your folders of code to **access** and **share** on GitHub, you can also **edit** your code and **interact** with your **snapshot**.

It's not your everyday photo, that's for sure.

You can share your code with your friend, and they can copy or **clone** your link which is the **Git Repository**. This may or may not sound familiar.

If you have used Microsoft VS Code or any code editing software you may have noticed the option to **Clone Git Repository**. This is so that you can paste the link to the GitHub snapshot and easily make a copy of it to begin working on it yourself.

You will also be able to take multiple snapshots. In the code example above, I made very slight changes, but they were still changes. The idea is that the more snapshots you take, the better! **Multiple snapshots** of changes allows you to **compare** previous snapshot to your current code, thus helping tremendously in the process of **debugging**.

Click below if you want to know more about **Git** from Git themselves:

https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Getting-Started-What-is-Git%3F

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This article was written by Sarah Khan & published on Medium here.