

Hacktoberfest 2024: Git-Set-Code

LET'S GIT STARTED!

Anticipation filled the air as Neofolks kicked off the 2024-2025 season with their first event, *Git Set Code*, under the Hacktoberfest banner. In just three days, the event came together through rapid collaboration with SVIT's tech committee, Apexia, and strong support from SSIP head, Tosha Shukla. Registrations surged, closing within 24 hours—a testament to the enthusiasm and community spirit driving the event.

More than just a skills workshop, *Git Set Code* brought together like-minded students, bridging knowledge and collaboration. The event offered practical learning in open-source, web programming, and community building, sparking new connections and a shared passion for tech.

Event Highlights: The Kickoff to Collaboration

The day began with a cordial welcome from our committee leaders, Travon Bhagat from Neofolks and Srujal Shah from Apexia, who introduced their respective communities with warmth and humour. Travon and Srujal set the tone for the day by sharing their personal experiences with committees, encouraging attendees to consider technology as more than just a collection of commands, but as a vast area for growth, collaboration, and endless creativity. Srujal then gave a quick overview of open source, focussing on what it is, why it is important, the essence of community-driven collaboration, and how it enables developers to participate globally.

Following a brief lunch break to refuel, the seminar transitioned to a short quiz that reinforced previously presented open-source topics. This prepared everyone for the hands-on workshops that followed; with spirits high and brains primed to absorb, they attended courses meant to provide participants with practical exposure to vital tools and concepts, which concluded with a networking opportunity.

What Was Covered?

The day's learning sessions were packed, covering essential tools like Git/GitHub, HTML, and CSS.

Community Intros (Travon Bhagat & Srujal Shah):

Leaders Travon and Srujal introduced their committees, Neofolks and Apexia, outlining objectives and focus areas.

They highlighted the philosophy of community building, emphasizing shared values and the growth opportunities a tech community offers in terms of learning and friendship.

Discussion topics included:

- Community name, branding, mission, and vision.
- Key principles guiding their operations.
- Technology initiatives and recent projects.
- Member profiles and target audience.

An interactive Q&A session followed, offering attendees deeper insights into the community's mission.

The session inspired participants to reflect on ways they could contribute to and benefit from a collaborative tech journey.

Introduction to Open Source (Srujal Shah):

- Srujal provided an impactful overview of the open-source community, emphasizing its global role in idea and code exchange.
- Key points highlighted:
 - Open-source collaboration principles, including universal knowledge access and collective contribution to larger goals.
 - The importance of teamwork in achieving technological advancements.
 - Benefits of contributing to public codebases.
 - Basics of managing open-source projects.

Git/GitHub Session (Parth Parmar):

- Parth Parmar delivered an engaging talk on Git and GitHub, highlighting the dual focus on collaboration and organization.
- Key topics covered:
 - Basic commands: `git clone`, `git add`, `git commit`, `git push`.
 - Branching workflows, forking repositories, and submitting pull requests for open-source contributions.
- Parth explained the importance of each step, emphasizing how version control adds discipline to collaborative projects.

- His approachable teaching style made version control concepts accessible for beginners.
- The session sparked enthusiasm, with attendees eager to start hands-on experimentation by the end.

HTML Session (Dharmin Nagar):

- Dharmin's session focused on the Document Object Model (DOM), explaining how browsers interpret HTML to render structured web pages.
- Emphasis was on HTML structure as the core framework of any website.
- Key topics covered:
 - Fundamentals of HTML tags, including headers, paragraphs, buttons, and divs.
 - Purpose and role of HTML elements in creating accessible, user-friendly designs.
- Special focus on the div tag for grouping elements and structuring web layouts efficiently.
- Participants gained practical knowledge on using HTML's foundational elements to build well-organized webpages.

CSS Workshop (Yatharth Singh Panwar):

- Yatharth led a CSS workshop focused on transforming HTML into visually appealing designs.
- Key concepts covered included:
 - Using padding, margins, and color schemes to enhance layouts.
 - Structuring pages with the `div` element in conjunction with CSS for a clean and organized look.
- Emphasis was placed on how design choices impact user experience, with minor adjustments in color or spacing able to convey specific moods or themes.
- Participants received step-by-step guidance on creating intricate layouts using HTML and CSS.
- The workshop concluded with attendees working on mini-projects, incorporating playful themes, which were later shared on Luma for feedback and collaboration via GitHub.

Heartfelt Thanks and Recognition: A Moment to Reflect

- Travon closed the event with a heartfelt thank-you, recognizing the dedication of the Apexia and Neofolks teams.
- Travon announced the promotion of Rishabh Gajiwala, marketing and outreach lead, to Co-Lead, celebrating his achievements and commitment.
- The announcement was met with cheers, reflecting the strong community spirit fostered throughout the event.
- This moment highlighted the collective effort behind the event's success and celebrated each individual's unique contributions.

Networking Session:

After the official closing, the focus shifted to networking booths.

Volunteers encouraged attendees to interact and exchange ideas at various booths.

Topics explored included:

- Cybersecurity
- UI/UX design
- Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA)
- Web development
- An entertaining "Gossip" program

Volunteers ensured a lively and participatory atmosphere, fostering discussions and idea exchanges among attendees.

By the end of the session, participants formed new connections, explored new domains in tech.

Achievements, Outcomes, and Takeaways

By the end of Git Set Code:

Hands-On Learning: Participants gained practical experience in web development, version control, and collaborative processes throughout the Git Set Code event.

Open-Source Awareness: They developed an understanding of the importance of open-source platforms and learned effective collaboration through GitHub.

Git/GitHub Skills: The session covered repository management, how to submit pull requests, and best practices for version control, equipping attendees with essential skills for real-world projects.

Web Development Insights: In web development session, participants learned to structure webpages using HTML and enhance them with CSS for styling.

HTML Fundamentals: Dharmin's lesson included a comprehensive look at core HTML elements such as headings, paragraphs, anchors, buttons, and the div tag, emphasizing their roles in organizing content effectively.

CSS Mastery: Yatharth's in-depth analysis of CSS helped participants break down designs into components, focusing on padding, margins, and color schemes, which empowered them to convert designs into code.

Skill Development: By the end of the session, participants had a foundational understanding of HTML, CSS, and Git/GitHub, providing them with tools to engage with open-source projects immediately.

Conclusion

Git Set Code set a high standard for future events and marked a significant start to the 2024–2025 tenure. Organized in just three days, the collaboration between Neofolks and Apexia, supported by Tosha Shukla's mentorship, showcased the power of teamwork. The swift closure of registrations within a day highlighted participants' enthusiasm to learn and grow.

The event equipped attendees with valuable skills through technical seminars on HTML, CSS, and Git/GitHub, while networking opportunities allowed for meaningful connections. Community introductions by Travon Bhagat and Srujal Shah emphasised the importance of aligning with tech groups for personal and professional advancement.

Rishabh Gajiwala's promotion to Co-Lead underscored individual contributions, and participants left with swags and certificates that celebrated their skills and encouraged continued involvement in web development and open-source projects.

Despite challenges like a 1.5-hour power outage that delayed the schedule, the team's quick response provided valuable learning experiences. Overall, Hacktoberfest 2024 ignited passion and teamwork, laying the groundwork for future innovations in open-source development. We look forward to more gatherings filled with knowledge, friendship, and collaboration.

Memories











