Hints to use free website hosting services

1   neocities.org

neocities.org provides the free hosting of web sites. It is easy to use (name_of_site,email, password, upload of files `html,pdf` but not `.zip`). The name of the website is the concatenation of the provided name_of_site and neocities.org. With no further indication it calls index.html. It can be used to make available non-public files by giving the name of an html-file to some collaborators, that file giving a list of names that can be downloaded or read using this website. Beware that neocities.org appears not to allow the use of stored files by other websites as only the pure name of the site can be used to call the website, and only precisely as http:\...neocities.org without `www`.

2   github

github is not meant to host web sites. I use it as a website by adding the string https://htmlpreview.github.io/? to the name of the web site followed by the name of the repository and followed by the name of the file (either `pdf` or `htm`). To upload files, it is quite tricky. First one has to get familiar with the `git` software that can be downloaded in Windows and more specifically the `git bash` window.

- `git init` creates a `.git` directory at the `pwd` location
- `git add .` has to be used at that location
- `git commit -m "name_of_commit"`
- `git config -global user.name`
- `git config -global user.email`
- `git branch -M main`
- `git remote add origin`
- `git push -u origin main`

Most important github needs to make sure that the uploaded files are sent by an owner trusted, a password is not sufficient. The github provides a randomly generated key that we just have to use as a password in `git`.

3   gmail

With a `gmail` account, one has access to google drive and this can be used to give access to files (modify the restricted default access and copy the link).

4   HTML related hints

The `href` attribute seems to be understood as an absolute reference when it starts with `https` and a relative if not.

The lowercase/uppercase distinction in file names is tricky. There is no difference in Windows system files whereas there is one in Linux system files. It seems that Windows keeps track of this distinction in the names considering the first name given, it may be changed in the Windows file system. HTML makes a difference, yielding a 404 error. The linux tools imported in Windows make sometimes a difference, but sometimes not and it appears to be difficult to change this lowercase/uppercase spelling in the names already uploaded in a repository.

The hosting web sites may take some time to refresh and there may be a difference between the content of a file when read as a text file and when it is interpreted as an HTML file. But it seems that this difference may also suggest an HTML mistake yielding a contradictory behavior that is not changing with time.