Git Branches and Workflow

Many features, many developers; How can Git help?

Issues in GitLab

- GitLab tracks Issues:
  - Demo: Show issues in an active repo
- Value of Issues
  - Use as product's backlog
  - Assign issue to a dev to show who's working on it
  - Update issue with extra info as needed

Branches

- .. Main source code branch in a Git repo.
- .. Latest code on master.
- Chaotic Commits
  - Too chaotic to have many teammates constantly committing code to master.
  - Solution:..
- Branch (Feature Branch)
  - Do work on separate track (the branch) from Master
  - Commit changes to your branch
  - When feature is ready, ..

Branching and GitLab Merge Request

- Process Overview
  GL = done in GitLab
  AS = done in Android Studio
  - GL: Pick an issue to implement & create branch.
  - AS: Checkout branch, make changes, commit & push changes to the branch.

  When feature is ready:
  - AS: Merge Master to Feature branch (resolving conflicts); commit/push changes.
  - GL: Create merge request to merge branch to Master.
  - GL: Branch is deleted when merge request accepted.
    (manually remove merged local branch)
Issues and Branching

1. Create issue for bug/feature
   - Implementing a feature or fixing a bug should start with a GitLab issue.
   - Ex: Issue 14: "Add help button to game activity"

2. Assign issue to yourself

3. Create feature branch in GitLab
   - GitLab names the branch..
     • Ex: 14-game-help-button
   - In Android Studio, checkout the branch:


Issues and Branching (cont.)

4. Work on your branch
   - Do your work changing files
   - Check-in your changes via Git:
     • add changes ready to be committed
     • commit put changes into local repo on branch
     • push push to remote repo on branch

5. Merge Master to Feature Branch
   - Get the latest code from master's HEAD:
     • In Android Studio: VCS --> Git --> Merge Changes...
   - Resolve any merge conflicts
   - Test, commit/push any changes.

Issues and Branching (cont.)

6. Submit a.. via GitLab
   - Create request to merge your branch back to master
   - Since you already merged Master to Feature Branch, there should be no conflicts.
   - If branch name starts with a number, GitLab will associate merge request with the issue.
     Otherwise, have message include "Fix #14"

Managing Merge Request

- Team members see merge requests and:
  - Code review:
    Comment on problems they see in the code (possibly leading to new commits to fix)
  - Thumbs-up/down for voting

- Repo Manager accepts merge request
  - Accepting merge requests will:
    • merge code to master (should be no conflicts)
    • ..
    • delete the source branch [optional; good practice to clean up]
GitLab Feature Branch Demo

- **Setup**
  - Create new Android Studio project
  - Create GitLab project; commit/push
- **Create GitLab issue**
  - "Generate random number"
- **Solve an issue**
  - In GitLab: Assign to you & create feature branch
  - In A.S.: Checkout feature branch (bottom-right)
  - Code; Commit; Push
  - In A.S.: Merge master to feature (VCS-->Git-->Merge Changes...)
  - In GitLab: Create merge request
  - In GitLab: Accept merge request.
- **Cleanup in Android Studio**
  - Switch to master, pull, view log
  - Delete local branch (if needed)

Review Exercise

**What is the ordering of the following steps:**

a) In GitLab: Assign to you & create feature branch
b) In A.S.: Merge master to feature branch
   (VCS-->Git-->Merge Changes...)
c) Create GitLab issue
d) Code; Commit; Push
e) In GitLab: Accept merge request.
f) In A.S.: Checkout feature branch (bottom-right)  
g) In GitLab: Create merge request

Summary

- **Branches and Workflow**
  - Create GitLab issues.
  - Do work on a feature branch.
  - GitLab merge request to merge branch to master.