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,
  ..
Issue and Branching 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)
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:
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.
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)
GitLab Workflow
Feature Branch, Merging Changes, Merge Request

Legend
- In GitLab
- In Android Studio

Teammate Feature Branches

Master

My Feature Branch

Create & accept Merge Request

GitLab closes associated issue

Sequence of Events

Create GitLab issue.

1. Assign issue to self
2. Create feature branch

1. Pull to update.
2. Checkout local feature branch.

Change files, commit, push.

Change files, commit, push.

1. Commit any changes.
2. Pull to update.
3. Merge Master to Feature Branch.
4. Resolve conflicts.
5. Build and test.
6. Commit/push changes.
7. Switch to Master branch.

1. Pull.
2. Remove local feature branch.

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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.
  – Git merge command