

Technical Infrastructure and Community Etiquette

i290M Open Collaboration and Peer
Production

Sebastian Benthall

Last week we
thought big

This week we
think small



git



Why did we
do that?

Git

is

version control

open collaboration
depends on
version control

GitHub
is
*browsable
source code*

GitHub
is
issue tracking

GitHub
is
(a lot)

These are
tools

One can learn about
open collaboration by
studying the

tools

One can learn about
open collaboration by
studying the

tools

that co-evolved
with collaborative
practices

One can learn about
open collaboration by
studying the

Technological
determinism?

tools

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One can learn about
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Technological
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Social
construction of
technology?

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One can learn about
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~~Technological
determinism?~~

~~Social
construction of
technology?~~

that **co-evolved**
with collaborative
practices

these
tools

are both
products and enablers
of open collaboration





The open collaborative
community empowers itself by
building its tools



This gives the community
productive efficiency



This gives the community
effective autonomy
(freedom)

"A **recursive public** is a public that is vitally concerned with the material and practical maintenance and modification of the technical, legal, practical, and conceptual means of its own existence as a public; it is a **collective independent of other forms of constituted power and is capable of speaking to existing forms of power through the production of actually existing alternatives.**"



Chris Kelty, *Two Bits: The Cultural Significance of Free Software*

"Free Software is one instance of this concept, both as it has emerged in the recent past and as it undergoes transformation and differentiation in the near future. There are other instances, **including those that emerge from the practices of Free Software, such as Creative Commons, the Connexions project, and the Open Access movement in science.** These latter instances may or may not be Free Software, or even “software” projects per se, but they are connected through the same practices, and what makes them significant is that they may also be “recursive publics”...”



Chris Kelty, *Two Bits: The Cultural Significance of Free Software*

This week we
think small

This week we
think small
ahem

How do you
join
an open collaborative
community?

You start
start *small*

- Ask a good question

- Ask a good question
- Introduce yourself humbly

- Ask a good question
- Introduce yourself humbly
- Make a small contribution

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You have to communicate

- Ask a good question
- Introduce yourself humbly
- Make a small contribution

You have to communicate

How?

- Ask a good question
- Introduce yourself humbly
- Make a small contribution

You have to communicate

How?

Using *communication tools*

- Ask a good question
- Introduce yourself humbly
- Make a small contribution

You have to communicate

How?

Using *communication tools*

Your point of entry is through the technical infrastructure

open collaborative
communities

open collaborative
communities
are
communities of practice

open collaborative
communities
are
communities of practice
built around
information management
systems

open collaborative
communities
are
communities of practice
built around
information management
systems

UC Berkeley School
of...

Masters of...

information management
systems

UC Berkeley School
of...

Masters of...

information management
and systems

UC Berkeley School
of...

Masters of...

information ~~management~~
~~and systems~~ ??

Karl Fogel



Programmer, Author, Open Source and Copyleft advocate

Producing Open Source Software: How to Run a Successful Free Software Project

Contributed to Subversion (SVN), one of the most widely used and respected version control systems (VCS)

“Free software projects **rely on technologies that support the selective capture and integration of information**. The more skilled you are at using these technologies, and at persuading others to use them, the more successful your project will be.

...

If good free software project management is about **making everyone feel like they're all working together in the same room**, the obvious question is: what happens when everyone in a crowded room tries to talk at once?”

- Karl Fogel, *Producing Open Source Software*

“Because the Internet is not really a room, we don't have to worry about replicating those parts of parliamentary procedure that keep some people quiet while others are speaking. **But when it comes to information management techniques, well-run open source projects are parliamentary procedure on steroids.** Since almost all communication in open source projects happens in writing, elaborate systems have evolved for routing and labeling data appropriately; for minimizing repetitions so as to avoid spurious divergences; for storing and retrieving data; for correcting bad or obsolete information; and for associating disparate bits of information with each other as new connections are observed. ”

- Karl Fogel, *Producing Open Source Software*

specifically...



Did you notice?!?!

- All three readings for today were obsessed with mailing lists?

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- Karl Fogel told you about mailing lists as technical infrastructure

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Did you notice?!?!

- All three readings for today were obsessed with mailing lists?
- Karl Fogel told you about mailing lists as technical infrastructure
- ESR told you about how to write good questions for mailing lists
- von Krogh et al. analyzed mailing list behavior as a factor in community growth
- Mailing lists are critically important infrastructure for open source projects.





*turns out it's way more
complicated than you think!*

This is email...

From MAILER-DAEMON Fri Jul 19 03:57:44 2013
Path: number1.nntp.dca.giganews.com!local01.nntp.dca.
giganews.com!nntp.mozilla.org!news.mozilla.org.POSTED!not-
for-mail
NNTP-Posting-Date: Sat, 21 Jan 2006 06:38:44 -0600
Return-Path: <mizuno@yukiharu.com>
X-Original-To: general@lists.mozilla.org
Delivered-To: general@lists.mozilla.org
From: "Y.Mizuno" <mizuno@yukiharu.com>
To: <general@lists.mozilla.org>
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 2006 21:38:56 +0900
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="US-ASCII"
...

This is email...

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

X-Mailer: Microsoft Office Outlook 11

X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2900.2670

Thread-Index: AcYeh6TEz6AgxWFMSlKjwQ9IrvTXiA==

Subject: test

X-BeenThere: general@lists.mozilla.org

X-Mailman-Version: 2.1.5

Precedence: list

List-Id: general.lists.mozilla.org

List-Unsubscribe: <<https://lists.mozilla.org/listinfo/general>>,

<<mailto:general-request@lists.mozilla.org?subject=unsubscribe>>

...

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X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2900.2670

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<<mailto:general-request@lists.mozilla.org?subject=unsubscribe>>

...

these are called
“headers”

This is email...

List-Post: <mailto:general@lists.mozilla.org>

List-Help: <mailto:general-request@lists.mozilla.org?
subject=help>

List-Subscribe: <https://lists.mozilla.
org/listinfo/general>,

<mailto:general-request@lists.mozilla.org?
subject=subscribe>

Newsgroups: mozilla.general

Message-ID: <mailman.294.1137847123.8933.general@lists.
mozilla.org>

Lines: 2

NNTP-Posting-Host: 207.126.111.250

X-Trace: sv3-

U1lyjQ1j5Bhi5cDXaqpYQKbIxxcLxwekBnoOzcrYwmzkWkZAjEd6UYYlOq
dG2njv9Nk3y4zg1V2F23z!

MAZQ5zJyItKze4su432T+E8n70r0IHg+ATfByvmI3yMR23I6Cp6go02ylC
oiCkxSgfcXCA97RpGf!v/j6UejzwUIUtfJrTJGdaQLu0IU=

This is email...

List-Post: <mailto:general@lists.mozilla.org>
List-Help: <mailto:general-request@lists.mozilla.org?subject=help>
List-Subscribe: <https://lists.mozilla.org/listinfo/general>,
<mailto:general-request@lists.mozilla.org?subject=subscribe>
Newsgroups: mozilla.general
Message-ID: <mailman.294.1137847123.8933.general@lists.mozilla.org>
Lines: 2
NNTP-Posting-Host: 207.126.111.250
X-Trace: sv3-
U1lyjQ1j5Bhi5cDXaqpYQKbIxxcLxwekBnoOzcrYwmzkWkZAJEd6UYYlOqdG2njv9Nk3y4zg1V2F23z!
MAZQ5zJyItKze4su432T+E8n70r0IHg+ATfByvmI3yMR23I6Cp6go02ylCoiCkxSgfcXCA97RpGf!v/j6UejzwUIUtfJrTJGdaQLu0IU=

they are
sometimes
implemented
and interpreted
differently by
different clients

This is email...

X-Complaints-To: abuse@mozilla.org

X-DMCA-Complaints-To: abuse@mozilla.org

X-Abuse-and-DMCA-Info: Please be sure to forward a copy of ALL headers

X-Abuse-and-DMCA-Info: Otherwise we will be unable to process your complaint properly

X-Postfilter: 1.3.32

Xref: number1.nntp.dca.giganews.com mozilla.general:2

Sorry, ignore this.

This is email...

X-Complaints-To: abuse@mozilla.org

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Xref: number1.nntp.dca.giganews.com mozilla.general:2

Sorry, ignore this. ← all that for this

our forebears
had to build
that

Now we have



Mailman

You use Mailman already

List Information for i290m-ocpp

Description of i290m-ocpp@ischool.berkeley.edu -- i290m-ocpp Mail list

You can subscribe to the list, or change your existing subscription, in the sections below.

Subscribing to i290m-ocpp@ischool.berkeley.edu

You will be sent email requesting confirmation, to prevent others from gratuitously subscribing you. This is a private list, which means that the list of members is not available to non-members.

Subscribe

Email Address

Name (optional)

Password

You may enter a privacy password below. This provides only mild security, but should prevent others from messing with your subscription. Do not use a valuable password. If you choose not to enter a password, one will be generated for you, and it will be sent to you once you've confirmed your subscription. You can always request a mail-back of your password when you edit your personal options.

Verify password

Digest

Would you like to receive list mail batched in a daily digest?

- ☒ No
☐ Yes

Other Resources

- [Mailing List Documentation](#)

i290m-ocpp@ischool.berkeley.edu Subscribers

To unsubscribe from i290m-ocpp, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options, visit the [Subscription Options](#) page.

To contact the owner of i290m-ocpp, email i290m-ocpp-owner@ischool.berkeley.edu.

Navigation

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▶ [i290m-ocpp@ischool](#)

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[Roster](#)

[Moderation](#)

[Administration](#)

Why mailing
lists?

Mailing lists
are public

Mailing lists
allow lurking,
an informal step in
community growth

- von Krogh et al.

Mailing lists
are
searchably
archived

Archives
substitute for
'generational
knowledge'

- von Krogh et al.

Archives
let newcomers
know how and
why decisions
were made

You can be
“in the room”
with people
working years ago

Archives
are fantastic
data

- von Krogh et al.

Please link to
archived mailing
list discussions in
your assignments
for this course!!

If you can't find
the archives,
“I'm trying to find
your archives”
is a great opener

Try hard to find
them first, and if
you have to,
try to ask “the
smart way”

Hackers feel
rewarded by
educating
many at once
- esr

Hackers feel
rewarded by
looking smart

- esr

Eric S. Raymond, a.k.a ESR



Programmer, Author, Open Source advocate

The Cathedral and the Bazaar

Responsible for many well-known essays and colorful aphorisms

Ideological battle with Richard Stallman over “Free Software” vs. “Open Source”

A historically important, albeit divisive and to some offensive, figure in the world of Open Source Software.

ESR
wrote an
etiquette guide

“(Some people assert that many hackers have a mild form of autism or Asperger's Syndrome, and are actually missing some of the brain circuitry that lubricates “normal” human social interaction. This may or may not be true. **If you are not a hacker yourself, it may help you cope with our eccentricities if you think of us as being brain-damaged. Go right ahead.** We won't care; we *like* being whatever it is we are, and generally have a healthy skepticism about clinical labels.)”

- ESR, “How to ask questions the smart way”

“(Some people assert that many hackers have a mild form of autism or Asperger's Syndrome, and are actually missing some of the brain circuitry that lubricates “normal” human social interaction. This may or may not be true. **If you are not a hacker yourself, it may help you cope with our eccentricities if you think of us as being brain-damaged. Go right ahead.** We won't care; we *like* being whatever it is we are, and generally have a healthy skepticism about clinical labels.)”

- ESR, “How to ask questions the smart way”

interesting aside: ESR has cerebral palsy

What did you
think of
“How to ask
questions the
smart way?”

ESR's
characterization of
the “hacker”
persona
resonates for
many

But as open
collaborative
culture grows and
diversifies,
its influence is
waning

Take the parts
that are useful to
you,
and seek out a
community you
can stand

but: the
availability of
archived
community
records is an
opportunity for
self-education

so: the availability
of archived
community
records creates
responsibility for
self-education

balancing
self-directed learning
with community
engagement
is one of most
important skills
of open collaboration

Productively Lost

“This is the state where the scope of a project exceeds the scope which a person is able to master, and yet that person is able to productively navigate and accomplish goals by *working in community*. As an example, in a massive codebase (millions of lines or more), a developer cannot learn the entire codebase in a human lifetime, but can work productively by knowing *who* in the community to turn to when questions arise in unfamiliar portions of the code -- an understanding of the structure of the community (including as module owners and other experts and gatekeepers) replaces the need for a perfect technical understanding.”

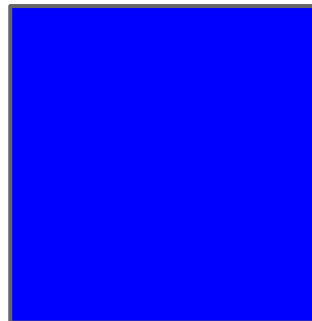
- Teaching Open Source Wiki

http://teachingopensource.org/index.php/Productively_lost

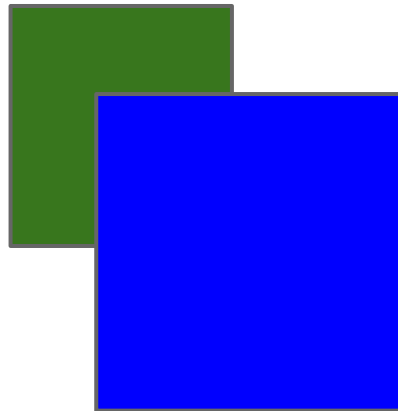
its ok to feel lost
just keep learning
and exploring

Coda:
What is
“Version Control”?

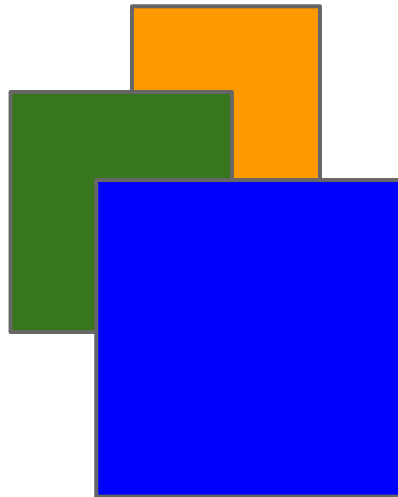
Simple Version Control



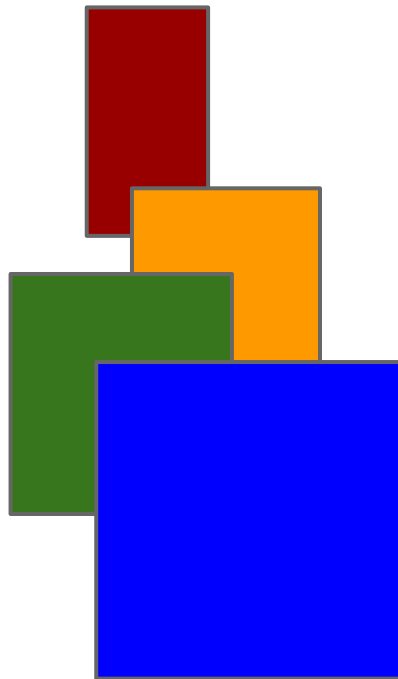
Simple Version Control



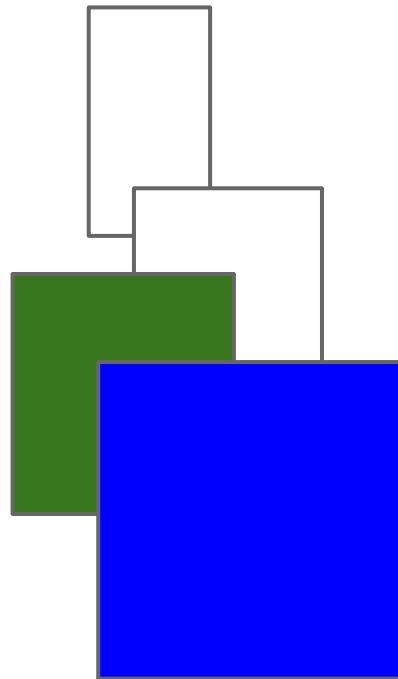
Simple Version Control



Simple Version Control

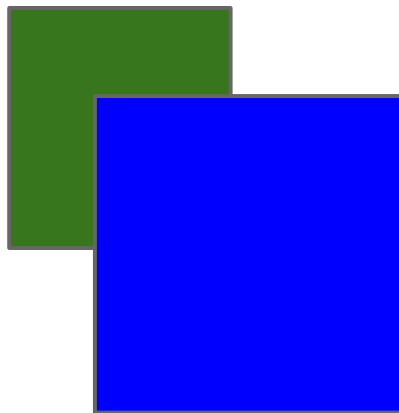


Simple Version Control

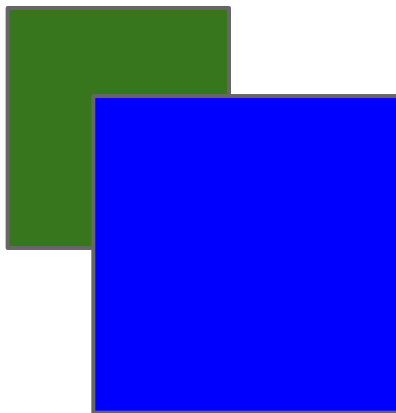


Revert!

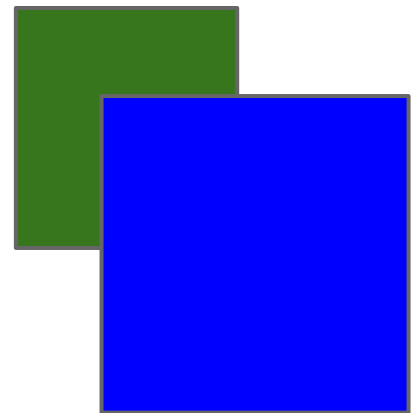
Branching



Branch 1

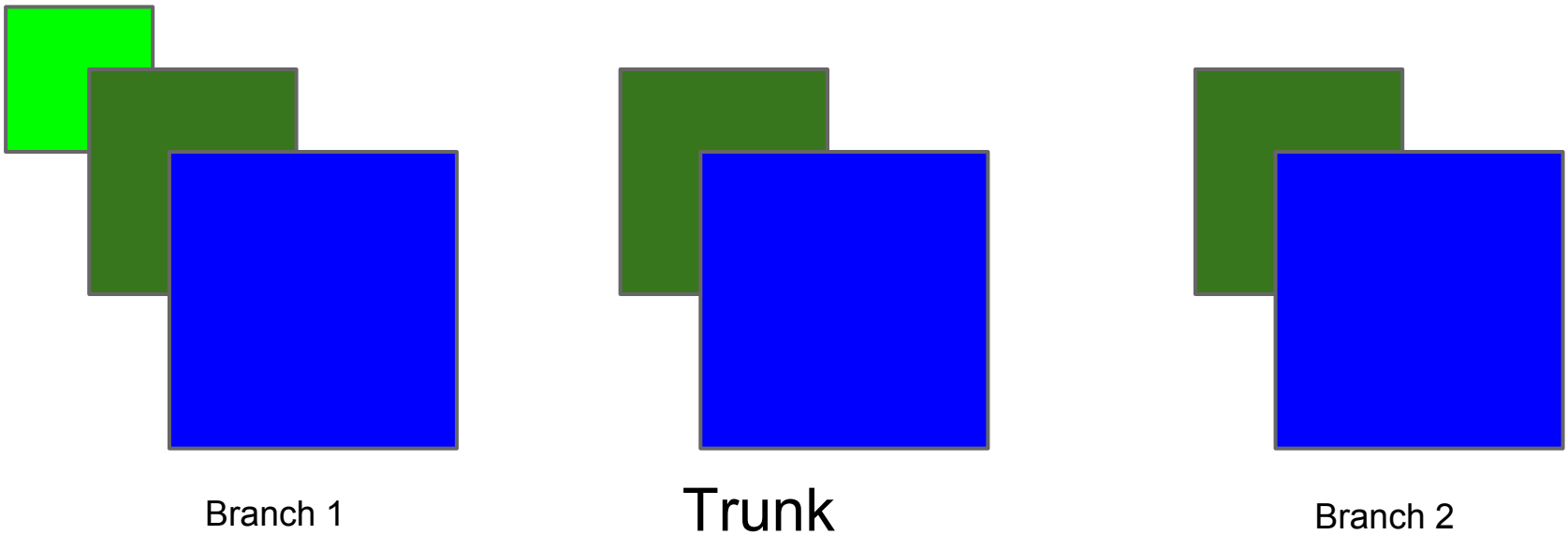


Trunk

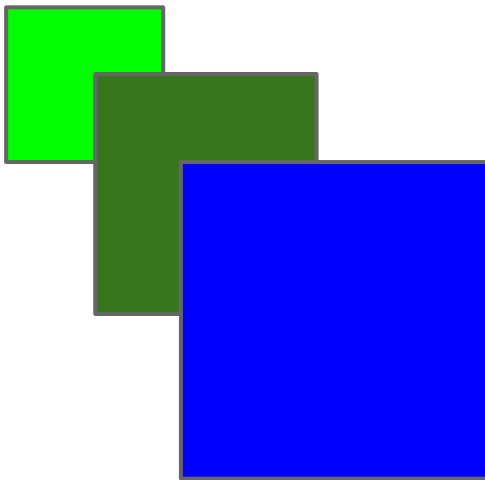


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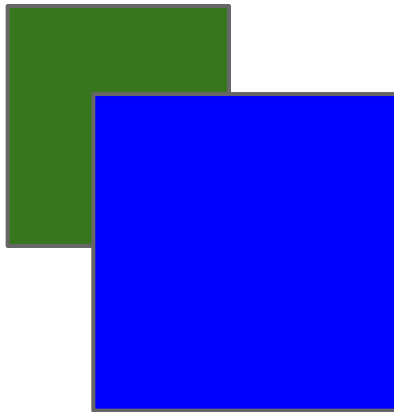
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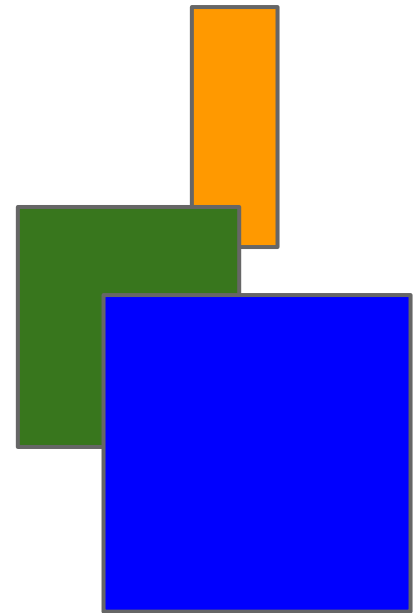
Branching



Branch 1

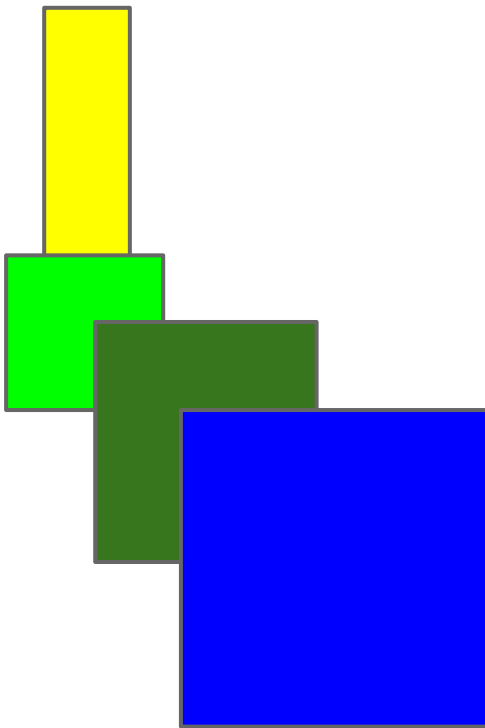


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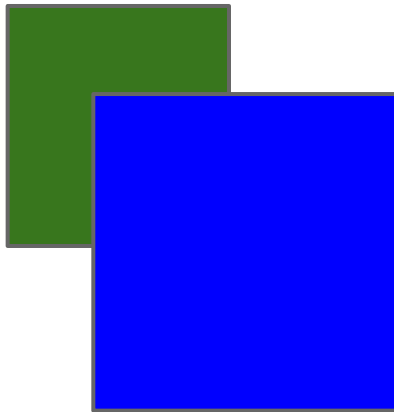


Branch 2

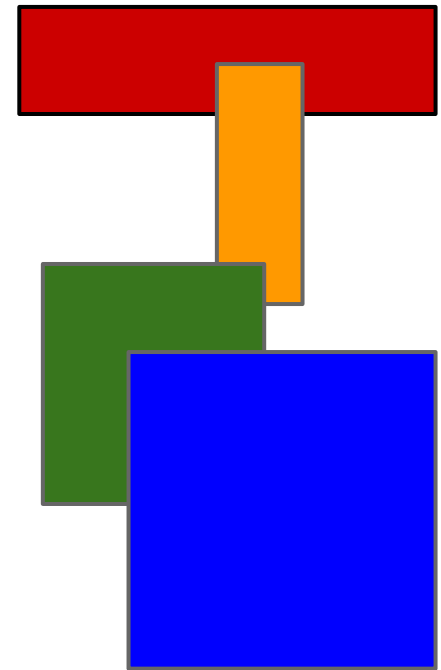
Branching



Branch 1

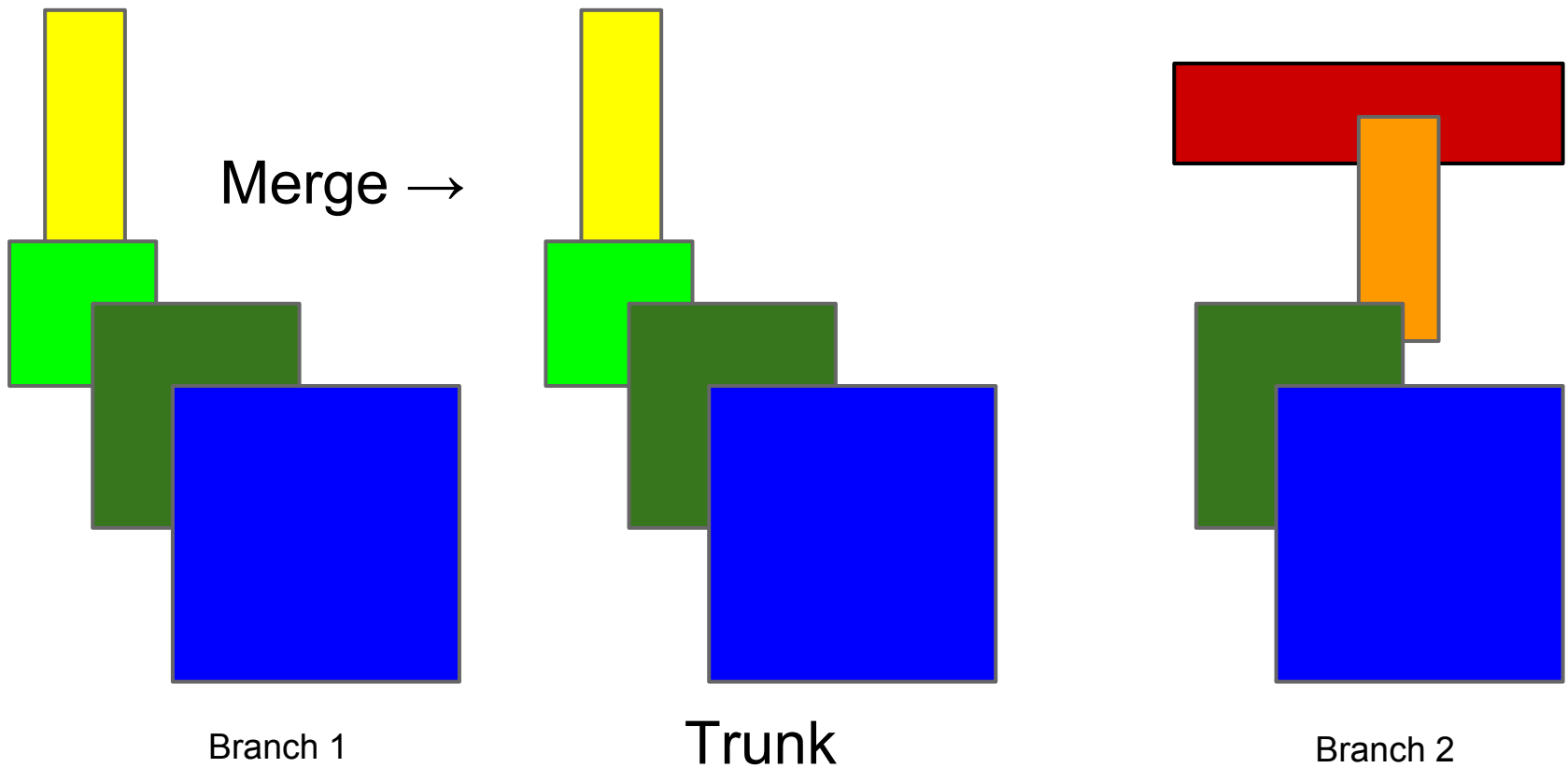


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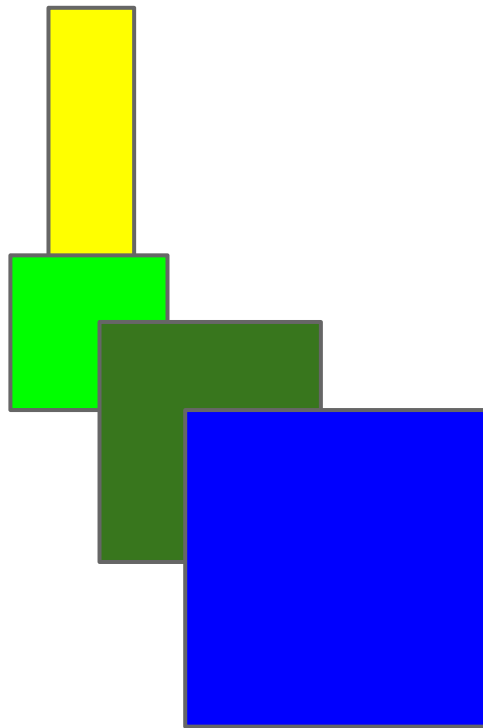


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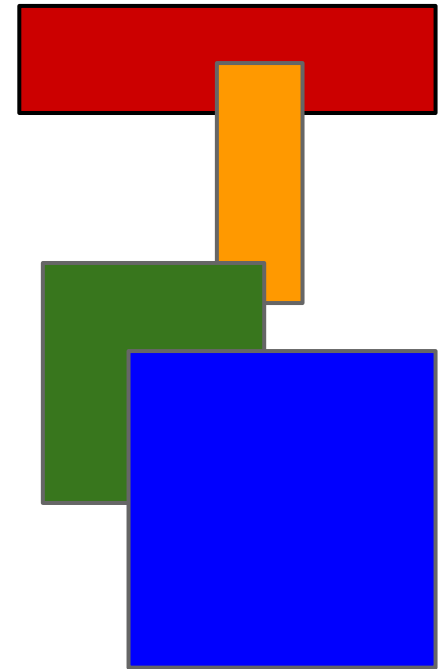
Branching



Branching

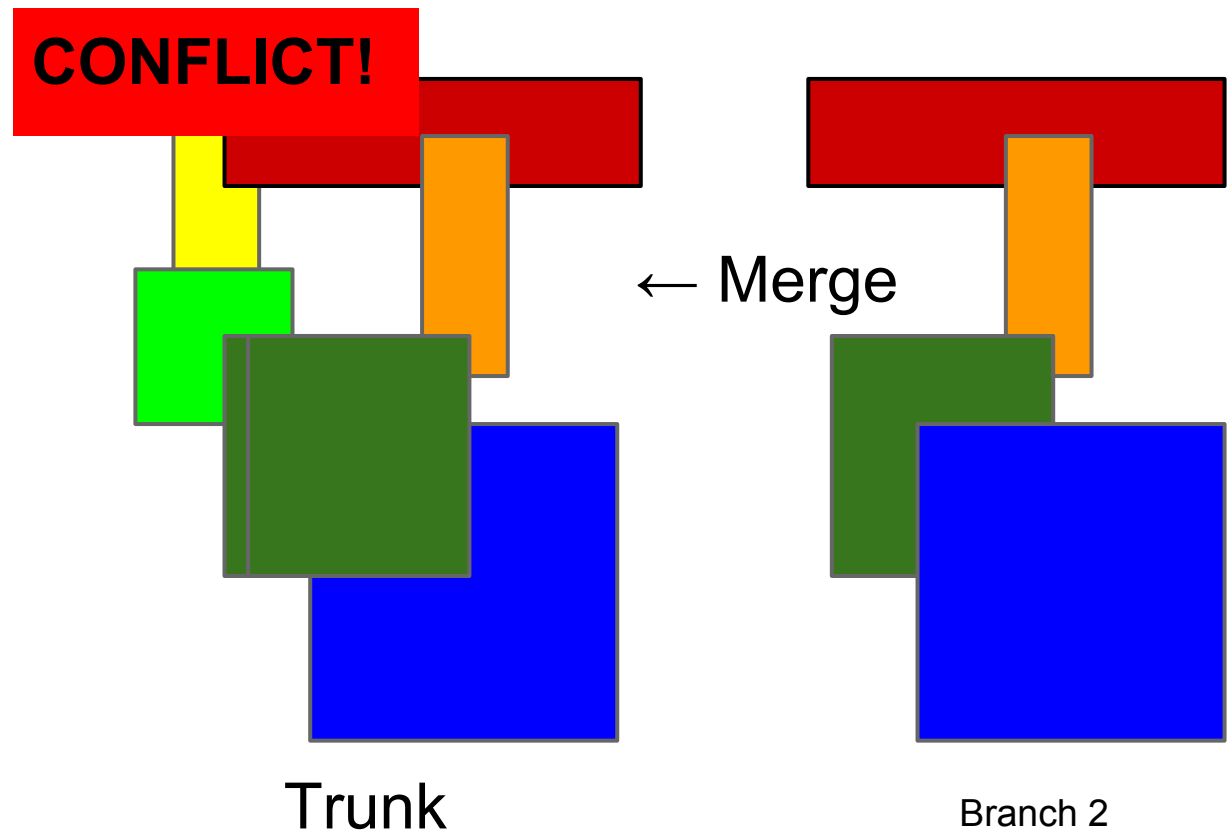


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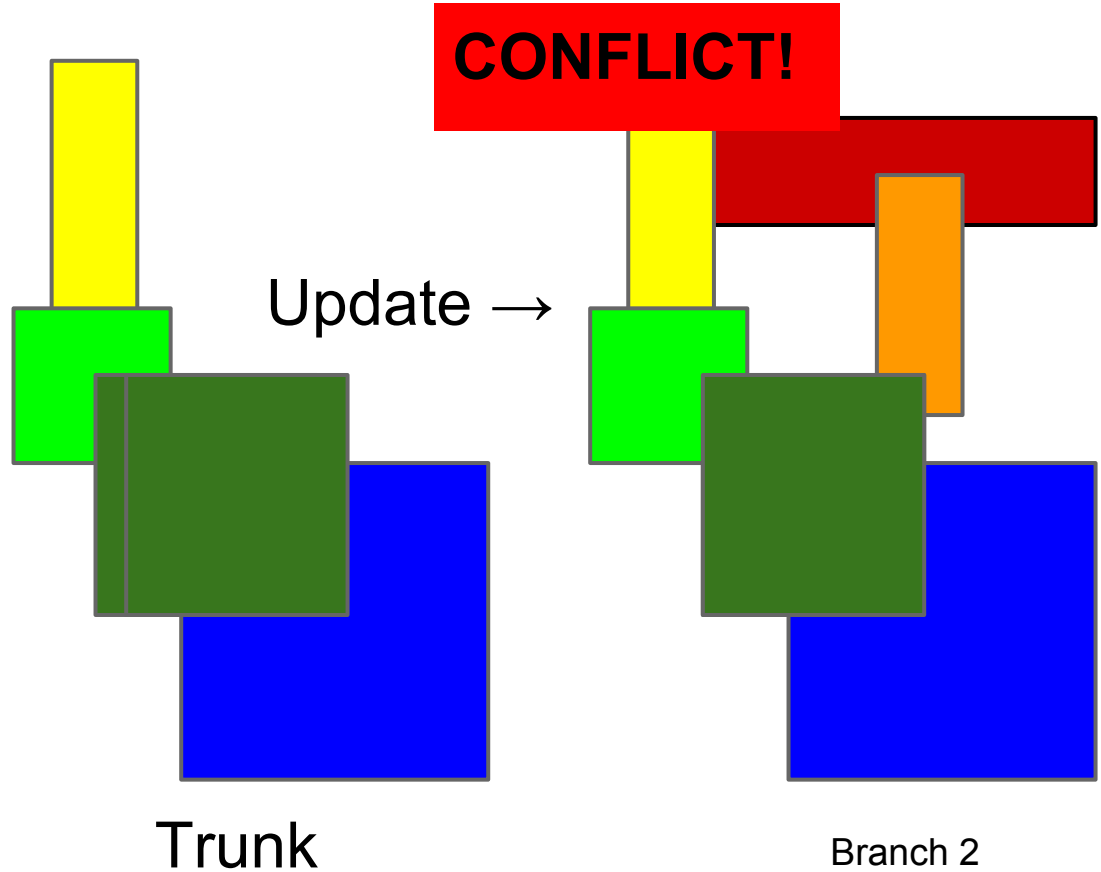


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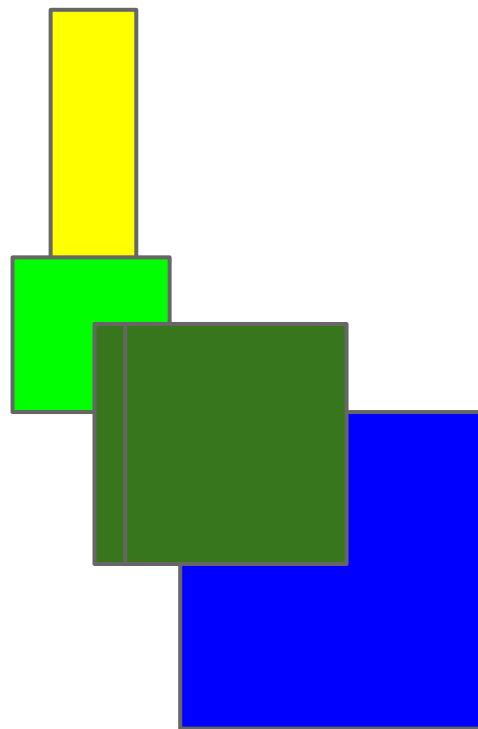
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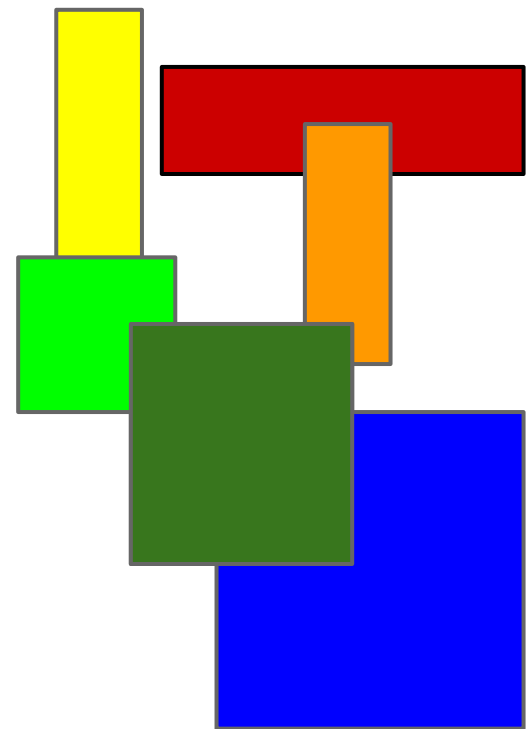
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Branching

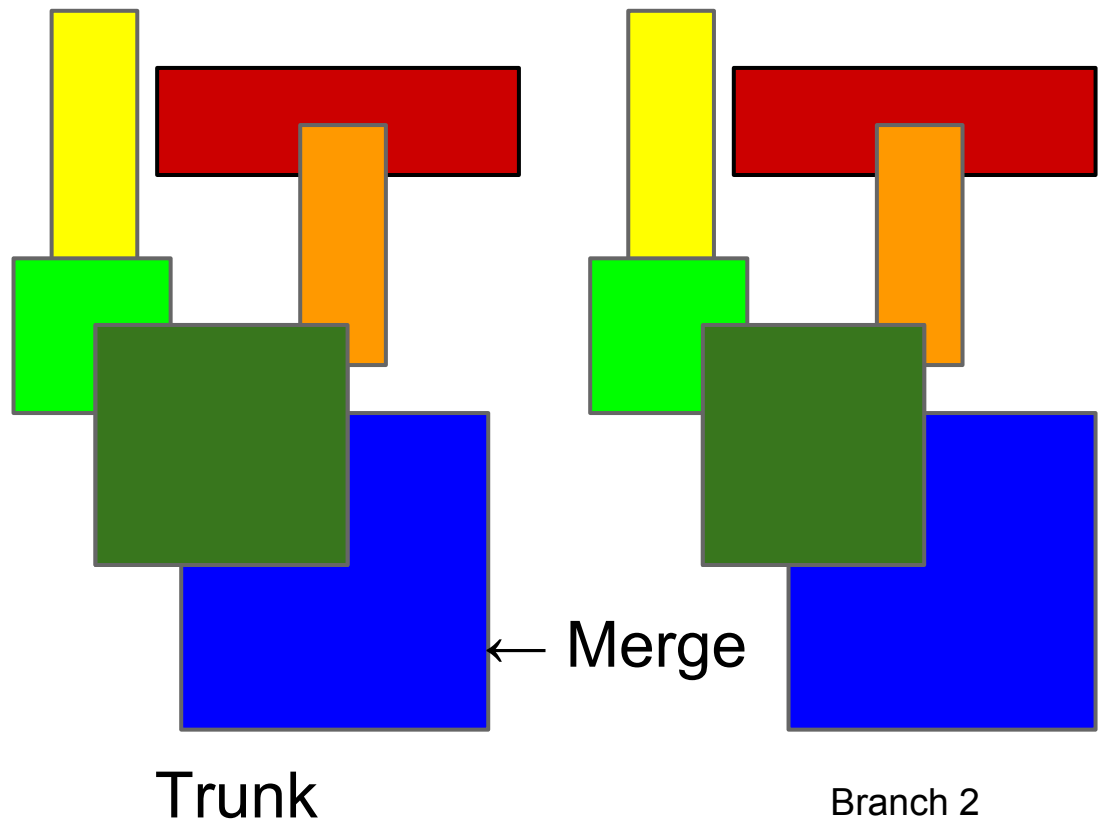


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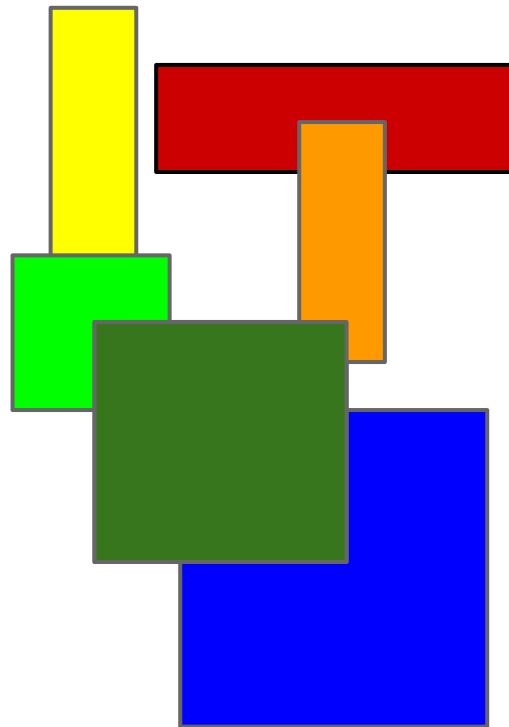


Branch 2

Branching



Branching



Trunk