Merge Conflict Life-Cycle Survey

You are receiving this survey because we are investigating the 100 most popular GitHub projects and you have contributed to one of them. Congratulations and success in your project.

This survey may take around 8 minutes of your time. Multiple questions are mandatory and descriptive questions are optional.

We divided this survey on four sections:

1) Background to better know you;
2) Contribution-style to test some assumptions we obtained mining GitHub repositories;
3) Linking social and technical assets to find out when it matters for you; and,
4) Merge-conflict-resolution to validate metrics that measure the difficulty of solving a conflict.

*Required

1.   We plan to include the results of this survey in a scientific publication. Please select your choice below. Selecting the "Yes" option below indicates that: i) you have read and understood the above information, ii) you voluntarily agree to participate, iii) you agree that your answers can be used for research purposes, and iv) you are at least 18 years old. If you do not wish to participate in the research study, please decline participation by selecting "No". I consent to participate in this research study. *

Mark only one oval.

( ) Yes   *Skip to question 2*

( ) No

Background

2. How many years experience you have in software development? *

Mark only one oval.

    ◯ less than one

    ◯ 1

    ◯ 2

    ◯ 3

    ◯ 4

    ◯ 5

    ◯ 8

    ◯ 10

    ◯ more than 10

3. In which industry you are working / have worked? *

Mark only one oval.

    ◯ Information Technology

    ◯ Automation

    ◯ Engineering

    ◯ Education

    ◯ Other: _____

4. What of these roles best fits your current position? *

   Mark only one oval.

   ( ) Software Developer

   ( ) Software Architect

   ( ) Web Developer

   ( ) Software Tester

   ( ) Android Developer

   ( ) Manager

   ( ) Other: _____

5. What is your level of education *

   Mark only one oval.

   ( ) Less than high school

   ( ) Technical or high school

   ( ) Bachelor

   ( ) Master

   ( ) PhD

6. What is your gender? *

Mark only one oval.

( ) Male

( ) Female

( ) Prefer not to say

Contribution-Style

7. In projects that you are the owner of the repository or among the top three developers in number of contributions, are you more worried about addressing an issue than on the impact of your changes? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	Strongly agree

8. In projects that you occasionally contribute to, are you more worried about addressing an issue than on the impact of your changes? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

9. When you are going to integrate branches do you care more about arising merge conflicts than when others are going to integrate the code? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

10. When you are going to integrate branches do you care more about arising merge conflicts than when others are going to integrate the code? *
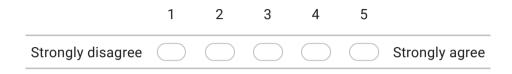
Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

11. Do you agree that it is better to address an issue fast (e.g., one hour) with unnecessary code changes than take more time (e.g., four hours) and change only the necessary code? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

12. Do you agree that it is better to contribute often to the project and often cause merge conflicts than contribute occasionally and rarely cause merge conflicts? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

Linking Social and Technical Assets

13.   How many members compose your team? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ 0

◯ Less than 10

◯ 10-50

◯ more than 100

14.   While solving an issue, do you normally refer to this issue in the pull request description or body? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Never

◯ Occasionally

◯ Normally

◯ Always

◯ Other: _____

15. Why do you think it is important to link issues with pull requests?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

16. When do you ignore the creation of this link among issues and pull requests?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

17. Before closing an issue that is solved, do you explicitly describe which pull request solves the problem? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Never

◯ Occasionally

◯ Normally

◯ Always

◯ Other: _____

18. Why do you think it is important to explicitly mention the pull request that solves an issue?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. When do you ignore the creation of an explicit link among the pull request that solves an issue?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

20. Do you describe in the body of an issue about similar issues previously addressed? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Never

◯ Occasionally

◯ Normally

◯ Always

◯ Other: _____

21.   Why do you think it is important to explicitly mention similar or related issues?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

22.   Do you explicitly refer to the issue you are addressing in the commit message? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Never

◯ Occasionally

◯ Normally

◯ Always

23.   When do you ignore to explicitly refer to the issue in the commit message?

_____

_____

_____

_____

24. In the issue body or description, do you explicitly refer the commit hash related to it? *

Mark only one oval.

⬭ Never

⬭ Occasionally

⬭ Normally

⬭ Always

25. When do you ignore to explicitly refer to the commit hash in the issue body?

_____

_____

_____

_____

26. Which type of labels do you use? *

Mark only one oval.

○ Default

○ Customized

○ Both default and customized

○ None

27. Do you assign labels on GitHub? *

Mark only one oval.

○ No

○ To issues

○ To pull requests

○ To issues and pull requests

28. When do you think that it is important to link issues (including pull requests) with labels? Please give details when possible. *

Mark only one oval.

◯ Never

◯ Always

◯ Other: _____

29. Does your project have contribution rules that recommend links between technical (e.g., commits) and social assets (e.g., issues and labels)? *

Mark only one oval.

◯ No

◯ Yes, but it is optional

◯ Yes and it is mandatory

Merge Conflict Resolution

30.   Which metrics do you think that can automatically measure the difficulty of resolving a merge conflict?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

31.   Do you agree that time is normally a good metric to measure the difficulty of a task? In other words, the more time someone needs to complete a task, the more difficult the task is. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

32.   In merge scenarios with conflicts, do you agree that the time between the last commit in the working branch and the merge commit is often used to resolve the conflicts? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Strongly agree

33. Do you normally merge your changes after finishing to address an issue (e.g., developing a new feature or fixing a bug) *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	Strongly agree

34. Do you agree that you often have to look at non-conflicting code to resolve merge conflicts? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	Strongly agree

35. Do you agree that you often have to change non-conflicting code to resolve merge conflicts? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	Strongly agree

Email information (Optional)

36.   Please enter your e-mail if you would like to receive a copy of our study. We will not link your e-mail address to your survey responses, nor will we publish your e-mail address in any which way.

_____

We truly appreciate your participation!!!

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