

What's a Fast Forward Merge?

Master

Feature

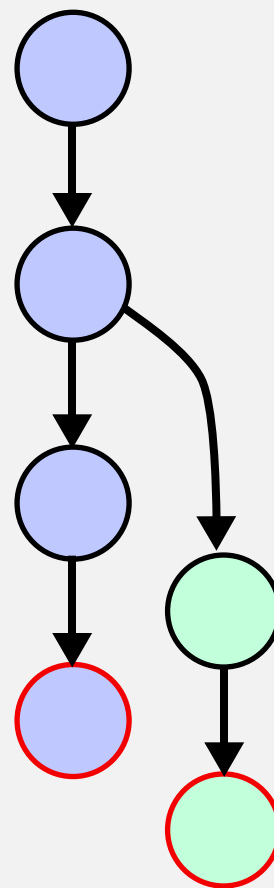
HEAD

If Master has diverged since the feature branch was created, then merging the feature branch into master will create a merge commit. This is a typical merge.

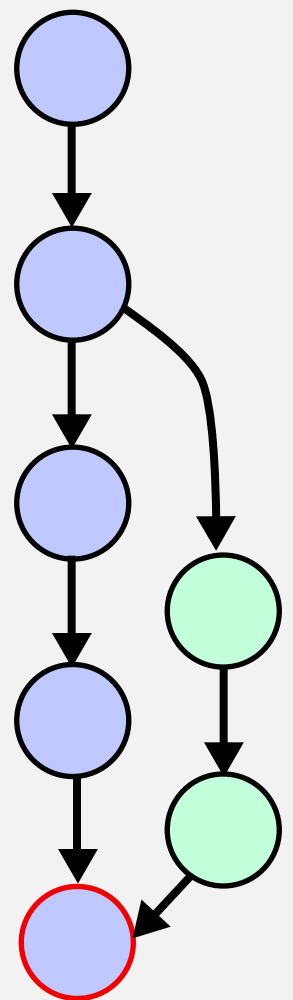
If Master has not diverged, instead of creating a new commit, git will just point master to the latest commit of the feature branch. This is a "fast forward."

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Typical Merge

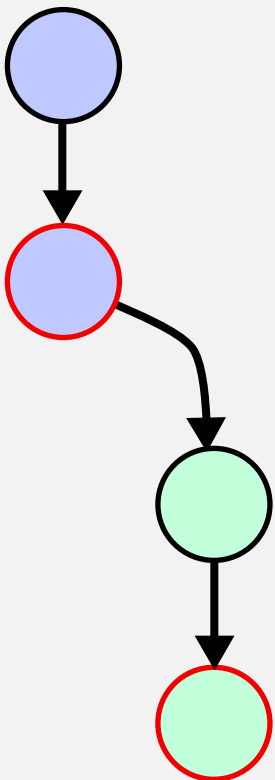


Before Merge

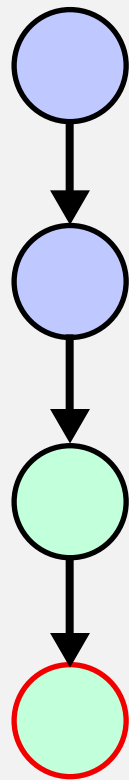


After Merge

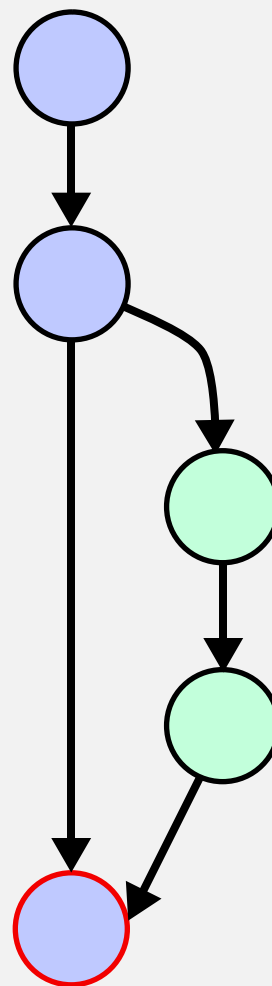
Fast Forward Merge



Before Merge



After Merge



Passing "`--no-ff`" creates a new commit to represent the merge, even if git would normally fast forward.