# 1. Fast-forward merge

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

7:13 PM

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

7:14 PM

Let's deeply break down the internal process of a Three-Way Merge (No Fast-Forward) using Git, step by step.



## 🗱 Situation Setup (Before the Merge)

We have two branches: master and feature.

SCSS نسختحرير A---B---C (master) D---E (feature)

- A, B, C are commits on master.
- **D, E** are commits on feature.
- Both master and feature have diverged after commit B.
- C is a child of B on master, and E is a child of D on feature.

#### Internally: What Git Does in a Three-Way Merge

Git uses the three-way merge algorithm to merge the branches.



Git first finds the common ancestor of the two branches being merged.

- git merge will be run on master to merge feature.
- Git compares:
  - o Base commit: B (common ancestor)
  - Head1: C (current master)
  - Head2: E (latest on feature)

#### 🧳 2. Calculate Changes

Git does a diff:

- diff(B, C) → what changed from base to master.
- diff(B, E) → what changed from base to feature.

These are the two sets of changes Git now tries to combine.

#### 3. Merge Conflicts (if any)

If both C and E modified the same lines in the same files, you get a conflict.

If the changes are in **different areas**, Git merges automatically.



Git creates a new commit M, which:

- Has two parents: C and E.
- Combines changes from both branches.
- Preserves history from **both branches** (unlike fast-forward).

#### Final History After Merge

CSS A---B---C-----M (master) D---E---/ (feature)

- The master branch is now at M.
- The feature branch still ends at E (unchanged).
- Commit M contains combined code from both master and feature.

#### Real Git Commands

#### Step-by-step Demo:

bash

نسختحرير

# Start from master

\$ git checkout master

# Create a feature branch and add changes

\$ git checkout -b feature

# edit file, commit D

\$ git commit -m "commit D"

# edit again, commit E

\$ git commit -m "commit E"

# Go back to master and make separate changes

\$ git checkout master

# edit file, commit C

\$ git commit -m "commit C"

# Merge feature into master with merge commit

\$ git merge feature

- If there are no conflicts, Git will create merge commit M.
- If there are conflicts, Git will pause and ask you to resolve them, then:

bash

نسختحرير

\$ git commit # to complete the merge after resolving



# **Benefits of Three-Way Merge**

#### **Feature** Description

Both histories are preserved. You can track both sides. Maintains History

Clear Merge Points Merge commits (M) clearly show integration points.

Easy to Debug If bugs appear, you can trace whether they came from master or feature.



# 🜐 مقارنة مع Fast-Forward

**Fast-Forward Three-Way Merge** 

Linear history Branching + merge commits No merge commit Creates a merge commit (M)

Simpler log Full history, clear merges

#### 3. Squash Merge process

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 7:04 PM

#### Let's demonstrate the Squash Merge process in deeper detail using:

- 1. Practical Git Commands
- 2. I Full Example with Files
- 3. Internal View at Each Step
- 4. Graph Before vs After

# ✓ Let's Create a Realistic Example

Suppose you're working on a login feature:

#### Initial Project Files (on master)

project/ ├— index.html └─ style.css



You create a feature/login branch and do 3 commits:

- 1. Add login.html
- 2. Add login.js
- 3. Add validation code in login.js

You want to squash all 3 commits into one, and apply that one to master.



# Step-by-Step Commands

## 1. Initialize a Git Repo

mkdir squash-demo && cd squash-demo git init Create index.html:

echo "<h1>Home Page</h1>" > index.html git add index.html git commit -m "Initial homepage"



#### 2. Create a Feature Branch

git checkout -b feature/login

First Commit (D)

echo "<form>Login</form>" > login.html git add login.html git commit -m "Add login page"

Second Commit (E)

echo "console.log('login');" > login.js git add login.js git commit -m "Add login JS"

Third Commit (F)

echo "function validate() { return true; }" >> login.js git add login.js git commit -m "Add validation to login" Now the history is:

```
A---B (master)
   D---E---F (feature/login)
```

## Now Switch to master and Squash Merge

git checkout master git merge --squash feature/login

#### **Output:**

Git applies all changes from commits D, E, F but does not create a commit. You now write a new commit message:

git commit -m "Add login feature: HTML, JS, validation" Now the commit graph looks like:

A---B---S (master)
\
D---E---F (feature/login)

- S is the squash commit (synthesized).
- Git doesn't remember the squash came from a branch.
- The feature/login branch still exists separately.

## Internally, What Happened

- 1. Git identified the merge base (B)
- 2. Git computed the diff from B → F
- 3. Git applied that diff to master (B  $\rightarrow$  S)
- 4. Git staged the result, waiting for your commit
- 5. You created a **new commit S** with your message

## What if You Had Merge Conflicts?

If changes in the feature branch touch the **same files or lines** as master, Git will pause and show a conflict. But in squash merge:

- You fix the conflict manually
- · Stage the fixed files
- Then run: git commit

No special "merge commit" will be made.

# Full Visual (Before & After)

#### **Before:**

master: A---B \
feature: D---E---F

### After Squash Merge:

less سختحریر master: A---B---S \ feature: D---E---F

- · No merge commit.
- Just one clean commit on master.
- · Feature branch remains unchanged.

# Git Log Comparison After Three-Way Merge:

git log --oneline --graph

\* f1d2f3 Merge branch 'feature/login'

|\
| \* 48fdf3 Add validation
| \* e3a5c9 Add login JS
| \* d12f01 Add login.html

\* 34a8d9 Initial homepage

#### **After Squash Merge:**

git log --oneline --graph

- \* b212f3 Add login feature: HTML, JS, validation
- \* 34a8d9 Initial homepage

#### Summary (Internal + External)

Description Action

Internally uses  $diff(B \rightarrow F)$ 

Merge base used Yes (common ancestor)

Multiple commits preserved X No

One commit created Yes (your message) Branch graph changes X No merge link added

History stays linear Yes (perfect for clean history)

#### If exist diverged ???

Let's now demonstrate what happens when doing a squash merge in a diverged situation, and how Git handles that internally.



#### Scenario: Squash Merge When Branches Have Diverged

Starting Graph (Before Squash Merge):

scss نسختحرير A---B---C (master)

D---E---F (feature)

- · master has C
- feature has F
- · They both diverged after commit B

Now you try to squash feature into master.



## Does Squash Merge Work with Diverged Branches?

Yes, squash merge still works when branches have diverged.

Unlike a regular merge, Git does not care that the branches diverged — it just applies the diff from base to feature on top of the current branch.



#### Internal Process of Squash Merge with Divergence

Let's explain what happens in your case.



\$ git checkout master \$ git merge --squash feature Git does this:



#### L Step 1: Find the Common Ancestor

• Common ancestor = B



#### Step 2: Compute Diff from B → F (feature)

- Git gathers all changes made from D → F
- Even if master added its own commits (e.g., C), that doesn't stop squash merge.

#### Step 3: Apply That Diff on Top of C

- It applies the combined changes from feature on top of C
- Like you copied all new/changed files from feature and applied them to master's latest version

#### **X** Step 4: Possible Conflicts?

- If master and feature touched the same lines or files, you may get a conflict
- Resolve conflicts → git add the resolved files → then git commit

### Step 5: Commit as One

After resolving conflicts (or if none), you run:

```
bash
نسختحرير
git commit -m "Add login feature (squashed)"
Final graph:
SCSS
نسختحرير
A---B---C---S (master)
    D---E---F (feature)
```



#### 🔗 Example in Real Commands

#### Step-by-Step:

# Start from scratch mkdir squash-diverged && cd squash-diverged git init echo "v1" > file.txt git add file.txt git commit -m "A: Add file.txt" echo "v2" > file.txt git commit -am "B: Update file to v2" # Create feature branch git checkout -b feature echo "feature v3" > file.txt git commit -am "D: Add feature v3" echo "feature v4" >> file.txt git commit -am "E: Append feature v4" # Go back to master and diverge git checkout master echo "master v3" >> file.txt git commit -am "C: Append master v3" Now master has C, and feature has E.

#### **Now Do Squash Merge:**

```
نسختحرير
git merge --squash feature
If no conflicts \rightarrow Git stages the combined diff.
If conflict appears (likely here since both changed file.txt), Git will say:
bash
نسختحرير
Auto-merging file.txt
CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in file.txt
Fix the file manually, then:
bash
نسختحرير
git add file.txt
git commit -m "Squashed feature branch with login changes"
```



#### (When Diverged)

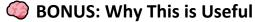
**Internal Step Explanation** 

**Base Commit** Git finds the common ancestor (e.g., B) Target of Merge Current HEAD (e.g., C on master)

Applied Diff Changes from  $B \rightarrow F$ 

Commit Created One manual commit (you write the message)

Merge Commit? X No (no merge trace in history)



- You keep your master history clean (just one commit).
- You can **rebase** or delete the feature branch easily.
- You don't bring over "messy WIP commits" from the feature branch.

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

7:33 PM



## T What is an Octopus Merge?

An Octopus Merge is when you merge more than two branches into one in a single command. Git internally supports this as long as there are no conflicts between them.



### Initial Structure (Before Merge):

```
D---E (feature1)
A---B (master)
    F---G (feature2)
```

- · feature1 branch has commits D and E
- · feature2 has commits F and G
- Both branches diverged from common ancestor B



## 🔍 What Git Sees:

You're trying to merge both feature1 and feature2 into master in **one shot**:

git checkout master git merge feature1 feature2



## Internally: How Octopus Merge Works



## Step 1: Find the Common Ancestor

Git finds:

• Common ancestor = B



### **Step 2: Validate Clean Merge**

Git:

- Tries to combine changes from:
  - $\circ$  B  $\rightarrow$  E (feature 1)
  - $\circ$  B  $\rightarrow$  G (feature 2)
- Checks if any conflicts exist between the two changesets.



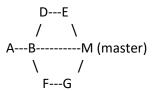
#### 

If Git finds any conflicts, it will abort the merge. Octopus merge is only for conflict-free merges.



#### Step 3: Create a Single Merge Commit M

If successful, Git creates one merge commit M:



- M has multiple parents:
  - First parent: B (master base)
  - o Others: E, G

This is the "octopus" – one head with many arms 🏰





# **Real Command Example**

### Step 1: Setup

git init octopus-merge-demo cd octopus-merge-demo echo "start" > file.txt git add file.txt git commit -m "Initial commit (A)" echo "line from B" >> file.txt git commit -am "B: master continues"

#### **Step 2: Create Branches**

#### Feature 1:

git checkout -b feature1 echo "feature1: add login" > login.txt git add login.txt git commit -m "D: Add login.txt" echo "feature1: update login" >> login.txt git commit -am "E: Update login.txt" Back to master → Create Feature2:

git checkout master git checkout -b feature2 echo "feature2: add dashboard" > dashboard.txt git add dashboard.txt git commit -m "F: Add dashboard.txt" echo "feature2: update dashboard" >> dashboard.txt git commit -am "G: Update dashboard.txt"



## Step 3: Perform Octopus Merge

git checkout master git merge feature1 feature2

If there are **no file overlaps**, Git creates a merge commit like:

Merge branches 'feature1' and 'feature2'



# Git Log After Merge

git log --oneline --graph --all Shows something like:

sql

\* abc123 Merge branches 'feature1' and 'feature2'

| \* g7g8g9 G: Update dashboard.txt | \* f5f6f7 F: Add dashboard.txt \* | e3e4e5 E: Update login.txt \* | d1d2d3 D: Add login.txt 1/ \* b1b2b3 B: master continues

## What If Conflicts Exist?

Let's say:

• Both feature1 and feature2 edit the same file (e.g., file.txt)

Then this will happen:

\* a0a1a2 Initial commit (A)

bash

نسختحرير

\$ git merge feature1 feature2

error: Merging is not possible because you have unmerged files.

fatal: merge failed

X Git aborts the octopus merge — unlike regular merge, you can't resolve conflicts manually here.



## When Should You Use Octopus Merge?

**Use Case** Suitability

Merging multiple branches at once YES

No conflicts between the branches YES

Clean feature integration (e.g., plugins) <a>VES</a>

Complex, conflicting branches 💢 NO



## 📑 Summary (Internals + Output)

Step **What Happens** 

Common ancestor Git finds B

Check for conflicts Git checks all incoming branches

Apply diffs All branches diffed from B

Merge commit Git creates M with multiple parents

Conflict present? Merge is aborted (can't resolve manually)

## 4.1 change the message of the initial/root commit

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 8:20 PM

```
6c3b835 (HEAD -> master) Merge branches 'feature1' and 'feature2'
 * b7fe192 (feature2) (G): update dashbaord.txt
 * be09132 (F): add dashbaord.txt
  1697f7d (feature1) (E): update login.txt
   9bce351 (D): add login.txt
* 6c96b86 (B): master continues
* c77f72b Initial commit :(A)
```

```
* 4d41670 (HEAD -> master) (G): update dashbaord.txt
* 911e2b0 (F): add dashbaord.txt
* 6af2a9e (E): update login.txt
* 482fa12 (D): add login.txt
* 6c8a5ef (B): master continues
* c8c49d9 (A): Initial commit
```



How can I change the message of the initial/root commit:

c77f72b Initial commit:(A)

(A): Initial commit



#### # Git History Before Rewriting

Here's the state of your repository before adjusting the message:

```
* 6c3b835 (HEAD -> master) Merge branches 'feature1' and 'feature2'
| * b7fe192 (feature2) (G): update dashboard.txt
| * be09132 (F): add dashboard.txt
* | 1697f7d (feature1) (E): update login.txt
* | 9bce351 (D): add login.txt
* 6c96b86 (B): master continues
```



### Solution: Using git rebase --root

To rewrite the first commit message:



#### Step 1: Run Root Rebase

git rebase -i --root



### Step 2: Change pick to reword

Editor opens with:

```
pick c77f72b Initial commit:(A)
pick 6c96b86 master continues
pick 9bce351 add login.txt
pick 1697f7d update login.txt
pick be09132 add dashboard.txt
pick b7fe192 update dashboard.txt
pick 6c3b835 Merge branches 'feature1' and 'feature2'
Modify the first line:
```

reword c77f72b Initial commit:(A) Then save and exit the editor.



#### ♦ Step 3: Git Prompts for New Message

A second editor opens showing:

Initial commit:(A) Change it to:

(A): Initial commit



#### 💾 Save and Exit

- Nano:
  - o Ctrl + O, Enter, then Ctrl + X
- Vim:
  - o Esc, type:wq, then Enter



## **Git History After Rewriting**

Your log will now show the new message:

Your actual commit log will look like this:

- \* 83a2f0a (HEAD -> master) (G): update dashboard.txt
- \* b50dd6e (F): add dashboard.txt
- \* 1697f7d (feature1) (E): update login.txt
- \* 9bce351 (D): add login.txt
- \* 6c96b86 (B): master continues
- \* abcd123 (A): Initial commit ✓ message updated!
- Note: The commit hash of the initial commit (1a2b3c4) changed because commit content was modified.



#### **Important Notice**

If you already pushed your repo to a remote (GitHub, etc.), you'll need to force-push:

git push --force

#### 5. Rebase then Merge – Internal Process

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 9:49 PM

#### Rebase Then Merge – Internal Process

...when the feature branch was created after commit B (not after C)



## Situation Overview

You have two branches:

- master: continues from B → C
- feature: branched from B, adds D and E



#### **Git History Before Rebase**

```
A---B---C (master)
   D---E (feature)
```

#### This means:

- feature branched **before** the latest commit on master (C)
- So Git considers the two branches diverged



#### Goal:

You want to make the feature branch look as if it was developed after C, not B. This creates a **linear history** and avoids a merge commit.



# **Step-by-Step Process**



#### Step 1: Rebase feature onto master

# bash

نسختحرير

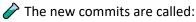
git checkout feature

git rebase master



#### What Git Does Internally:

- 1. Finds the base of feature = commit B
- 2. Takes all new commits after B in feature  $\rightarrow$  D and E
- **3. Copies** them
- 4. Reapplies them on top of C



- D': new version of D
- E': new version of E

### **Git History After Rebase**

#### mathematica

```
نسختحرير
A---B---C---D'---E' (feature)
```

D----E **X** abandoned (old path)

- feature is now cleanly on top of master
- D and E are discarded (not deleted, just orphaned)

# ♦ Step 2: Merge Feature (Fast-Forward)

git checkout master git merge feature

• Since master ends at C, and feature starts at C and continues → Git fast-forwards master.

## Final Git History (After Rebase + Merge)

A---B---C---D'---E' (master, feature)

- No merge commit created
- Clean, linear history
- Looks like all work happened in one straight line

# **Summary Table**

Step	Action	Result
git rebase	Rewrites feature onto master	Makes commits D, E become D', E'
git merge	Fast-forwards master	No merge commit
Final history	Linear (C $\rightarrow$ D' $\rightarrow$ E')	Easier to understand

# Why This Is Useful

**Benefit** Why It Helps No merge commit Simpler history

Linear commit flow Easy to read with git log -- oneline

Avoids diverging branches Keeps your project tidy

Great for feature branches Especially before pushing to remote

# 6. Merge with Conflict – Internal Process

Thursday, July 3, 2025 12:26 AM

✓ 6. Merge with Conflict – Internal Process

Illustrated with commit graphs, internal steps, and terminal behavior.





A---B---C (master)

D---E (feature)

- master has new commit C
- feature has new commits D → E
- Both modified the same line in the same file (let's say hello.txt)

# What Git Sees:

- Common base commit = B
- It tries a three-way merge:
  - o Base: B
  - Head1: C (from master)
  - Head2: E (from feature)
- It detects a conflict:
  - C and E both changed the same line in hello.txt

## Internal Git Process:

- 1. Git stops the merge
- 2. Adds conflict markers inside the conflicting file:

<<<<< HEAD

version from master (C)

======

version from feature (E)

>>>>> feature

- 3. Git marks the merge as incomplete
- 4. You must manually resolve the conflict





- Open the file (e.g., hello.txt)
- Edit it to keep the correct version

Example resolved file:

✓ final version after resolving



# Step 2: Mark as Resolved

git add hello.txt



# **Step 3: Complete the Merge**

git commit -m "M: Merge feature into master (resolved conflict)"



# **Final Commit Graph (After Merge)**

A---B---C-----M (master) D---E---/ (feature)

- M is a merge commit
- It has **two parents**: C (master) and E (feature)
- The merge only succeeds after manual resolution



## **Summary Table**

Step	Action	Result
Git tries to merge	Uses common base B	Finds conflict between C and E
Conflict detected	Stops and adds conflict markers	Merge paused
Developer resolves	Edits file, runs git add	Marks as resolved
Developer commits	Runs git commit	Creates merge commit M



# When This Happens

- Both branches edited the same line
- Git can't decide which version to keep
- Very common in collaborative teams or long-lived branches

### Git Rebase Commands

Thursday, July 3, 2025 10:23 AM



# 1. Basic Rebase Commands – Demonstrated



git init

# Example Setup

mkdir rebase-demo && cd rebase-demo

```
Create base commits on master:
bash
نسختحرير
echo "v1" > app.txt
git add app.txt
git commit -m "A: Initial commit"
echo "v2" >> app.txt
git commit -am "B: Update v2"
echo "v3" >> app.txt
git commit -am "C: Update v3"
Create a new branch:
bash
نسختحربر
git checkout -b feature
echo "login 1" > login.txt
git add login.txt
git commit -m "D: Add login page"
echo "login 2" >> login.txt
git commit -am "E: Improve login form"
Now you have:
```



SCSS نسختحرير

A---B---C (master)

D---E (feature)

## 🔷 1.1 git rebase master

```
نسختحرير
git checkout feature
git rebase master
Git moves the feature branch commits D and E after C:
mathematica
نسختحرير
```



## 1.2 git rebase --abort

If a conflict happens:

bash

نسختحربر

git rebase master

# Conflict occurs!

git rebase --abort # Restores branch back to before rebase



## 1.3 git rebase --continue

After resolving conflict:

bash

نسختحربر

# Fix file manually

git add file.txt

git rebase -- continue



### 1.4 git rebase --skip

If a commit causes problems and you want to ignore it:

bash

نسختحرير

git rebase master

# Conflict in E

git rebase --skip # E will be dropped



# First: git rebase --abort



#### Purpose:

If a conflict happens during a rebase and you don't want to continue or you can't resolve it, this command allows you to cancel the rebase and go back to how things were before it started.



## 🔗 Example:

- 1. You have two branches:
  - o master
  - feature (with some new changes)

bash

نسختحرير

# Switch to the feature branch

\$ git checkout feature

# Start the rebase process

\$ git rebase master



A conflict happens:

bash

نسختحرير

Auto-merging file.txt



# **%** To cancel the rebase and go back to the original state:

bash

نسختحربر

\$ git rebase --abort



📌 This will cancel the rebase and return the feature branch to how it was before the rebase started.



# Second: git rebase --continue



### Purpose:

After you manually resolve a conflict, you use this command to continue the rebase process.



#### 🥟 Steps:

1. During git rebase master, a conflict occurs in file.txt.

bash

نسختحرير

CONFLICT (content): Merge conflict in file.txt

1. You open the file and resolve the conflict manually, removing the conflict markers:

text

نسختحرير

<<<<< HEAD

// from master

======

// from feature

>>>>> commit-hash

1. After resolving, stage the file:

bash

نسختحرير

\$ git add file.txt

1. Then continue the rebase:

bash

نسختحرير

\$ git rebase --continue



Git will proceed to the next commit and continue the rebase.



# Third: git rebase --skip



# Purpose:

If a certain commit causes issues and is not important, you can skip it and continue with the rest.



## 🔗 Example:

1. During rebase:

bash

نسختحرير

\$ git rebase master

- 1. A conflict occurs in a commit that modifies E.txt.
- 2. Instead of fixing it, you choose to ignore that commit:

#### bash

نسختحرير

\$ git rebase --skip



Git will skip that commit entirely and continue with the next ones.



# Diagram (Before and After)



# **P** Before Rebase:

#### mathematica

نسختحرير

master: A---B---C

\



## During git rebase master from feature:

Git tries to replay D and E on top of C:

#### mathematica

نسختحرير

A---B---C---D'----E'

- A conflict happens in E
- You run git rebase --skip



mathematica

نسختحرير

 $A---B---C---D' \leftarrow E \text{ is removed}$ 



## Summary:

Command	Purpose	When to Use
git rebaseabort	Cancel the rebase	When a conflict happens and you don't want to continue
git rebase continue	Resume after resolving a conflict	After fixing the conflict and staging the changes
git rebaseskip	Skip a problematic commit	If a commit causes issues and you decide to ignore it

#### Loacal not track remote

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 8:32 PM

> Why doesn't Git say: "Your branch is ahead of 'origin/prolog-feature' by 1 commit"? Even though prolog-feature has a commit (875ae94) that does **not** exist in origin/prolog-feature (2d6d08d).

# The Actual Reason (in detail):

You have the following:

\* 875ae94 (HEAD -> prolog-feature) ← new local commit

\* 2d6d08d (origin/prolog-feature) ← last known commit on the remote

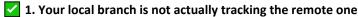
So your local branch is **definitely ahead by one commit**.

But the question is:

Why doesn't git status say: "Your branch is ahead of 'origin/prolog-feature' by 1 commit"?



#### Possible Reasons:



Even though the branch name is the same (prolog-feature), it might not be linked to origin/prolog-feature. To check this, run:

git branch -vv

You should see something like:

prolog-feature 875ae94 [origin/prolog-feature] add hi.txt

If you don't see [origin/prolog-feature], that means the branch is not tracking the remote branch.



If your branch is not tracking the remote branch, run this:

git branch --set-upstream-to=origin/prolog-feature

Then check again with:

git status

Now you'll see:

Your branch is ahead of 'origin/prolog-feature' by 1 commit.

## **Quick Notes:**

#### Command **Purpose**

git fetch Updates your remote-tracking branches

git branch -vv Shows whether your branch is tracking a remote git status Only compares to the upstream branch (if set)

Would you like a visual diagram to help explain this case more clearly?

From < https://chatgpt.com/c/6863fe83-0050-8003-8583-58798d79b4d4>

From < https://chatgpt.com/c/6863fe83-0050-8003-8583-58798d79b4d4>