**1. Branching and Merging in Git**

**Branching**: In Git, a branch is a separate line of development that allows you to work on new features, bug fixes, or experiments without affecting the main codebase. The default branch is often called master or main. Branching makes it easy to work on multiple changes in parallel.

**Merging**: Merging is the process of integrating changes from one branch into another. Git combines the histories of both branches. If changes do not conflict, Git merges automatically; if conflicts occur, they must be resolved manually.

**2. Creating a Branch Request in GitLab**

In GitLab, a branch request means creating a new branch in the repository to work on a specific task or feature.

Steps:

* Go to your GitLab project.
* Navigate to Repository → Branches.
* Click New branch.
* Enter the branch name and choose the source branch (usually main or master).
* Create the branch and start committing your changes there.

**3. Creating a Merge Request in GitLab**

A merge request (MR) in GitLab is a request to merge the changes from one branch into another. It is also used for code review and discussion before merging.

Steps:

* Go to your GitLab project.
* Click Merge requests → New merge request.
* Select the source branch (your feature branch) and the target branch (e.g., main).
* Add a title, description, and assign reviewers if needed.
* Submit the merge request for review.



