**Merge Procedure**

There are four levels of branches found in this repository.

Note, the following is a hierarchal branching display and not a display of branching and merging of informational flow.

**New Feature Branch**

**Feature Trial Branch**

**Tester**

**Master**

**Feature Trial Branch**

**New Feature Branch**

**Feature Trial Branch**

**New Feature Branch**

**Level 1** - Master, where code which has been put through the trial (Level 3) and tested in the Tester (Level 2) is pushed. It is the final and working version of the code.  
**Level 2** - Tester, where new features which have been put through a trial (Level 3) are put through a 48 testing hold for stability before being pushed to the Master (Level 1).  
**Level 3** – Feature Trial, where new A/B testing trials which have been produced in the New Feature branch and tested locally (Level 4) are done.  
**Level 4** – New Feature, where new features are initially produced.

A brief tutorial on basic branching and merging within GitHub can be found here - <http://git-scm.com/book/en/Git-Branching-Basic-Branching-and-Merging>

All new features must branch from the Master base branch. This procedure has been applied since the first release of the proof of concept (branch-Ab-YIN Release).

**Important Merging Procedure:**

1. The new feature is to be produced and tested locally (Level 4) until ready for a trial.
2. A new branch will be created for that feature to allow for the trial on select users in an A/B test procedure with tracked metrics (Level 3).
3. If feature is approved based on metrics, the “Tester” (Level 2) branch is merged **into** the Feature Trial (Level 3) branch, where conflicts and issues are resolved without affecting Level 2.
4. The Feature Trial (Level 3) branch is then merged into the Tester (Level 2) branch. This branch is tested for stability for 24 hours.
5. The Master (Level 1) branch is merged **into** the Tester (Level 2) branch, where conflicts and issues are resolved without affecting Level 1. This branch is tested for stability for 24 hours.
6. The Tester (Level 2) branch is merged **into** the Master (Level 1) branch.

Note: All new features, irrespective of who is pitching them, must go through the trial process where tracking metrics are collected before the push to master.