# Common SVN Problems

## SVN locks:

The SVN lock message may suggest you do an SVN cleanup. If you get this message, do the svn cleanup at the /stm level.

If the lock won’t release with a cleanup, the only option I know is to refresh the troublesome part of the code

1. Make a backup of the offending directory that is locked or needs cleaning somewhere far away.
2. Delete the directory using your file system. Do not SVN delete – you are trying to eliminate your local copy only.
3. Do an SVN update at a higher level, preferably /stm.
4. Move over any file changes.

## SVN conflicts:

Conflicts occur naturally when two people edit the same part of the same file. They also can occur in some nastier situations involving renames. First ask yourself which one it was. Two people working on the same place often requires some subtlety (Case 3 below). Other issues are not “real” conflicts between edits. The preferable choice in this case is Case 1, where you discard your own stuff.

Case 1: You don't really care about your edits.

By far the easiest way to deal with this problem is to quit your changes

1. Delete the item using your file system. Do not SVN delete – you are trying to eliminate your local copy only.
2. SVN update at a higher level – top level is best (/stm). This will load a fresh copy of whatever is in the repository

Case 2: You know for sure your copy is right and you are willing to overwrite the work of others.

1. Make a defensive copy of your version somewhere safe like the desktop.
2. Delete the item using your file system. Do not SVN delete – you are trying to eliminate your local copy only.
3. SVN update at a higher level – top level is best (/stm). This will load a fresh copy of whatever is in the repository
4. Copy your own version back and commit it.

Case 3: Resolving the conflict change-by-change

1. In Tortoise SVN choose “edit conflict”
2. Using the merge editor, find the red bits that represent the conflicts. Don’t worry about the other differences as long as they can co-exist.
3. Select them one at a time. Use the right click menu to choose one version or the other. Save frequently.
4. When done, exit. If you get a menu with the option to “mark resolved” do so. If you do not get this, right click and use Tortoise SVN to “svn resolve” the issue.