

Branches (SDEVEN.40-BRAN)

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Preamble

This section refers the current policies regarding *git repository* branches.

Classification

The branches are classified like that:

- *mandatory* (always required). As example is the **master** (or *main*) branch. The name *master* is preferred (as it is already used in automation scripts), but sometimes the name *main* can be found (as with best practices recommendations starting with spring of 2021 year).
- with a *long life cycle* (aka just *development*). In this category is **development** branch which is required up to a minor release, then the name can be changed if needed to reflect versioning policy. Another example could be *release beach* intended for documentation review and finalizing and packaging of system.
- *test* branches which are created usually from an *alpha* or *beta* tag and kept until the required tests are passed. This kind of branches can return (merge) back to *development* corresponding branch or to a **release** branch if tests passed for preparing a potential release. In both cases, after test finalizing and branch merge, it will be deleted.
- *developer dedicated* branches local kept on remote git for a quick reference for all developers without requiring a git client
- *personal* branches reflecting current work for developers that: ⁽ⁱ⁾ have a `git` client installed or ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ remote for developers using mobile devices without a `git` client installed. For such as branches open on public remote¹ `git`, the name of developer and phrase "*dev*" or "*phone*" and these branches *need to be requested from DevOps person* in order to crete them, give them enough rights and not to be (automatically) dropped.

Branches used and their names

Usually, as not stated otherwise in a project, the following branches should be used:

- **development** - consolidates development of all team. Branch is *permanent* and set as *default*
- **master** - current version of system in production. Branch is *permanent*
- **xxx-dev** - work branch for team member `xxx`. Branch is *temporary* and should be administered by the DevOps person. This kind of branch is made to work from different devices where a `git` client cannot be used and files must be individually uploaded or edit using the `git` system web interface. The person for whom it was created can receive full rights on this branch
- **qa_test** / *test* - *used according to classification. Branch is temporary**
- **release** / `version_string-rel` - *used according to classification. Branch is temporary*

! master branch name

starting from 2022 new git systems are default configured to name default base branch as `main` instead of `master`. Please check to avoid mistakes due to branch name use in different automation / configuration `yaml` scripts.

Frequent mistakes

- names containing "dev" are used to signify a "local" developer work. These should not be confused with `development` branch which has already an explained purpose. They are used by people that need a repository for their current work and cannot install a local client.
- names containing "rel" or "tst" or "qa" are intended for test purposes. This situation could appear ⁽ⁱ⁾ for own tests, ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ for tests done by other people or ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ for tests made before a release. Also, instead of making "release or test branches" when intention is for example not commit work but have a kind of snapshot with "AS IS NOW", a tag can be created and transformed latter in a branch. This method is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for any kind of snapshots that are needed. Just pay attention with these tags and DO NOT EXPECT a long life cycle for them as anytime can be dropped by a `DevOps` that remarks they are out of used conventions and policies - a better option is just to communicate the intention.

Tagging recommendations

- for consistency, long term and reference tags should be named using `RENVER` conventions
- working tags should contain words like `dev` or `adev` (from *alpha dev*) if not an *alpha* release is intended. This will help for a right alphabetically sort, normally their preceding an *alpha* or upper release.

Graphic basic flow

This diagram shows the basic flow for `master` (`main`), `development` and one `xxx-dev` branch. Also on graphic the practices ref tagging are shown:


SDEVEN basic git flow



Names and codes used in diagram:

- `iss-001` is an issue that needs to be closed (and coded)
- `personA-dev` is a *personal* branch created for "person A" to work (in example for issue 001)
- `personX-dev` is a *personal* branch created for another developer (persona X)

Also diagram shows different tags created as occasioned by "issue 001".

1. the internal `git` used by team 

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