# Idea Card: Reputation-Gated Merge Policy and Identity Ethics

## Summary

As more contributors adopt the CoCivium workflow (e.g., via the Repo Accelerator Kit), the project will face an increasing volume of PRs. Some PRs may conflict, and many will originate from unknown or low-reputation contributors. This raises a governance concern: who should be allowed to merge PRs, under what conditions, and using what ethical basis?

## Key Problems Raised

1. 1. Merge Approval Bottleneck

- As PRs flood in, reliance on a small number of approvers (e.g., Rick) becomes unsustainable.  
- Without scaling merge authority, community contributions may stall.

1. 2. Reversibility as a Safety Valve

- If all PRs are reversible by design (e.g., `CoUndo`), should we permit broader merge privileges by default?  
- Could this be restricted to CoCivites with a minimal reputation?

1. 3. Identity & Ethics Qualification

- What constitutes a valid CoCivite identity?  
- How do we guard against Sybil attacks (e.g., same user using multiple pseudonymous identities)?  
- Can “ethical intent” be calculated or inferred from contribution history, participation, and declared values?

1. 4. Belligerence Risk and Quiet Defenses

- Should the system allow anyone to participate while \*quietly limiting\* the power of belligerents or saboteurs?  
- This risks perceived hypocrisy unless policy is clearly and congruently stated.

## Proposed Concepts

* • Merge Eligibility Protocol (MEP):

Define a minimum trust score or role (e.g., `CoCivite S1`) required to perform unsupervised merges.

* • Ethical Intention Reputation (EIR):

Develop a model that rates contributors based on signals like:  
 - Quality and reversibility of PRs  
 - Tone in comments/discussions  
 - Alignment with declared CoCivium ethics  
 - Cross-contributor endorsements

* • Belligerence Detection & Rate Limiting:

Use a shadow score system to rate potential harm from contributors without overtly banning them. Privileges scale with demonstrated constructive engagement.

* • Transparent Merge Queue System:

Auto-prioritize PRs based on review scores, conflict detection, and contributor history. Surface PRs likely to conflict.