CIS241 System-Level Programming and Utilities git (merging) Erik Fredericks, frederer@gvsu.edu Fall 2025 Based on material provided by Erin Carrier, Austin Ferguson, and Katherine **Bowers**

What is a merge conflict?

Merge conflict: when two commits compete

- People editing the same line
- File both edited and deleted

Resolving

Manually edit files and decide which to keep

Markers indicate who did what

- Between <<<<<< and ======
 - local branch merging into
- Between ====== and >>>>>>
 - remote branch being merged

Though, hard to read!

Good use case for a visual diff program...

```
# No conflict
<<<<<<
This is from local branch (one we're merging into)
======
This is from remote (one being merged in)
>>>>>
# Conflict over
```

Regardless...

- Decide which to keep or combine in some way
- Replace with whatever decided
- Remove markers
- Repeat for all conflicts in each conflicting file
- Add files after resolving merge
- Run git commit

Resolving:

Q1: What if I just want to keep one version or the other, is there a better way?

- A1: Two options:
 - ogit restore --ours filename or git restore --theirs filename
 - o Or, replace restore with checkout
 - ours = branch merging into
 - theirs = braanch being merged in

Resolving:

Q2: I screwed up the merge - can I start over?

- A2: git merge --abort
 - May delete any changes in working directory!!

Resolving

Q3: This is awful - is there another way?

- A3: Yes, but not the 'ideal' way
 - As before, pull down a "clean" copy of the repo into a new folder and merge your local changes into that
 - Then decide which folder to keep

Example of inducing a merge conflict

c/o reddit:

https://www.reddit.com/r/git/comments/b3wm1j/how_to_best_intentionally_create_a_merge_conflict/

```
git init
echo 'Mr. Foo' > foo.txt
git add .
git commit -m 'foo'
echo 'Mr. Bar' > foo.txt
git add .
git commit -m 'bar'
# Branch from HEAD~1 - a.k.a. 1 commit ago.
git checkout HEAD~1
git checkout -b branch
echo 'Mr. Baz' > foo.txt
git add .
git commit -m 'baz'
git checkout master
git merge branch
```

Also, visualize:

```
git log --all --date-order --graph
```