What’s in a name?: the Samvera Branch Renaming Working Group in Action

Colin Brittle, Emory University
Chris Colvard, Ubiquity Press
Alexandra Dunn, UC Santa Barbara
Jeremy Friesen, University of Notre Dame
Kate Lynch, Princeton University
Lynette Rayle, Cornell University
Samvera Branch Renaming Working Group

- Formed in July 2020
- Confluence space - https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Samvera+Branch+Renaming+Working+Group
- Membership:
  - Colin Brittle, Emory University
  - Chris Colvard, Ubiquity Press
  - Alexandra Dunn, UC Santa Barbara
  - Jeremy Friesen, University of Notre Dame
  - Kate Lynch, Princeton University
  - Lynette Rayle, Cornell University
Our mission

- Upholding the Community Code of Conduct, reflect our core values by eliminating coding jargon that perpetuates racist systems, language, and mentalities.

- Rename the default branch of each repository with an appropriate, meaningful term, not “master”
Git branching

Image source: https://www.atlassian.com/git/tutorials/using-branches
Goals

- Recommend a new default term to the community
- Assess technical repercussions
- Branch renaming tools/techniques
- Impact mitigation strategies
- Formulate a replacement plan, with time commitments
Go first, or wait and see?

Why now?
Work in 2020

- Documentation of potential impacts
  - https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Potential+Impacts++Samvera+Branch+Renaming+Working+Group
Work in 2020

- Documentation of potential impacts
  - [https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Potential+Impacts++Samvera+Branch+Renaming+Working+Group](https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Potential+Impacts++Samvera+Branch+Renaming+Working+Group)

- Tutorials and tooling
  - [Create a new repo with "main" branch](https://github.com/mheap/github-default-branch)
  - [Esmé Cowles’ renaming script](https://github.com/samvera-labs/branch-renaming-wg)
Work in 2020

- Effectiveness of tooling assessment
- Recommendations to the Component Maintenance Working Group (report)
GitHub’s work

- New default branch switch to “main,” October 1
  - [https://github.blog/changelog/2020-10-01-the-default-branch-for-newly-created-repositories-is-now-main](https://github.blog/changelog/2020-10-01-the-default-branch-for-newly-created-repositories-is-now-main)

- Seamless transition coming before the end of 2020
  - [https://github.com/github/renaming/](https://github.com/github/renaming/)
What's next?

- Component Maintenance Working Group testing and resource assessment
- Monitor GitHub’s progress
- Reconvene January 2021 and produce Community deliverables
Deliverables in 2021

- A path for branch renaming with impact mitigation strategies for remaining challenges

- Training resources
  - Documentation for manual change processes
  - How-to’s for tools and techniques
Deliverables in 2021

● A path for branch renaming with impact mitigation strategies for remaining challenges

● Training resources
  ○ Documentation for manual change processes
  ○ How-to’s for tools and techniques

● A date in 2021 by which the “master” branch will no longer be available in any repositories in Samvera or Samvera-labs
Conclusion

- This will happen.
  - “This is not a feasibility assessment; We're making this change.”

- We hope to set an example.
Conclusion

- This will happen.
  - "This is not a feasibility assessment; We're making this change."

- We hope to set an example.

- Look to this work for ways to make local changes now.

- We are here to help
  - We welcome feedback on tooling
  - Samvera Slack: #branch-renaming-wg