Modern Revision Control with Mercurial

Martin Geisler (mg@aragost.com)

Gearconf, Düsseldorf June 9th, 2011



About the Speaker

Martin Geisler:

- core Mercurial developer:
 - reviews patches from the community
 - ► helps users in our IRC channel
- works at aragost Trifork, Zurich:
 - offers professional Mercurial support
 - customization, migration, training
 - advice on best practices

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed Mercurial Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial Workflows Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

aragost Trifork 3 / 30

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed Mercurial Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial Workflows Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed

Mercurial

Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial

Workflows

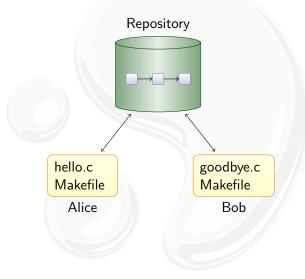
Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

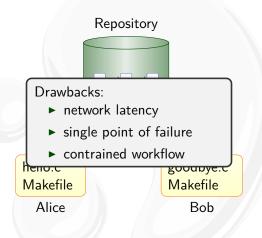
Centralized Revision Control

Single repository, multiple working copies:



Centralized Revision Control

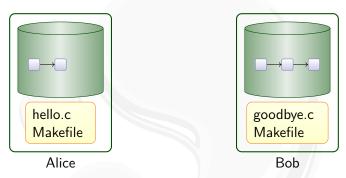
Single repository, multiple working copies:



aragost Trifork 6 / 30

Distributed Revision Control

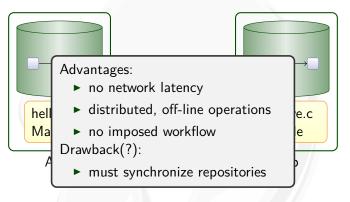
Mercurial duplicates the history on many servers:





Distributed Revision Control

Mercurial duplicates the history on many servers:

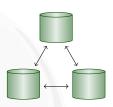


aragost Trifork 7 / 30

Why Distributed?

Distributed revision control gives you:

- ▶ offline commits
- ▶ rich set of fast local operations
- ▶ great flexibility

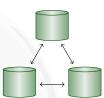


aragost Trifork 8 / 30

Why Distributed?

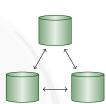
Distributed revision control gives you:

- offline commits
- rich set of fast local operations
- great flexibility



Derived effects:

- fine-grained commits
- searchable history
- branching and merging become a natural task (not something to be feared)
- enables better workflows



Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed

Mercurial

Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial

Workflows

Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

What is Mercurial?

Main features:

- ► fast, distributed revision control system
 - ► robust support for branching and merging
 - ► free and open source

What is Mercurial?

Main features:

- fast, distributed revision control system
 - robust support for branching and merging
 - ▶ free and open source
- ▶ installers for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, ...
 - ► TortoiseHg is a cross-platform graphical frontend
 - MacHg is a fast native Mac OS X frontend
 - ▶ plugins for MS Visual Studio, Eclipse, . . .

What is Mercurial?

Main features:

- ► fast, distributed revision control system
 - robust support for branching and merging
 - ▶ free and open source
- ▶ installers for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, ...
 - ► TortoiseHg is a cross-platform graphical frontend
 - ► MacHg is a fast native Mac OS X frontend
 - ▶ plugins for MS Visual Studio, Eclipse, . . .
- very user-friendly
 - extensive built-in help for all commands
 - command set resemble CVS and SVN
 - destructive commands delegated to extensions



Who is Using it?

Mercurial is used by:

- ▶ Oracle for Java, OpenSolaris, NetBeans, OpenOffice, ...
- Mozilla for Firefox, Thunderbird, . . .
- Google
- many more...



















OpenOffice

Fairly large repository:

- ▶ 70,000 files, 2,0 GB of data
- ▶ 270,000 changesets, 2,3 GB of history

OpenOffice.org

Mercurial is fast on a repository of this size:

```
$ time hg status
0.45s user 0.15s system 99% cpu 0.605 total
$ time hg tip
0.28s user 0.03s system 99% cpu 0.309 total
$ time hg log -r DEV300_m50
0.30s user 0.04s system 99% cpu 0.334 total
$ time hg diff
0.74s user 0.16s system 88% cpu 1.006 total
$ time hg commit -m 'Small change'
1.77s user 0.25s system 98% cpu 2.053 total
```

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed Mercurial

Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial

Workflows Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

Pull and merge:

Alice

1

Bob



Pull and merge:



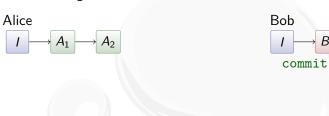
aragost Trifork 14/30

Bob

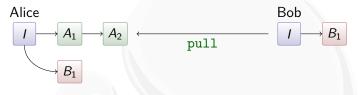
Pull and merge:



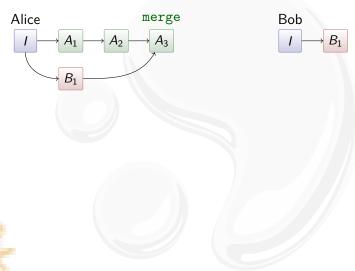
Pull and merge:



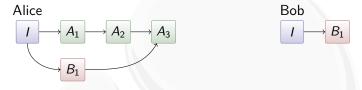
Pull and merge:



Pull and merge:



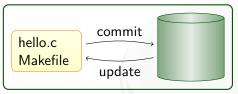
Pull and merge:



Merging:

- ▶ find common ancestor of A_2 and B_1 : I
- ▶ do three-way merge between I, A_2 , and B_1
- ► merge often ⇒ common ancestor is close to tip

Key Mercurial Commands

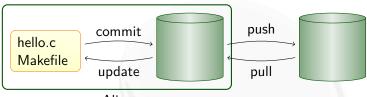


Alice

Local commands:

- ▶ hg commit: save a snapshot into the current repository
- ▶ hg update: checkout revision into working directory
- ▶ hg merge: join different lines of history

Key Mercurial Commands



Alice

Local commands:

- ▶ hg commit: save a snapshot into the current repository
- ▶ hg update: checkout revision into working directory
- ▶ hg merge: join different lines of history

Network commands:

- ▶ hg pull: retrieve changesets from another repository
- hg push: send your changesets to another repository

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed Mercurial Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial Workflows Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed Mercurial Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial Workflows

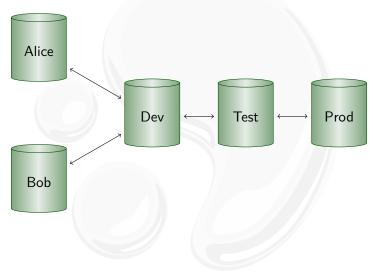
Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

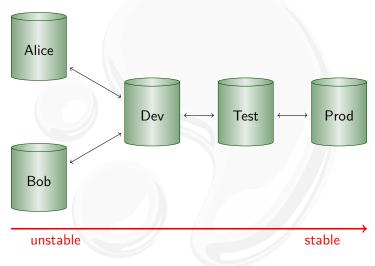
Workflow in a Team

Mercurial scales from a single team...:



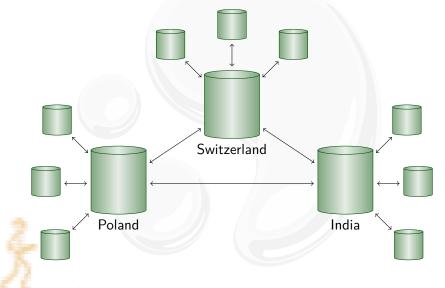
Workflow in a Team

Mercurial scales from a single team...:



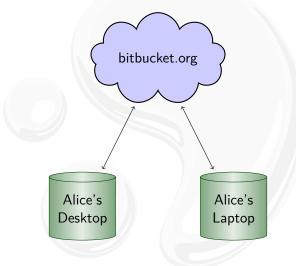
Workflow Between Company Divisions

... to enterprise-wide development...:



Workflow Between Two Computers

...to working with yourself:



aragost Trifork 20 / 30

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed Mercurial Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercurial

Workflows

Branches

Frontends

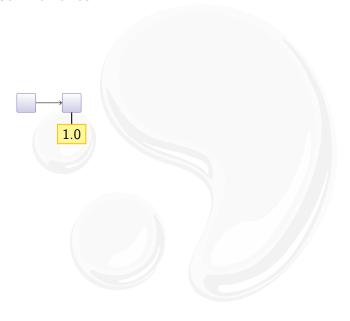
Wrapping Up

Release Branches

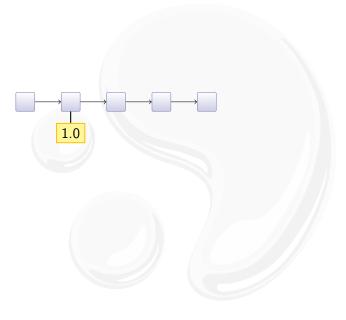


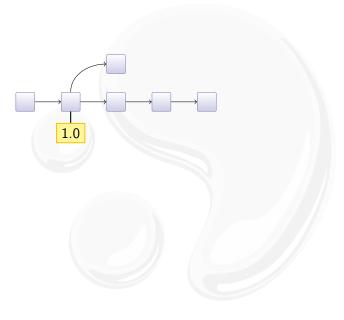
aragost Trifork 22 / 30

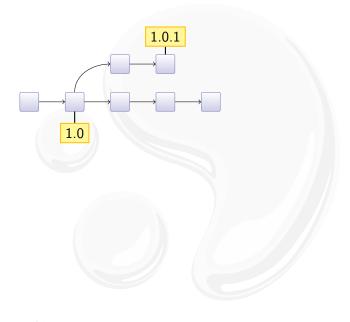
Release Branches

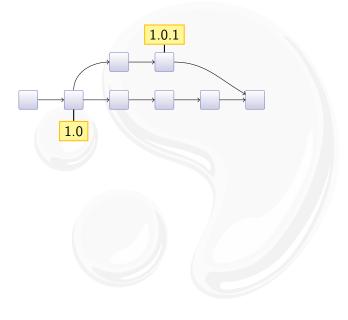


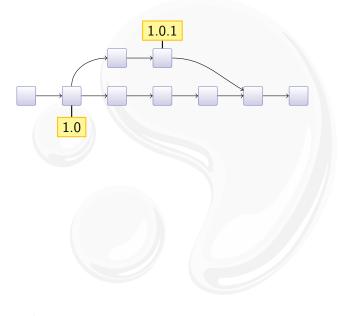
aragost Trifork 22 / 30

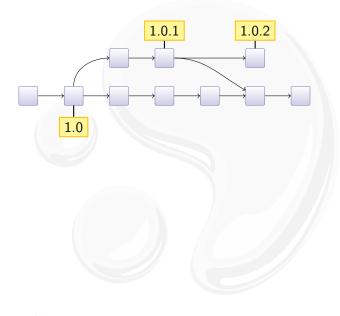


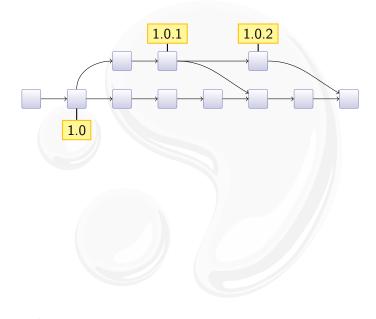












Outline

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed

Mercurial

Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercuria

Workflows

Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

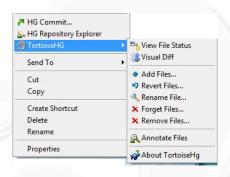
Third-Party Tools

Mercurial is mature and has wide-spread tool support:

- ► Graphical frontends: TortoiseHg, MacHg, . . .
- ► IDEs: Eclipse, NetBeans, IntelliJ, Visual Studio, . . .
- ▶ Project Support: Trac, JIRA, Maven, Hudson, . . .

Context menu in Windows Explorer:



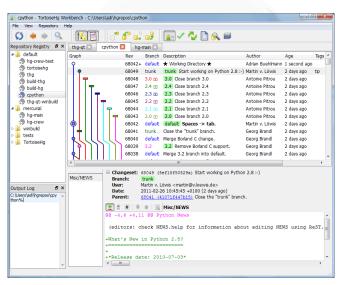


Overlay icons:



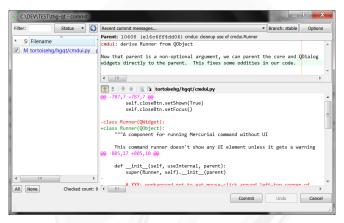
Browsing history:





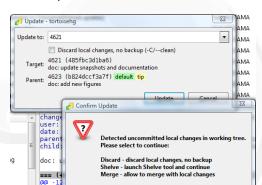


Interactive commit tool:



Update with shelve option:

.png



Shelve

Merge

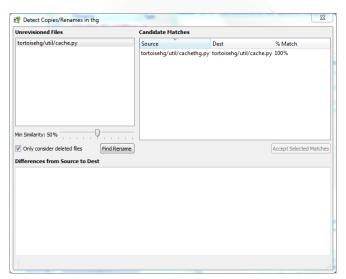
Cancel

Discard





Detecting renames based on file similarity:



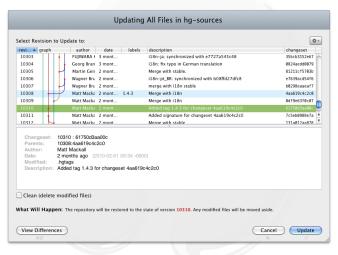
Cloning a repository:



	Clone	e "hgcollapse"		
repository. Mercurial will clon repository.	e the source repository	n, along with the shortname you w to the new given location and star		oned
Source:	Destination:			
	ShortName: hgcollapse			
	Local Path:	/Users/jason/hgcollapse	Brows	se
Advanced Options: ♥ Use S Clone only Revision, T.	SH command			
Clone only Specif	_			
Remo	te Command 🗌			
Re	oository Only	Use Pull Protocol	Uncompressed	
		Cancel 3€.	Clone Repository	//

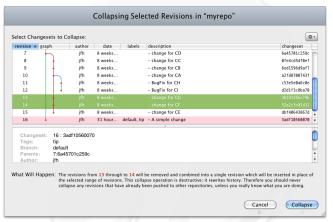
Updating to a revision:





Collapsing changesets:









evision A	graph	author	date	labels	description	changeset
3		Jin :a	8 weeks		- uniro change	362434646346 849f98884fcf
4	1	jfh	8 weeks		- change for four	8d9†9088d†c† 11492438c116
5	1	jfh	8 weeks		- change for five	
6	1	jfh	8 weeks		- change for six - change for CD	6f3d5bcfa00b
7		jfh ifh				6a45701c259c
8		3	8 weeks		- change for CC	0fe4cd5df0ef 6ed1596d9af7
	111					
	11.					
16		jfh ifh	31 hour		- change for CE - A simple change	3adf18568878
17				ala facilità d'a		15c059c9c3ce
17	-	jfh	31 nour	default, tip	- Commit the merge	12ca2acac3ce
Commit Descrip Commit	tion: - chang :: 10 (jfh) tion: - chang :: 11 (jfh) tion: - BugFi	, 8 weeks je for CA , 8 weeks	ago ago			
hat Will I	Happen: The	selected re	visions withir	ou should no	to 17 will be removed from the repository ever strip any revisions that have already l	

Outline

Introduction

Centralized vs Distributed

Mercurial

Key Mercurial Concepts

Using Mercuria

Workflows

Branches

Frontends

Wrapping Up

Mercurial in a Nutshell

Mercurial changes the way you develop:

- ► simple yet strong model for both branching and merging
- power tool instead of necessary evil
- ► light-weight and snappy

More Information

▶ Mercurial homepage: http://mercurial.selenic.com/

▶ Mercurial: The Definitive Guide: http://hgbook.red-bean.com/

► Getting Started:

```
http://mercurial.aragost.com/kick-start/
http://mercurial.ch/
http://hginit.com/
```

► Some free Mercurial hosting sites:

```
http://bitbucket.org/
http://code.google.com/
http://sourceforge.net/
http://www.codeplex.com/
```

aragost Trifork

Mercurial Contributors

From http://ohloh.net/p/mercurial/map:



Mercurial Contributors

From http://ohloh.net/p/mercurial/map:



Outline

Subversion and Branches

The Underlying Model

Using History

Changing History

Talking to Other Systems

Subversion knows nothing about branches!

- ▶ but SVN has a cheap copy mechanism
- used for tags and branches

Subversion knows nothing about branches!

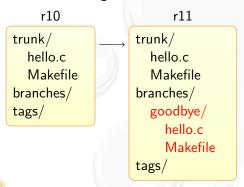
- ▶ but SVN has a cheap copy mechanism
- used for tags and branches

r10

```
trunk/
hello.c
Makefile
branches/
tags/
```

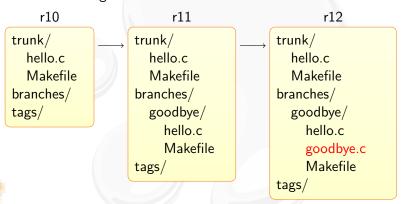
Subversion knows nothing about branches!

- ▶ but SVN has a cheap copy mechanism
- used for tags and branches



Subversion knows nothing about branches!

- ▶ but SVN has a cheap copy mechanism
- used for tags and branches



Merging Branches in SVN

The support is incomplete and fragile:

- ► renamed files are not merged correctly
- ▶ old clients will not update the merge info

Merging Branches in SVN

The support is incomplete and fragile:

- renamed files are not merged correctly
- ▶ old clients will not update the merge info

From the SVN Book:

The bottom line is that Subversion's merge-tracking feature has an extremely complex internal implementation, and the svn:mergeinfo property is the only window the user has into the machinery. Because the feature is relatively new, a numbers of edge cases and possible unexpected behaviors may pop up. —Version Control with Subversion

(Mercurial has robust built-in support for merging branches.)



Outline

Subversion and Branches

The Underlying Model

Using History

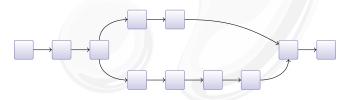
Changing History

Talking to Other Systems

The Underlying Model

A Mercurial changeset conceptually consist of:

- ▶ 0-2 parent changeset IDs:
 - root changeset has no parents
 - normal changesets have one parent
 - ▶ merge changesets have two parents
- ▶ date, username, commit message
- ▶ difference from first parent changeset
- ▶ changeset ID is computed as SHA-1 hash of the above
- ► makes it impossible to inject malicious code on server



Immutable History

SHA-1 hashes as changeset IDs have some consequences:

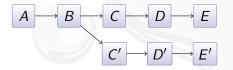
- ► a changeset ID is a hash of the entire history
- changing history changes subsequent changesets
- ▶ history is immutable, you can only make new history:



Immutable History

SHA-1 hashes as changeset IDs have some consequences:

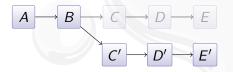
- ► a changeset ID is a hash of the entire history
- changing history changes subsequent changesets
- ▶ history is immutable, you can only make new history:



Immutable History

SHA-1 hashes as changeset IDs have some consequences:

- ► a changeset ID is a hash of the entire history
- changing history changes subsequent changesets
- ▶ history is immutable, you can only make new history:



Outline

Subversion and Branches

The Underlying Model

Using History

Changing History

Talking to Other Systems

Browsing the History of a File

The hg annotate command is invaluable:

- ▶ you see when each line was introduced
- you can quickly jump back to earlier versions

History of Mercurial's README file:

```
3942: Basic install:
445:
3942: $ make  # see install targets
3942: $ make install  # do a system-wide install
3942: $ hg debuginstall # sanity-check setup
3942: $ hg  # see help
0:
# ...
```

Better interface in hg serve

aragost Trifork 38 / 30

Searching File Content

Ever wondered when a function was introduced?

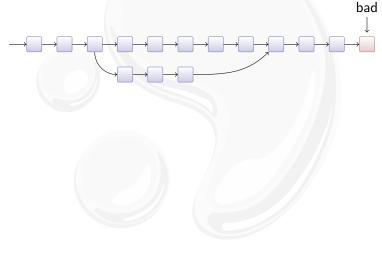
▶ hg grep can help you!

Example: When was hg forget introduced?

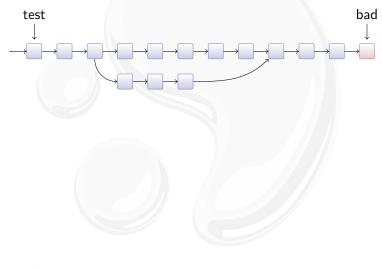
```
$ hg grep --all 'def forget' commands.py
commands.py:8902:+:def forget(ui, repo, *pats, **opts):
commands.py:3522:-:def forget(ui, repo, *pats, **opts):
commands.py:814:-:def forget(ui, repo, file1, *files):
commands.py:814:+:def forget(ui, repo, *pats, **opts):
# ...
```

aragost Trifork 39 / 3

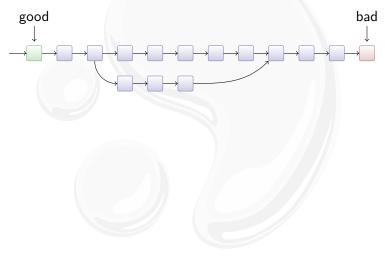
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



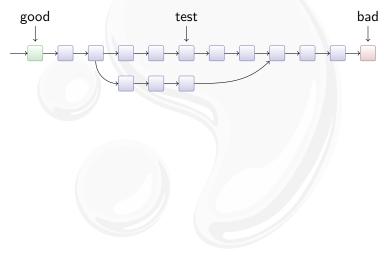
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



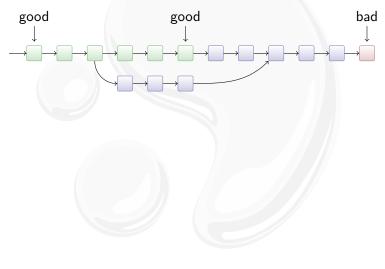
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



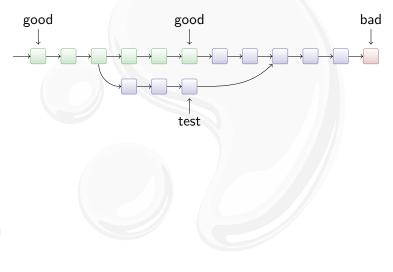
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



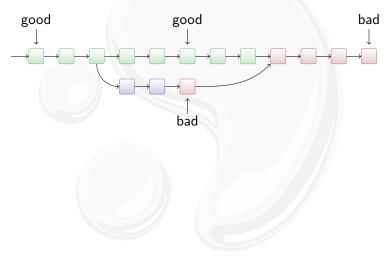
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



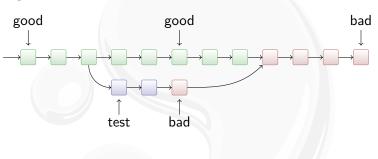
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



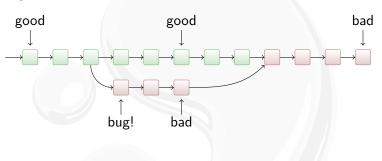
You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



You've found a bug! When was it first introduced? Use hg bisect to mark good and bad revisions:



Outline

Subversion and Branches

The Underlying Model

Using History

Changing History

Talking to Other Systems

Tired of all those merges? Use the rebase extension!

► Revision graph:



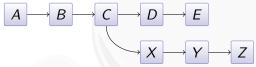
Tired of all those merges? Use the rebase extension!

► Revision graph:



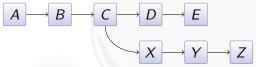
Tired of all those merges? Use the rebase extension!

► Revision graph:

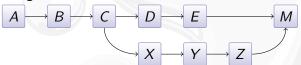


Tired of all those merges? Use the rebase extension!

► Revision graph:

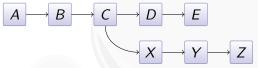


► Merge:

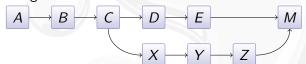


Tired of all those merges? Use the rebase extension!

► Revision graph:



► Merge:

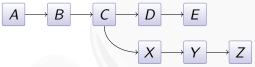


► Rebase:

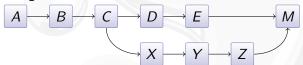


Tired of all those merges? Use the rebase extension!

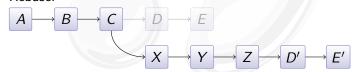
► Revision graph:



► Merge:



► Rebase:



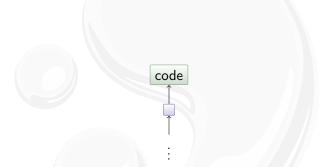
► Beware: public changes should never be rebased.

The mq extension makes it easy to maintain a patch series:



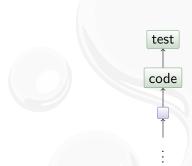
aragost Trifork 43

The mq extension makes it easy to maintain a patch series:



Works nicely for local modification for upstream sources.

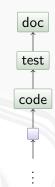
The mq extension makes it easy to maintain a patch series:



Works nicely for local modification for upstream sources.



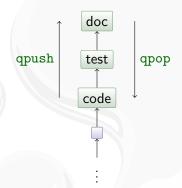
The mq extension makes it easy to maintain a patch series:



Works nicely for local modification for upstream sources.



The mq extension makes it easy to maintain a patch series:



Works nicely for local modification for upstream sources.

Inspired by git rebase -i, histedit lets you

► reorder changesets:



Inspired by git rebase -i, histedit lets you

► reorder changesets:



► fold changesets:



Inspired by git rebase -i, histedit lets you

► reorder changesets:



► fold changesets:

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow BC$$

► drop changesets:

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow C'$$

Inspired by git rebase -i, histedit lets you

▶ reorder changesets:

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C$$

$$A \longrightarrow C' \longrightarrow B'$$

► fold changesets:

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C$$

$$A \longrightarrow BC$$

► drop changesets:

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C$$

$$A \longrightarrow C'$$

► edit changesets:

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C$$



Outline

Subversion and Branches

The Underlying Model

Using History

Changing History

Talking to Other Systems

Migrating History

The **convert** extension can import history:

- ► CVS, SVN, Git, Bazaar, Darcs, ...
- ▶ incremental conversion
- many options for fiddling with branches, authors, . . .

Migrating History

The **convert** extension can import history:

- ► CVS, SVN, Git, Bazaar, Darcs, ...
- incremental conversion
- ▶ many options for fiddling with branches, authors, ...

Interestingly, convert can import from Mercurial:

- ► --filemap lets you exclude and rename files
- ▶ --branchmap lets you rename branches

Interfacing with Subversion

The hgsubversion extension let's you:

- ▶ use hg clone on a SVN URL
- ▶ use hg pull to convert new SVN revisions
- ▶ use hg push to commit changesets to SVN server

Goal: make hg a better Subversion client than svn!



Interfacing with Git

Need to work on a Git repository? Try hg-git!

- ▶ Mercurial extension: you get the nice hg command line
- round-tripping: changeset hashes are preserved

