



# 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

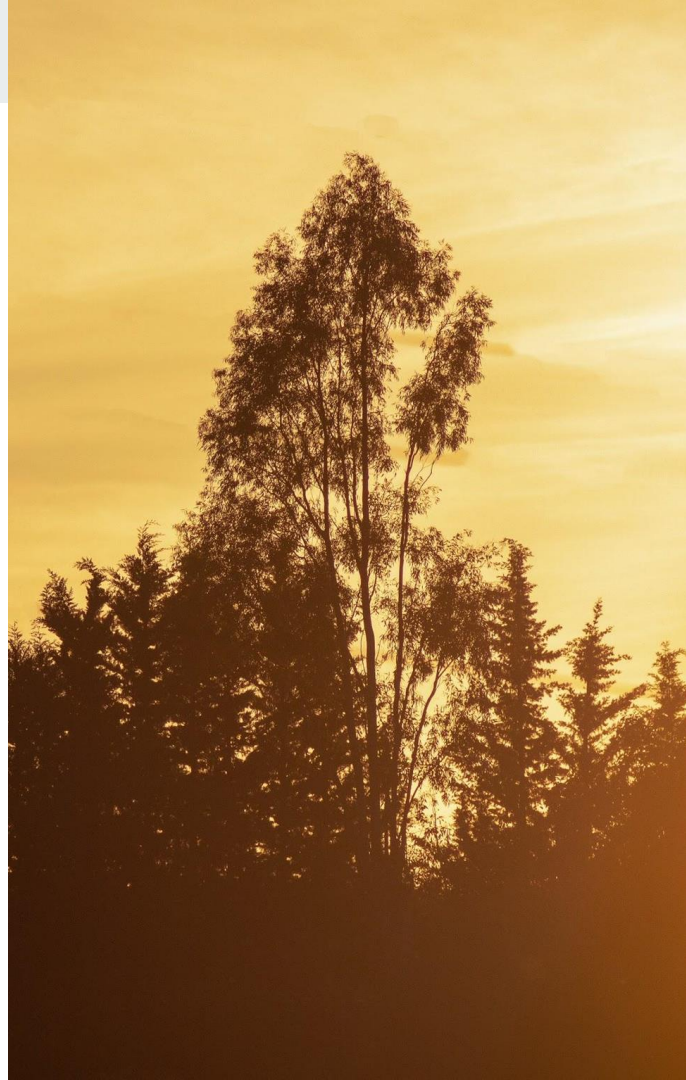
- Formed in July 2020
- Confluence space - <https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Samvera+Branch+Renaming+Working+Group>
- Membership:
  - Colin Brittle, Emory University
  - Chris Colvard, Ubiquity Press
  - Alexandra Dunn, UC Santa Barbara
  - Jeremy Friesen, University of Notre Dame
  - Kate Lynch,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



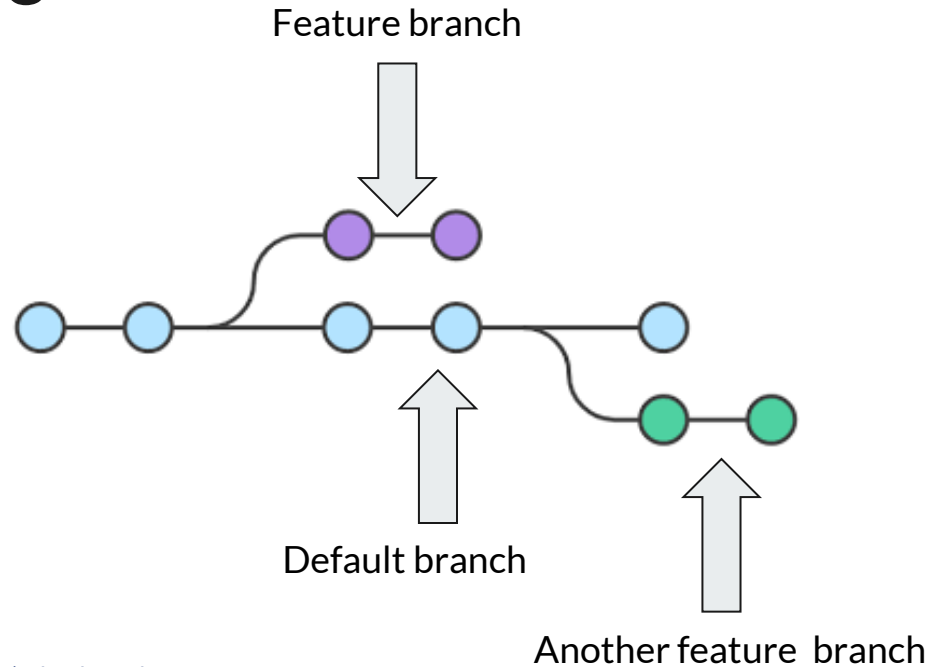


# Our mission

- 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”



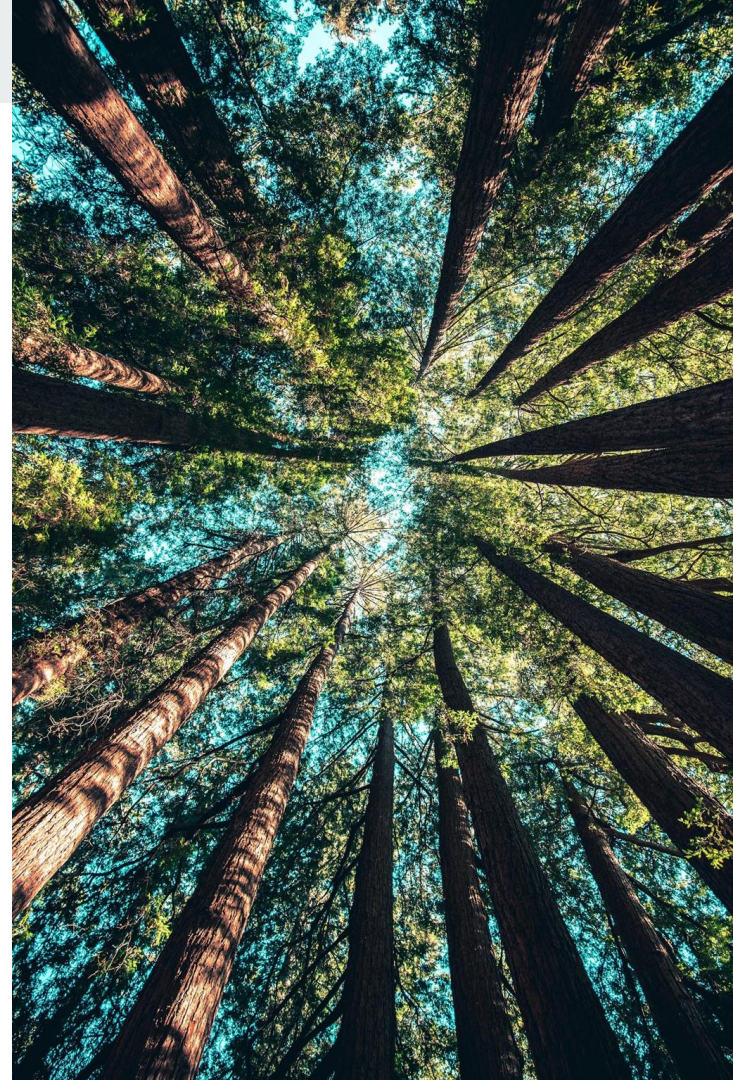
# Git branching





# 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



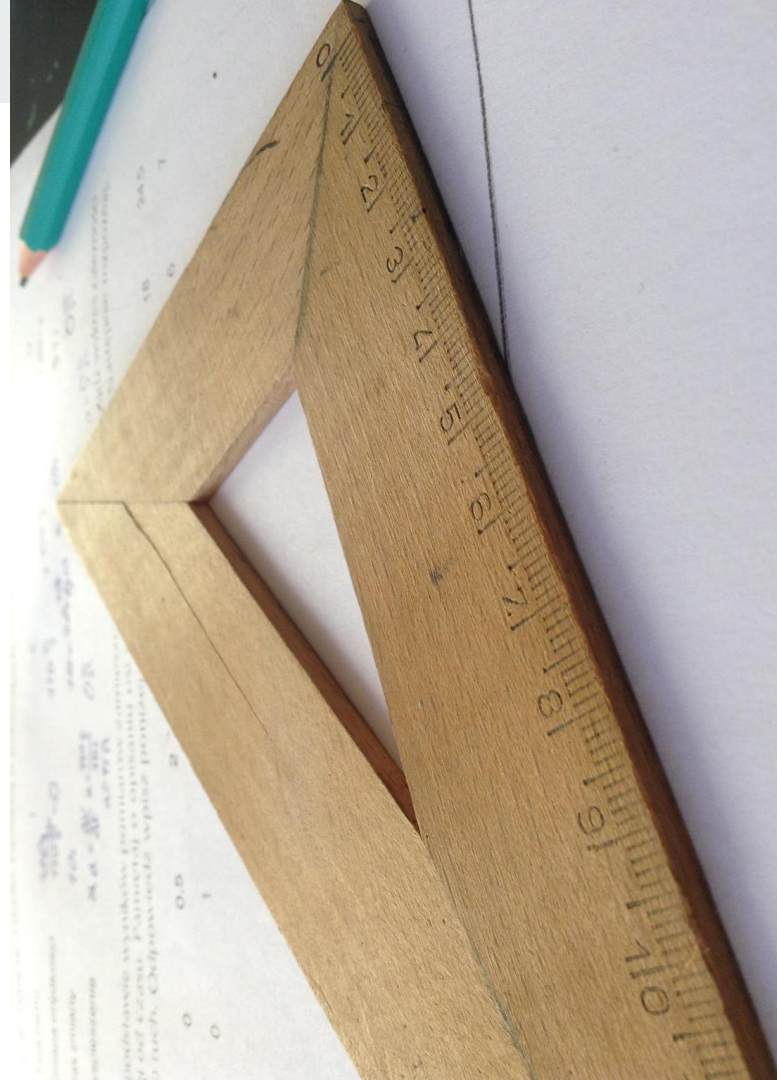


A white ceramic mug with a handle on the right side, filled with dark coffee. The word "BEGIN." is printed in a black, typewriter-style font on the front of the mug. The mug sits on a light-colored wooden table with visible grain. In the background, a wooden chair with orange upholstery is out of focus, along with a white object on the left.

BEGIN.

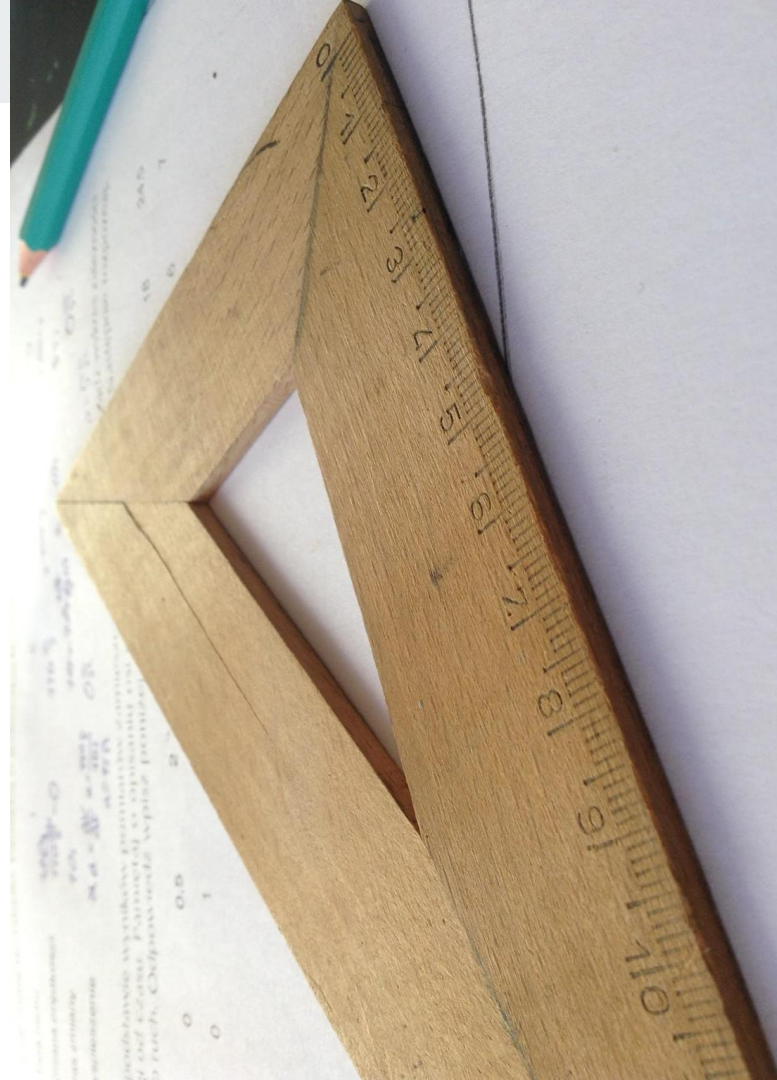
# Work in 2020

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



# Work in 2020

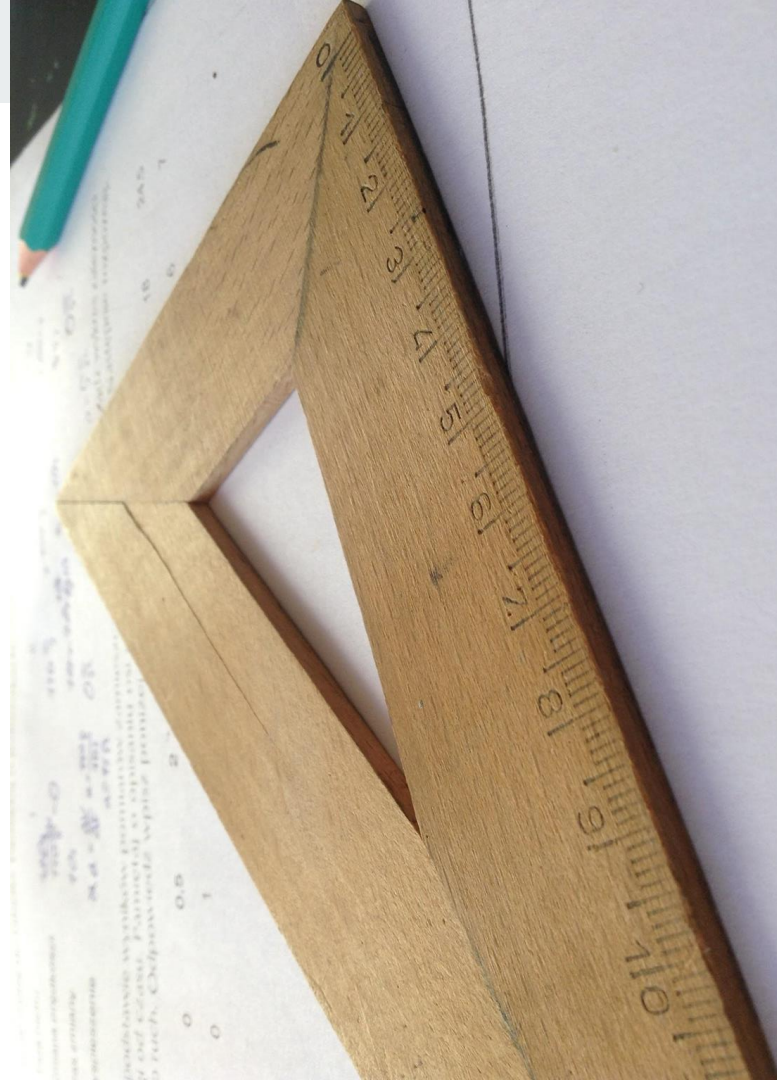
- Documentation of potential impacts
  - <https://wiki.lyrasis.org/display/samvera/Potential+Impacts+-+Samvera+Branch+Renaming+Working+Group>
- Tutorials and tooling
  - [Create a new repo with “main” branch](#)
  - [Esmé Cowles’ renaming script](#)
  - <https://github.com/mheap/github-default-branch>
  - <https://github.com/samvera-labs/branch-renaming-wg>





# Work in 2020

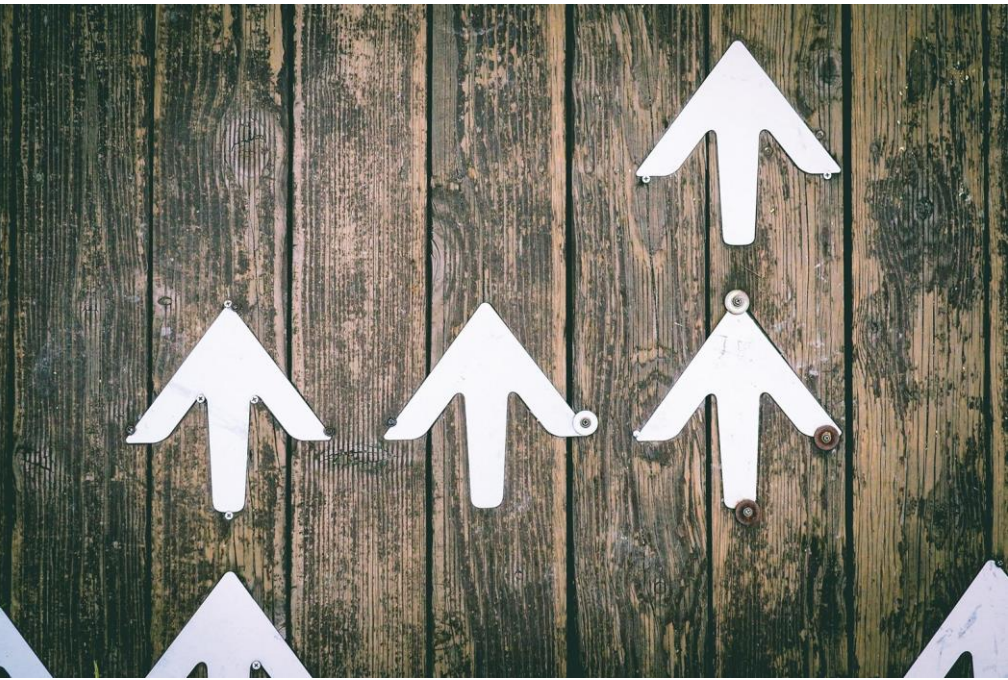
- Effectiveness of tooling assessment
- Recommendations to the Component Maintenance Working Group ([report](#))



# 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>
- Seamless transition coming before the end of 2020
  - <https://github.com/github/renaming/>





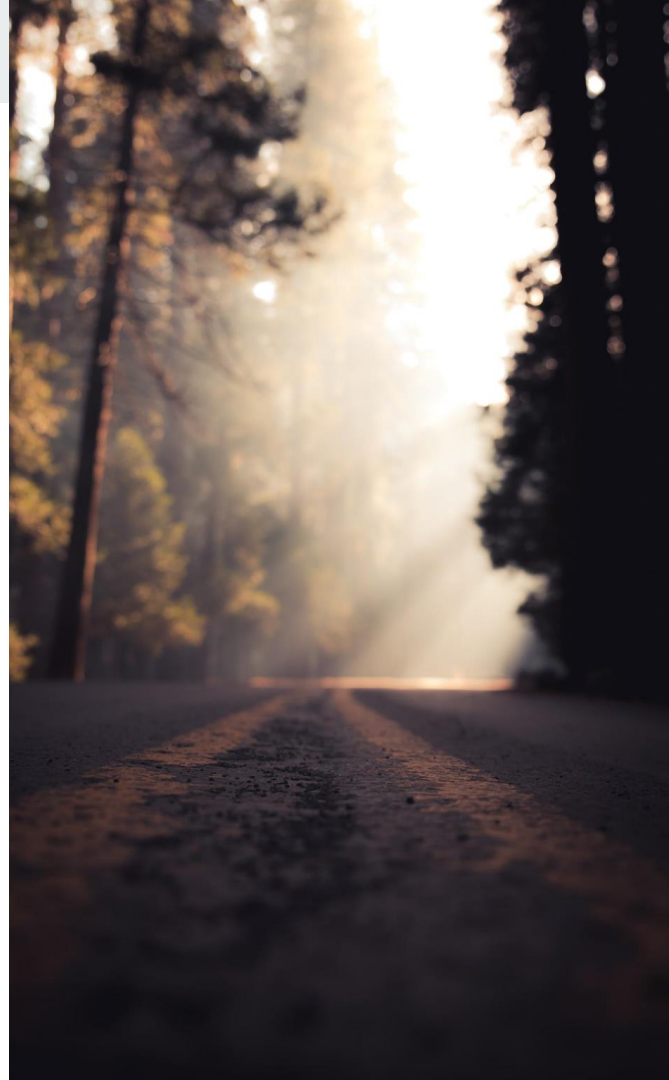
## What's next?

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



# Deliverables in 2021

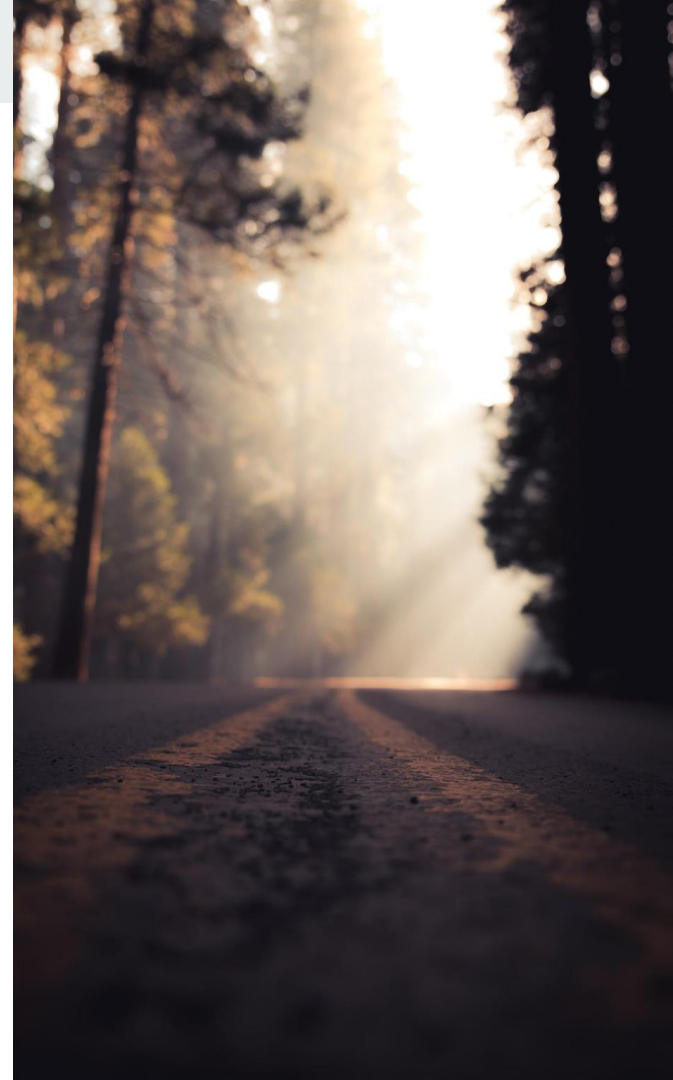
- A path for branch renaming with impact mitigation strategies for remaining challenges
- Training resources
  - Documentation for manual change processes
  - How-to's for tools and techniques





# 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](#)





