

Branching Models

Computing

Three common workflows, and what each one is optimising for.

How teams organise branches around releasing.

Model	Branches	Suits
Trunk-based	main + short-lived	Continuous deployment
GitHub flow	main + feature	Web apps, frequent deploys
Git flow	main, develop, release, hotfix	Versioned releases
Release branches	main + release/x.y	Supporting old versions

Long-lived branches make merges painful in direct proportion to their age. Short branches are the single biggest lever.