Discussion questions for
*A State-of-the-Art Survey on Software Merging*

COMP 150 - Applied Functional Programming
October 1, 2012

**Taxonomies**

1. Section 2 presents two taxonomies for software merging:
   - The taxonomy in section 2.2 appears to emphasize conflicts.
   - The taxonomy in section 2.3 appears to emphasize something else.

   Exactly how are these taxonomies related? Can you draw a diagram?

2. Using the conflict taxonomy from section 2.2, what is the precise definition of a conflict?

3. Using any of the taxonomies, or the whole paper, what is the precise postcondition that results from a successful merge? Or to put the question another way, if you digest section 5.2, what does it mean for a tool to be accurate?

**Prior work**

4. How would the file-synchronization work described by Ramsey and Csirmaz (2001) fit into this survey paper?

5. The second paragraph on page 458 describes a *change-set model*, which is used in systems “like EPOS.” How does this model relate to git or to other version-control systems with which you are familiar?

**Conclusions**

6. Surveys are supposed to be neutral. But I think this author has a preference. Do you agree? What method(s) do you think he prefers, and why?

**Judgment**

7. Why do you think the referees and editor decided to accept this paper for publication? In other words, where do you see the value in it?

8. What do you find lacking in the paper? In other words, where do you see the holes in it?

9. What do you make of the first paragraph of section 5.3? How does that paragraph affect your judgement of the paper and its author?