I've been using MERCURIAL for a few years now and it works perfectly. It's works like GIT but has simple commands and great GUI both on linux (hgtk) and windows (TotoiseHg).

I even use it to manage my UPP src code localy: the 'hgpullsvn' allows me to pull the upp svn repository into my hg (meens mercurial) reposirory.
Passing from svn to Mercurial is just as easy as that.

The main advantage Mercurial, GIT, R.I.P. TeamWare (for those who knew it), and generally SCMs that store the repository data with is that you are free to do what you wan't localy WITHOUT disturbing the main repository (One is of course needed as central changeset repository).
==> Every one can therefore start managing their code locally and submit a 'bundle of changesets' for acceptation if they don't have direct deliver rigths.
==> Patches would be delivered as bundles ==> no merge error possible: all is managed by mercurial and complete history is always kept !!

In addition, there is a video where Linus Thorvalds presents GIT. He also talks about MERCURIAL as the only SCM close to GIT
Many open source projects are also swithing to mercurial

Mercurial is REALLY WORTH it !!!!!

Please take a look at it:
http://mercurial.selenic.com/wiki/