Continuous Integration and Code Review: how IT can help

Alex Lossent – IT/PES – Version Control Systems



Version Control Systems

- Primary role:
 - provide means to manage changes to source code
- Other services to developers:
 - Documentation: <u>Twiki</u>
 - Issue Tracking: <u>Jira</u>
 - Code Review: GitLab
 - Continuous Integration: <u>Jenkins</u>



A Code Review tool: why?

- Ensure the quality of new features/fixes
- Provide means to discuss and comment on code changes
 - E.g. decide if the code is ready for production
- Better manage concurrent work and merge conflict resolution
- Simplify permissions
- Enable contributions from outside the core dev team
 - without risk for the main code repository



GitLab

- New hosting platform for Git repositories
 - On-premise "GitHub lookalike"
- CERN users only (like SVN/git.cern.ch)
 - GitHub remains appropriate for opensource/external collaborations (KB0003132)
- Recommended for any new software project



Code review workflow

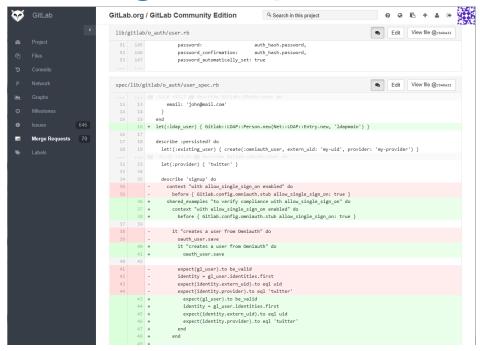
Important branches are protected

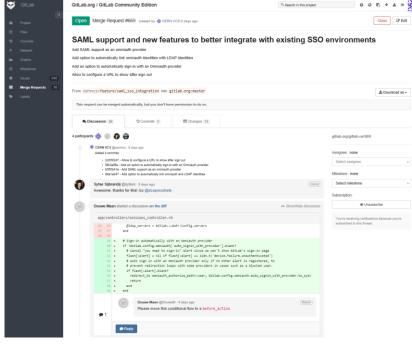
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- Changes (fix, new feature...) written in feature branches or project forks
 - Then submitted as Merge Requests to the main branch
- Merge Requests can be reviewed before being merged
 - Discuss, comment on code, propose new changes, vote, etc.
 - "master" developers eventually click the "merge" button



Merge requests







Benefits w.r.t. code quality

- Better control on what gets merged into the main branch (and when)
- Enables peer review
 - Find bugs early
 - Enforce coding standards, consistent design
 - Knowledge sharing
- Feature branches allow consistent testing before merge



Other features

- Hierarchical project (= repository) organization
 - Groups contain multiple projects for a given team
 - Personal workspace removed when user leaves CERN, a la home directory
- Code browsing
 - Including editing files from the web interface
- Self-service
 - One-click project creation, repository immediately available to work with
- Streamline integration with related services:
 - Issue Tracking, Continuous Integration, Documentation...
- SSH support & SSH key authentication



Getting started with GitLab

- https://gitlab.cern.ch
- KB0003137 "Getting started with GitLab"
- Git Service for support
- Migrate from SVN or git.cern.ch to GitLab



Continuous Integration

- Goal: build better quality software, faster
- How?
 - Developers integrate their work frequently
 - I.e. push code
 - An automated process applies quality control
 - May cover compilation, testing, staging, deployment, doc generation...

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What can IT offer in terms of CI?

- Our aim: enable software projects to easily deploy Continuous Integration
 - Documentation
 - Means to provision a CI platform with minimal effort
 - Integration with GitLab
- Out of scope:
 - Providing a CI service
 - Integrate existing CI setups



Current situation

- Since end 2014, we provide a CI "platform-as-a-service"
 - Using well-established, open-source Jenkins
- Clear interest from developers
 - ~40 instances as of September 2015
- A "platform" rather than a "service"
 - We provide the infrastructure (servers), pre-configured SSO and e-group integration
 - But configuring & managing Jenkins itself is entirely left to users (no support)
- Full details presented at <u>ITTF 5-Dec-2014</u>



Jenkins & GitLab

Jenkins can work together with GitLab

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- Trigger build/test jobs whenever code is pushed
- Show build/test status on Merge Request page
- https://gitlab.cern.ch/help/integration/jenkins.



Challenges

- Jenkins is complicated, has lots of plug-ins
- Current model doesn't scale well
 - With # of projects using CI (lots of VMs, manual steps)
- Flexibility could be improved
 - Need to provide your own "slave" nodes if specific libraries/RPMs/OSes are needed by your jobs
 - Some Jenkins plugins are difficult to set up in this model
- We'd like to provide more "added value"
 - Maximize flexibility and customization options
 - Minimize cost of entry and maintenance effort



Outlook for Continuous Integration

- Jenkins Platform-as-a-Service using Docker/Kubernetes/Openshift
 - A genuine PaaS system, fully self-service
 - Better resource efficiency, scalability
 - Resolve mishaps in current implementation (SSO...)
 - Docker images customizable at will
- gitlab-ci (just merged into GitLab 8.0)
 - Lightweight, excellent integration with GitLab
 - Cl settings under version control (a la travis-ci)



Getting started with CI

- Getting your own Jenkins instance
 - Request from http://cern.ch/forge
 - Documentation http://cern.ch/jenkinsdoc
- Use the Developers@CERN community
 - Share experience
 - Ask questions to other CI users...
 - https://social.cern.ch/community/developers/



Feedback and input welcome

- How can we make these services more useful?
- Informally via the <u>Developers@CERN</u> community
- Or via the Service Portal
 - Git Service for GitLab
 - Continuous Integration with Jenkins



