Foundations of Software Engineering

Part 15: Inspections and Reviews Christian Kästner



Administrivia





Find the Bug(s)!

```
BlockingQueue queue = ...
```

BatchCommitLogExecutorService.java using BlockingQueue in Cassandra, one bug injected

Software Peer Reviews



Learning Goals

- Understand different forms of peer reviews with different formality levels
- Select appropriate review forms for a project
- Conduct an inspection session, aware of common pitfalls and social issues
- Perform code reviews with automated software tools
- Understand the expectations and outcomes of modern peer reviews



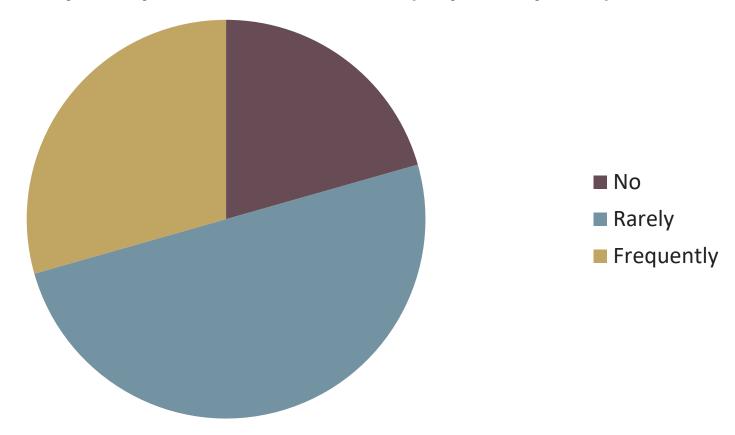
Agenda

- Modern Code Reviews
 - Expectations and outcomes
- Formal Inspections
 - Roles and process
 - Social issues
 - Experience
- Other forms of code reviews



About you

I have participated in code reviews (or pull requests)

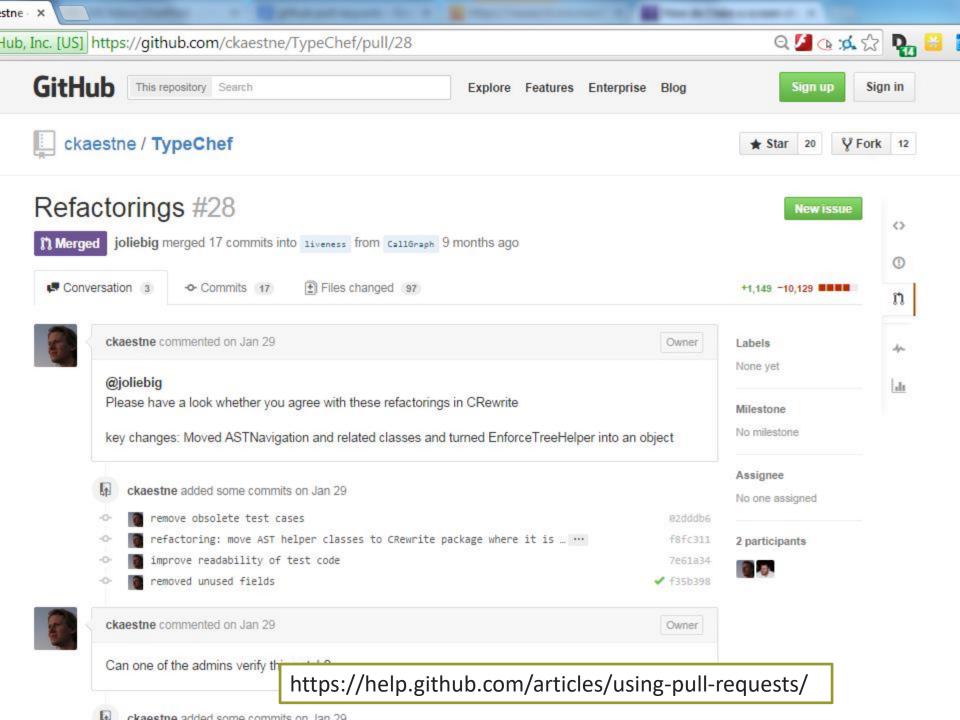


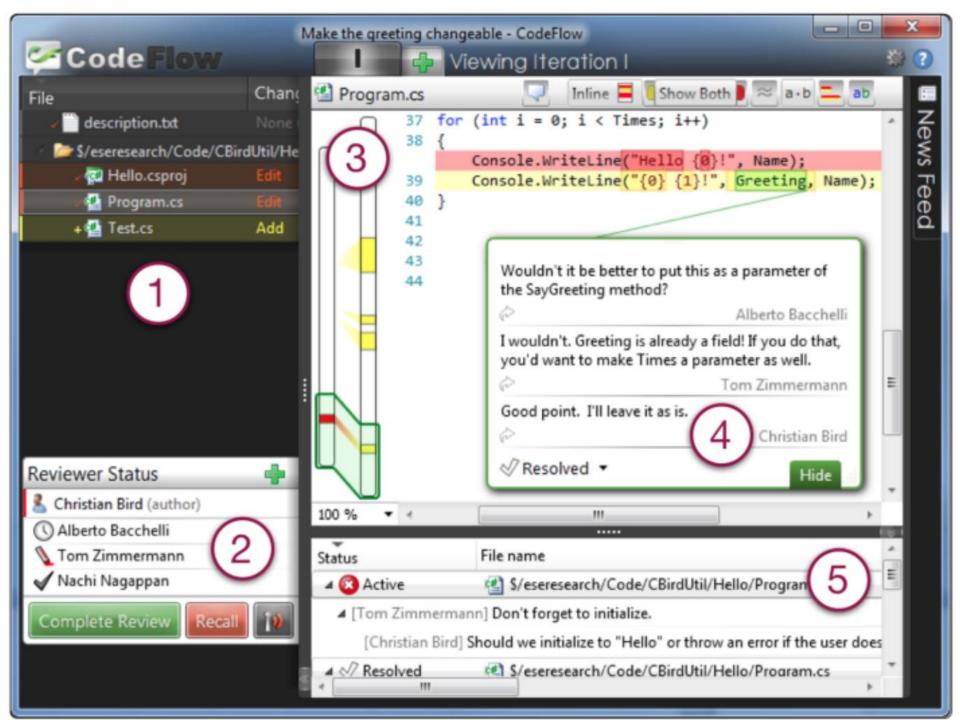


What are Code Reviews?

15-313 Software Engineering









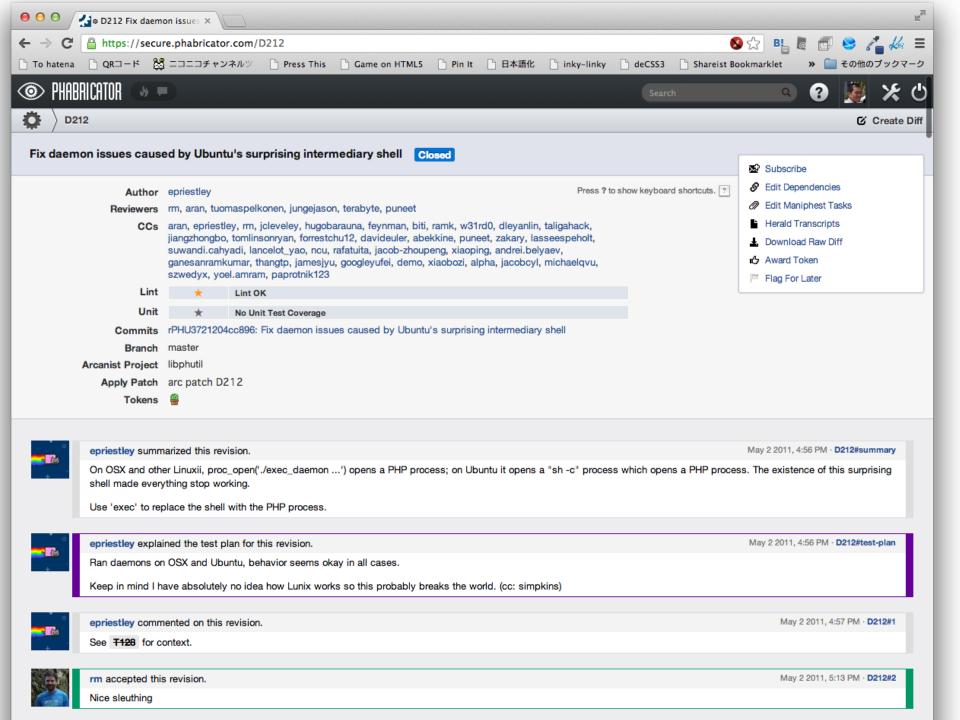


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100	Code Review Dashboard for G	uido van Rossum	
CALLES TO	Changes Awarting Your Review		
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Google's Code Review Policy

- All change lists must be reviewed. Period.
- Any CL can be reviewed by any engineer at Google.
- Each directory has a list of owners. At least one reviewer or the author must be an owner for each file that was touched in the commit. If the author is not in the owners file, the reviewer is expected to pay extra attention to how the code fits in to the overall codebase.
- [... readability review ...] If the author does not have readability review, the reviewer is expected to pay extra attention to coding style (both the syntax and the proper use of libraries in that language).
- One can enforce that any CLs to that directory are CC'd to a team mailing list.
- Reviews are conducted either by email, or using a web interface called Mondrian
- In general, the review must have a positive outcome before the change can be submitted (enforced by perforce hooks). However, if the author of the changelist meets the readability and owners checks, they can submit the change TBR, and have a post-hoc review. There is a process which will harass reviewers with very annoying emails if they do not promptly review the change.





Press "?" to view keyboard shortcuts
Powered by Gent Code Review (2.3) | Report Bug



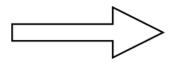
Ideal MediaWiki Workflow

- 1) pushes his patch
- 2) review others patches

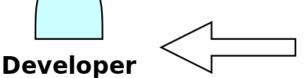


Validates / rejects changes

Merge to WMF repository



WMF repo



Receives review, validation notifications

Local

repo



Reports verification status as a comment and +1/-1

JENKINS

GERRIT

Cherry pick patch then:

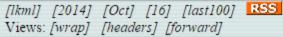
- lint check
- attempts MW install
- run tests suites



http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Gerrit/Advanced_usage



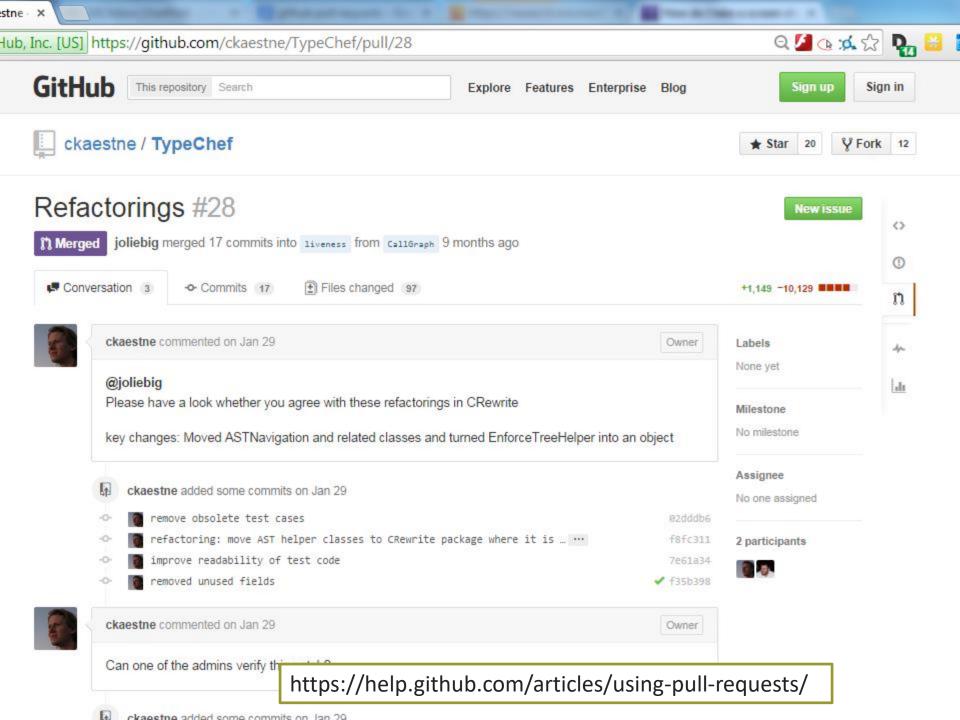




```
Date
            Thu, 16 Oct 2014 14:47:41 +0200
From
            Greg Kroah-Hartman <>
           [PATCH] staging: android: binder: move to the "real" part of the kernel
Subject
From: Greg Kroah-Hartman <gregkh@linuxfoundation.org>
The Android binder code has been "stable" for many years now. No matter
what comes in the future, we are going to have to support this API, so
might as well move it to the "real" part of the kernel as there's no
real work that needs to be done to the existing code.
Signed-off-by: Greg Kroah-Hartman <gregkh@linuxfoundation.org>
This was discussed in the Android miniconf at the Plumbers conference.
If anyone has any objections to this, please let me know, otherwise I'm
queueing this up for 3.19-rc1
 drivers/Kconfig
                                                      2 ++
 drivers/Makefile
                                                     1 +
 drivers/android/Kconfig
                                                     37 ++++++++++++++++++
 drivers/android/Makefile
 drivers/{staging => }/android/binder.c
drivers/{staging => }/android/binder.h
                                                     2 +-
 drivers/{staging => }/android/binder trace.h
 drivers/staging/android/Kconfig
 drivers/staging/android/Makefile
                                                     1 -
 include/uapi/linux/Kbuild
                                                     1 +
 include/uapi/linux/android/Kbuild
                                                     2 ++
 .../uapi => include/uapi/linux/android}/binder.h
12 files changed, 47 insertions(+), 32 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 drivers/android/Kconfig
 create mode 100644 drivers/android/Makefile
 rename drivers/{staging => }/android/binder.c (100%)
 rename drivers/{staging => }/android/binder.h (95%)
 rename drivers/{staging => }/android/binder trace.h (100%)
 create mode 100
```

rename {drivers https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/SubmittingPatches diff --git a/drivers/kcomig b/urivers/kcomig

index 1a693d3f9d51..569ff7886dc3 100644 - a/dnivens/Vconfig



"Many eyes make all bugs shallow"

Standard Refrain in Open Source

"Have peers, rather than customers, find defects"

Karl Wiegers



Isn't testing sufficient?

- Errors can mask other errors
- Only completed implementations can be tested (esp. scalability, performance)
- Design documents cannot be tested
- Tests don't check code quality
- Many quality attributes (eg., security, compliance, scalability) are difficult to test



A second pair of eyes

- Different background, different experience
- No preconceived idea of correctness
- Not biased by "what was intended"



Expectations and Outcomes of Modern Code Reviews



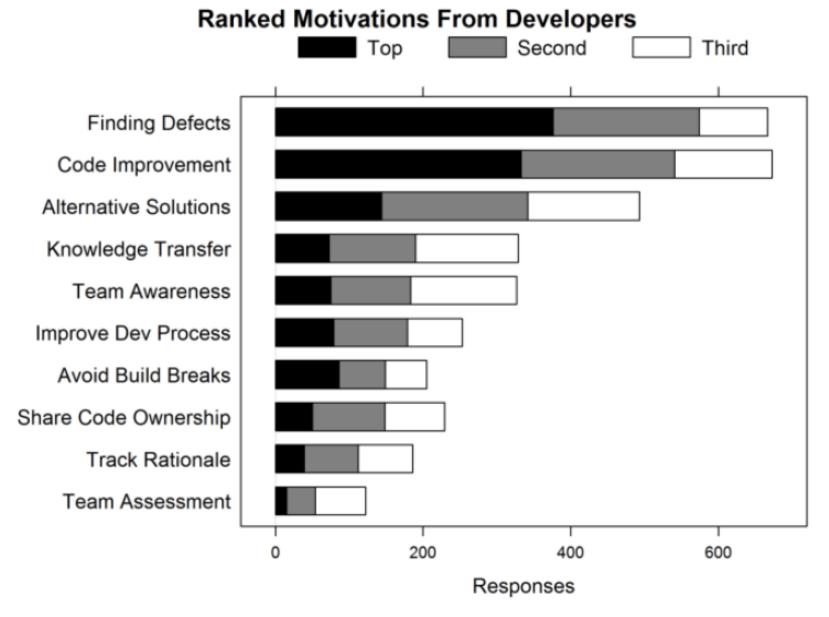
Reasons for Code Reviews

- Finding defects
 - both low-level and high-level issues
 - requirements/design/code issues
 - security/performance/... issues
- Code improvement
 - readability, formatting, commenting, consistency, dead code removal, naming
 - enforce to coding standards
- Identifying alternative solutions
- Knowledge transfer
 - learn about API usage, available libraries, best practices, team conventions, system design, "tricks", ...
 - "developer education", especially for junior developers

Bacchelli, Alberto, and Christian Bird. "Expectations, outcomes, and challenges of modern code review." *Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Software Engineering*. IEEE Press, 2013.

Reasons for Code Reviews (continued)

- Team awareness and transparency
 - let others "double check" changes
 - announce changes to specific developers or entire team ("FYI")
 - general awareness of ongoing changes and new functionality
- Shared code ownership
 - shared understanding of larger part of the code base
 - openness toward critique and changes
 - makes developers "less protective" of their code

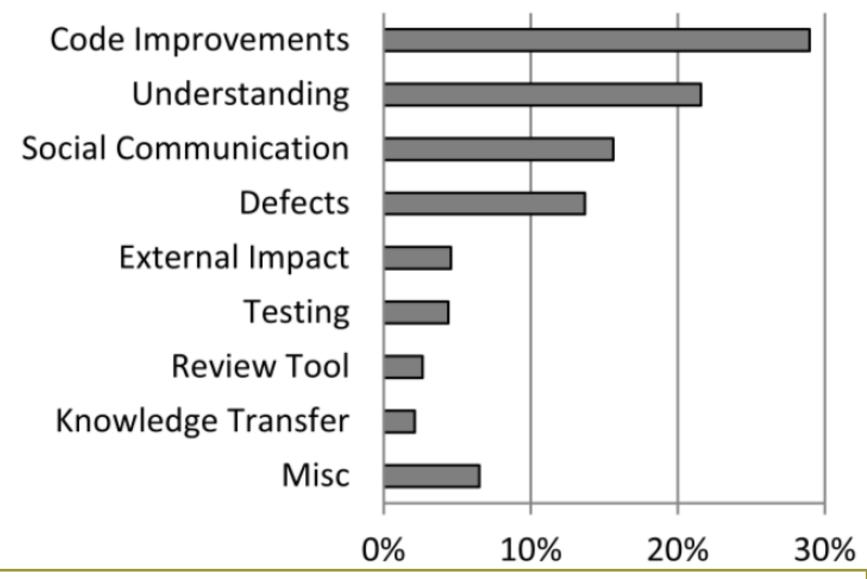


Bacchelli, Alberto, and Christian Bird. "Expectations, outcomes, and challenges of modern code review." *Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Software Engineering*. IEEE Press, 2013.

Outcomes (at Microsoft analyzing 200 reviews with 570 comments)

- Most frequently code improvements (29%)
 - 58 better coding practices
 - 55 removing unused/dead code
 - 52 improving readability
- Defect finding (14%)
 - 65 logical issues ("uncomplicated logical errors, eg., corner cases, common configuration values, operator precedence)
 - 6 high-level issues
 - 5 security issues
 - 3 wrong exception handling
- Knowledge transfer
 - 12 pointers to internal/external documentation etc

Outcomes (Analyzing Reviews)



Bacchelli, Alberto, and Christian Bird. "Expectations, outcomes, and challenges of modern code review." *Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Software Engineering*. IEEE Press, 2013.

Mismatch of Expectations and Outcomes

- Low quality of code reviews
 - Reviewers look for easy errors, as formatting issues
 - Miss serious errors
- Understanding is the main challenge
 - Understanding the reason for a change
 - Understanding the code and its context
 - Feedback channels to ask questions often needed
- No quality assurance on the outcome

Formal Inspections



Formal Inspections

- Idea popularized in 70s at IBM
- Broadly adopted in 80s, much research
 - Sometimes replacing component testing
- Group of developers meets to formally review code or other artifacts
- Most effective approach to find bugs
 - Typically 60-90% of bugs found with inspections
- Expensive and labor-intensive

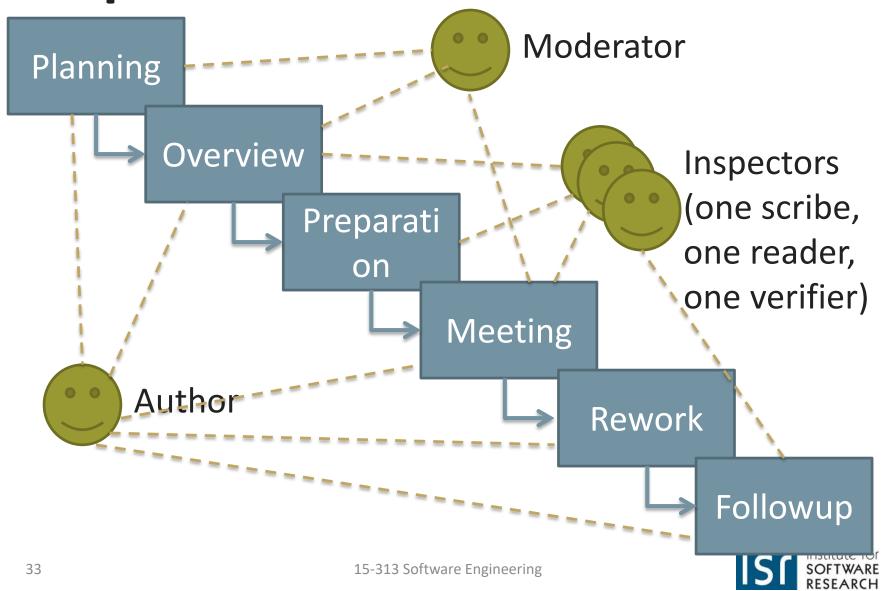


Inspection Team and Roles

- Typically 4-5 people (min 3)
- Author
- Inspector(s)
 - Find faults and broader issues
- Reader
 - Presents the code or document at inspection meeting
- Scribe
 - Records results
- Moderator
 - Manages process, facilitates, reports



Inspection Process



Inspection Process

- Planning
 - Select Moderator
- Overview (brief)
 - Author presents context in meeting
- Preparation (1-2h)
 - Every reviewer inspects the code separately
- Meeting (1h)
 - Moderator conducts meeting
 - Reader presents the code
 - All reviewers identify issues
 - Meetings only discover issues, do not discuss solution or whether it really is an issue
- Rework
 - Author corrects issues (fix code/documentation/...)
- Followup
 - Verifier checks changes
- Root cause analysis (optional) for process improvement



Checklists

- Reminder what to look for
- Include issues detected in the past
- Preferably focus on few important items
- Examples:
 - Are all variables initialized before use?
 - Are all variables used?
 - Is the condition of each if/while statement correct?
 - Does each loop terminate?
 - Do function parameters have the right types and appear in the right order?
 - Are linked lists efficiently traversed?
 - Is dynamically allocated memory released?
 - Can unexpected inputs cause corruption?
 - Have all possible error conditions been handled?
 - Are strings correctly sanitized?



Perspective-based Inspections

- Have inspectors with different specialties or different focuses/checklists
 - Encourages alternative thinking patterns
- Have reviewers start in different places in the document
 - Avoid loosing focus at the same location
- Especially in preparation phase
- Little published data, but considered an effective practice



Process details

- Authors do not explain or defend the code not objective
 - Author != moderator, != scribe, !=reader
 - Author should still join the meeting to observe questions and misunderstandings and clarify issues if necessary
- Reader (optional) walks through the code line by line, explaining it
 - Reading the code aloud requires deeper understanding
 - Verbalizes interpretations, thus observing differences in interpretation



Social issues: Egos in Inspections

- Author's self-worth in artifacts
- Identify defects, not alternatives; do not criticize authors
 - "you didn't initialize variable a" -> "I don't see where variable a is initialized"
- Avoid defending code; avoid discussions of solutions/alternatives
- Reviewers should not "show off" that they are better/smarter
- Avoid style discussions if there are no guidelines
- Author decides how to resolve fault



Social issues 2

- Moderator must move discussion along, resolve conflicts
- Meetings should not include management
- Do not use for HR evaluation
 - "finding more than 5 bugs during inspection counts against the author"
 - Leads to avoidance, fragmented submission, not pointing out defects, holding pre-reviews
- Responsibility for quality with authors, not reviewers
 - "why fix this, reviewers will find it"



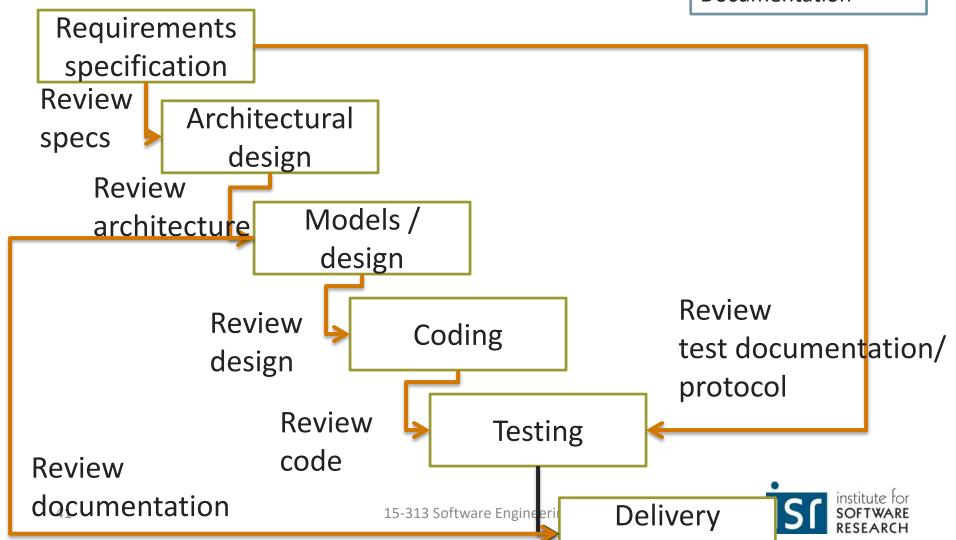
Root Cause Analysis

- Beyond the immediate puzzle
- How to improve the development process to avoid this problem
 - Restructure development process
 - New policies
 - New development tools, new languages, new analysis tools



Review Checkpoints during Lifecycle

Also reviewable:
Business plan
Marketing documents
Project plans
Documentation

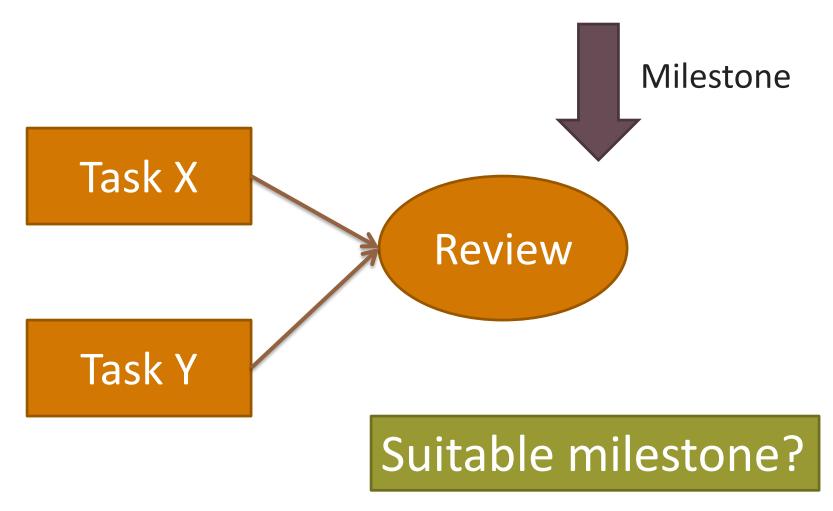


When to inspect

- Before milestones
- Incremental inspections during development
 - Earlier often better than later: smaller fragments, chance to influence further development
 - Large code bases can be expensive and frustrating to review
 - Break down, divide and conquer
 - Focus on critical components
 - Identify defect density in first sessions to guide further need of inspections

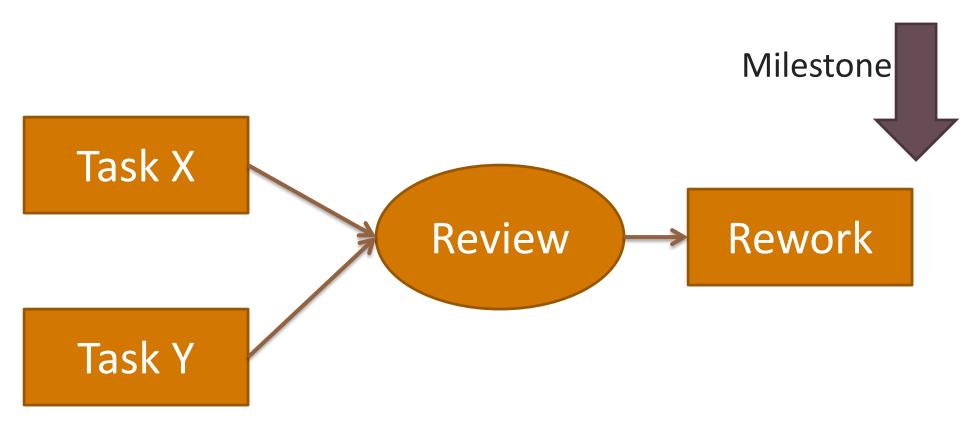


Reviews as part of a Milestone





Reviews as part of a Milestone



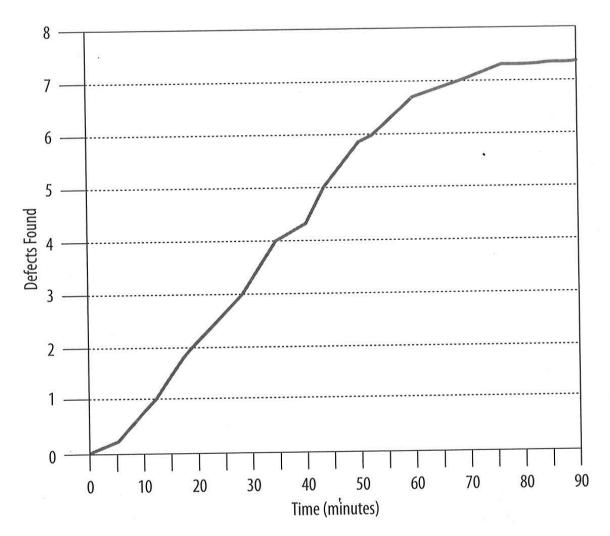


Guidelines for Inspections

- Collected over many companies in many projects and experiments
- Several metrics easily measureable (effort, issues found, lines of code inspected) ...

Source: Oram and Wilson (ed.). Making Software. O'Reilly 2010. Chapter 18 and papers reviewed therein

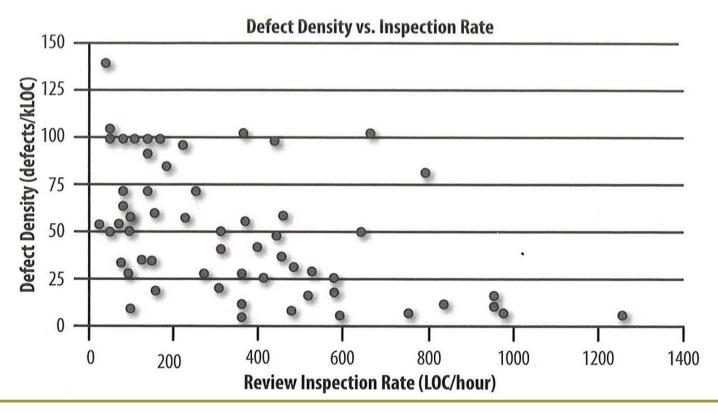
Focus Fatigue



Recommendation:
Do not exceed
60 minute session



Inspection speed



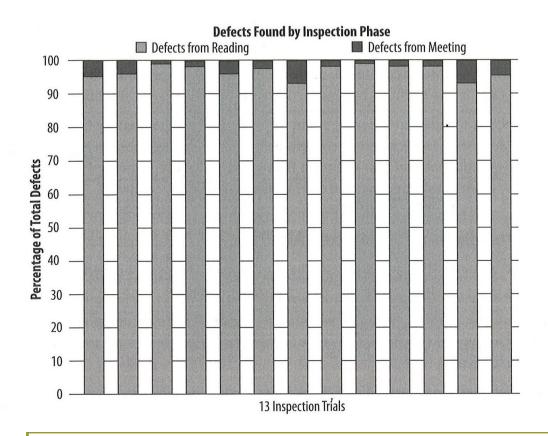
Above 400 LOC/h reviews get shallow Recommendation: Schedule less than 400 LOC for a 1h review session

Importance of Context

- Code with fewer context dependencies is easier to review
- Reviewers need to look at related files
- -> Modularity (small interfaces, high cohesion, low coupling, ...)



Are meetings required?



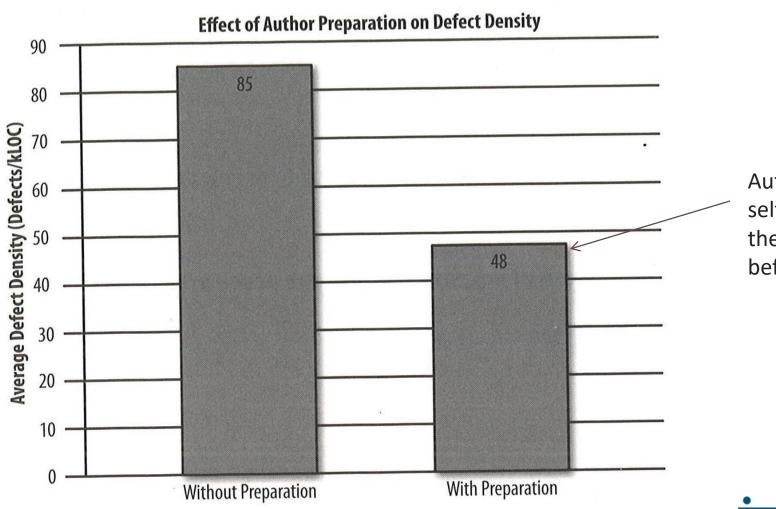
Most issues found during preparation, not in meeting. Suggested synergy seems to have only low impact Claim: Defects found in meetings often more subtle

False positives

- About 25% of found issues are false positives
- Avoid discussing during meeting
- Confusion during meeting is indicator that document could be clearer



Self-checks can find half the issues



Authors have self-checked their document before inspection



Arguments against Reviews?



Arguments against Reviews

- Costs, Time, Disruptions
- Misunderstandings
- Reliance on testing
- Overconfidence in own ability
- Unpleasant experiences
 - Management retribution, public ridicule
 - Social conflicts
 - (Criticizing authors not their work)
 - "Who am I to criticize code/look for errors"



Cost Discussion in Context

- Formal inspections vs modern code reviews
 - Formal inspections very expensive (about one developer-day per session)
 - Passaround distributed, asynchronous
- Code reviews vs testing
 - Code reviews claimed more cost effective
- Code reviews vs not finding the bug



Types of Code Reviews by **Formality**

- Ad hoc reviewPassaround ("modern code reviews")
- Pair programming
- Walkthrough
- Inspection

More formal

Source: Wiegers. Peer Reviews in Software. Addison-Wesley 2002

Types of Code Reviews by **Formality**

- Ad hoc review
- Passaround ("modern code reviews")
- Pair programming

When to use reviews? Which formality?

More formal

Source: Wiegers. Peer Reviews in Software. Addison-Wesley 2002

Differences among peer review types

Review Type	Planning	Preparation	Meeting	Correction	Verification
Formal Inspection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Walkthrough	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pair Programming	Yes	No	Continuous	Yes	Yes
Passaround	No	Yes	Rarely	Yes	No
Ad Hoc Review	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

Source: Wiegers. Peer Reviews in Software. Addison-Wesley 2002

Walkthroughs

- No advance preparation
- Author leads the discussion, presents code
- No formal follow-up
- Low costs
- Valuable for education



Experience (studies/claims)

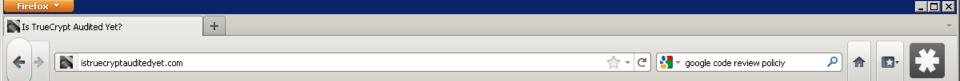
- Raytheon
 - Reduced "rework" from 41% of costs to 20%
 - Reduced integration effort by 80%
- Paulk et al.: costs to fix a space shuttle software
 - 1\$ if found in inspection
 - 13\$ during system test
 - 92\$ after delivery
- IBM
 - 1h of inspection saves 20h of testing
- R. Grady, efficiency data from HP

_	System use	0.21 defects/h
_	Black box testing	0.28 defects/h
_	White box testing	0.32 defects/h
	Reading/inspection	1.06 defects/h



Security Audits





IsTrueCryptAuditedYet? Yes!

Update Apr 2, 2015: Phase II complete. TrueCrypt has been audited.

Update Feb 18, 2015: Matthew posted an update on the <u>Phase II cryptanalysis</u> today. The Phase I audit report <u>is available</u> on the Open Crypto Audit Project site, and a verified source and download archive for TrueCrypt v. 7.1a can be found on our <u>GitHub mirror</u>. We'll be posting further news <u>@opencryptoaudit</u> on Twitter in the months ahead.

TrueCrypt (TC) is an open source file and disk encryption software package used by people all over the world, but a complete cryptanalysis has not been performed on the software, and questions remain about differences between Windows, Linux and Mac OS X versions. In addition, there has been no legal review on the current TrueCrypt v. 3.0 open source license - preventing inclusion in most of the free operating systems, including Ubuntu, Debian, RedHat, CentOS and Fedora. We want to be able to trust it, but a fully audited, independently verified repository and software distribution would make us feel better about trusting our security to this software. We're pledging this money to sponsor a comprehensive public audit of TrueCrypt.

Support the Project

You can help support the Project on our FundFill site, or our new IndieGoGo site (note: both funds accept credit cards; FundFill also accepts Bitcoin, while IndieGoGo also takes PayPal & eChecks).

Goals

- Resolve license status on the <u>current (v. 7.1a) TrueCrypt source code</u> (license <u>v. 3.0</u>) copyright & distribution, in order to create a verified, independent version control history repository (signed source and binary)
- Perform and document repeatable, deterministic builds of TC 7.1a from source code for current major operating systems:

Windows 7

Mac OS X (Lion 10.7 and Mountain Lion 10.8)

Ubuntu 12.04 LTS and 13.04, RedHat 6.4, CentOS 6.4, Debian 7.1, Fedora 19

Conduct a public cryptanalysis and security audit of the TC 7.1a

Rules

"Many eyes make all bugs shallow"

Standard Refrain in Open Source





* Redistribution and use in source and binary forms, with or without * modification, are permitted provided that the following conditions

* 1. Redistributions of source code must retain the above copyright
* notice, this list of conditions and the following disclaimer.
* 2. Redistributions in binary form must reproduce the above copyright

* are met:

The Shellshock vulnerabilities affect **Bash**, a program that various Unix-based systems use to execute command lines and command scripts. Bash is free software, developed collaboratively and overseen since 1992 on a volunteer basis by Chet Ramey, a professional software architect.

Analysis of the source code history of Bash shows the vulnerabilities had existed undiscovered since version 1.03 in 1989.



Inspection vs Static Analysis



Static Analysis as "Automated Reviews"

- Low-level issues often checked by compiler or static analysis tool
 - Initializing variables; providing correct number of parameters
 - Closing file handles; freeing memory
 - Code style issues
- Root cause analysis -> Build new static checkers
- Enables inspections to focus on important issues



should ALWAYS

be enforced?

Find the Bug(s)!

```
BlockingQueue queue = ...
```

BatchCommitLogExecutorService.java using BlockingQueue in Cassandra,

one bug injected

Ø7 October 2016

15-313: Foundations of Software
Engineering
Static Analysis

Summary

- Code reviews effective to identify bugs
- Additional benefits (e.g., knowledge transfer, shared code ownership, awareness)
- Reviews require understanding
- Different review types with different formality
- Formal inspection require planning & social skills, are expensive, but very effective



Learning Goals

- Understand different forms of peer reviews with different formality levels
- Select appropriate review forms for a project
- Conduct an inspection session, aware of common pitfalls and social issues
- Perform code reviews with automated software tools
- Understand the expectations and outcomes of modern peer reviews



Further Reading

- Sommerville. Software Engineering. 8th Edition. Addison-Wesley 2007. Chapter 22.2
 - Overview of formal inspections
- Wiegers. Peer Reviews in Software. Addison-Wesley 2002
 - Entire book on formal inspections; how to run them and how to introduce them
- Bacchelli and Bird. "Expectations, outcomes, and challenges of modern code review." Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Software Engineering. IEEE Press, 2013.
 - Detailed studies of modern code reviews at Microsoft
- Oram and Wilson (ed.). Making Software. O'Reilly 2010. Chapter
 18
 - Overview of empirical research on formal inspections

