Team null set Poster
CSCI 462
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Abstract

The goal for this project is to practice software development knowledge in a practical way in the modern times. In our case we are working with Zulip through Github to maintain code within their codebase. In particular we have been working on fixing several bugs throughout the entire semester. Ultimately, learning and strengthening our software engineering skills.

What is Zulip?

Zulip is a powerful, open source group chat application that combines the immediacy of real-time chat with the productivity benefits of threaded conversations. Zulip is used by open source projects, Fortune 500 companies, large standards bodies, and others who need a real-time chat system that allows users to easily process hundreds or thousands of messages a day. With over 500 contributors merging over 500 commits a month, Zulip is also the largest and fastest growing open source group chat project.

Lessons Learned

Over the course of 16 weeks our group has learned many lessons while working with software. The most important lesson we learned was patience, many things change in the environment over time. The project structure itself is very agile. Scheduling is the next important lesson we learned throughout the semester as it helped a lot for determining our timing for the project.

Zulip provides the benefits of real-time chat, while also being great at asynchronous communication. Zulip is inspired by email's highly effective threading model: Every channel message has a topic, just like every message in email has a subject line. (Channels are called streams in Zulip.)

Topics hold Zulip conversations together, just like subject lines hold email conversations together. They allow you to efficiently catch up on messages and reply in context, even to conversations that started hours or days ago.