



Effective Code Review

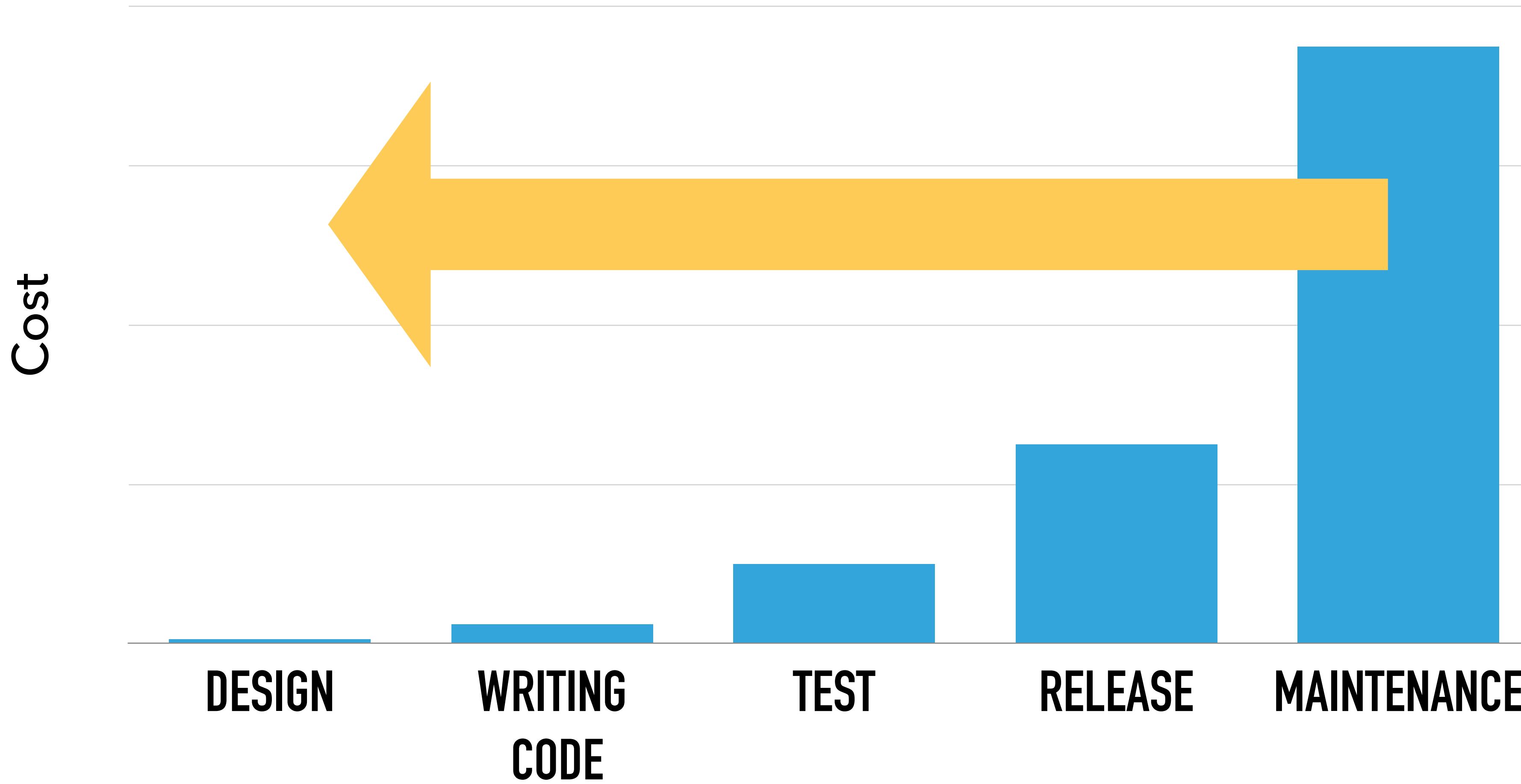


Dave Liddament | Lamp Bristol

@daveliddament

**EFFECTIVE CODE REVIEW
REDUCES OVERALL COST OF
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

REDUCE COST OF DEFECTS * - FIND IT SOONER



What is code review?

Benefits

Implementation

Tips

Practical



What is code review?



Code review is the systematic examination of source code.

It is intended to find mistakes overlooked in software development, improving the overall quality of software.

Wikipedia

HOW IS IT DONE?



Screenshot of a GitHub pull request page titled "FEATURE add sponsor type to sponsor #46".

The pull request has been merged by opdavies on Feb 26. It contains 2 commits and 15 files changed. The commit message is "FEATURE add sponsor type to sponsor".

The code changes are shown in a diff view:

```
diff --git app/src/Entity/Sponsor.php app/src/Entity/Sponsor.php
--- app/src/Entity/Sponsor.php
+++ app/src/Entity/Sponsor.php
@@ -6,6 +6,16 @@
 6
 7  class Sponsor
 8  {
+
+     /**
+      * Full sponsor.
+     */
+     const SPONSOR_FULL = 'full';
+
+     /**
+      * Sponsor only covers occasional events.
+     */
+     const SPONSOR_EVENT = 'event';
+
+
+    /**
+     * @var string
+    *
```

What is code review?



Benefits



Implementation



Tips



Practical



WHAT ARE DEFECTS?

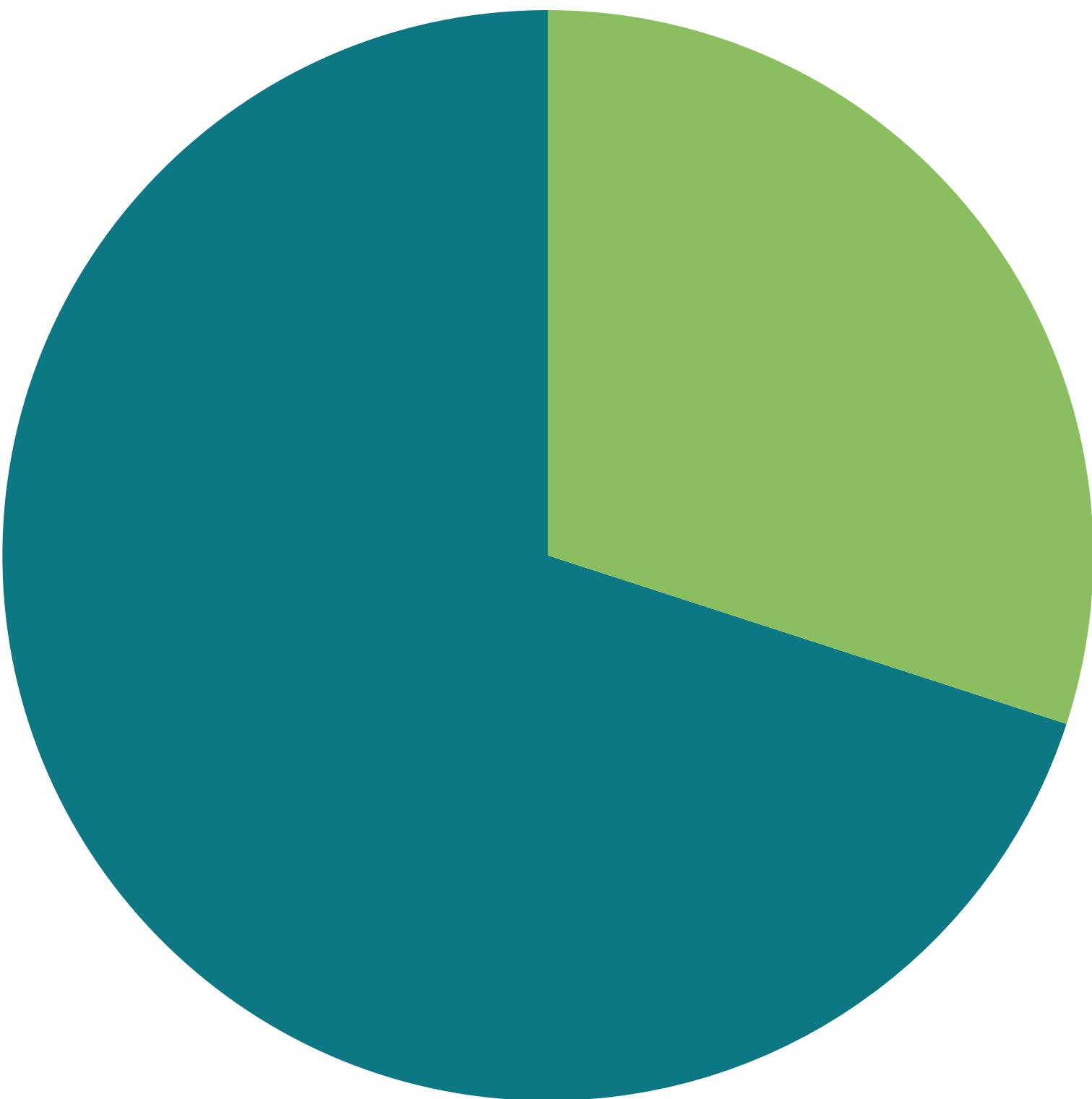
Bugs

Evolvability

AN EVOLVABILITY DEFECT IS...

Code that makes codebase less compliant with standards, more error prone, or more difficult to modify, extend or understand.

WHAT ARE DEFECTS?

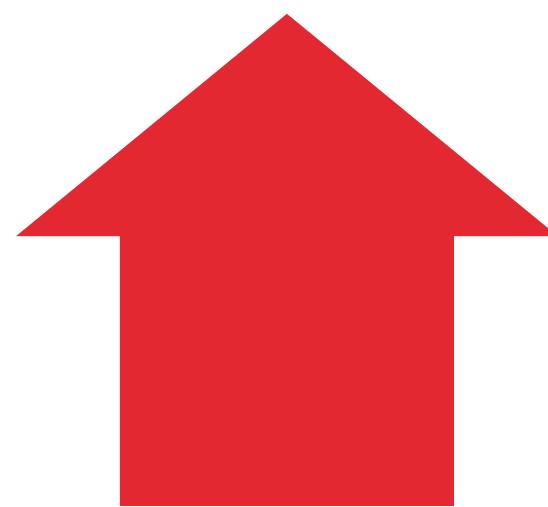


Evolvability

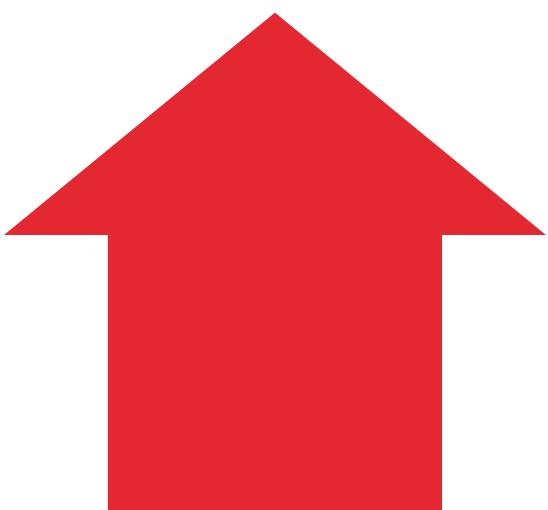
Bugs

[1, 2]

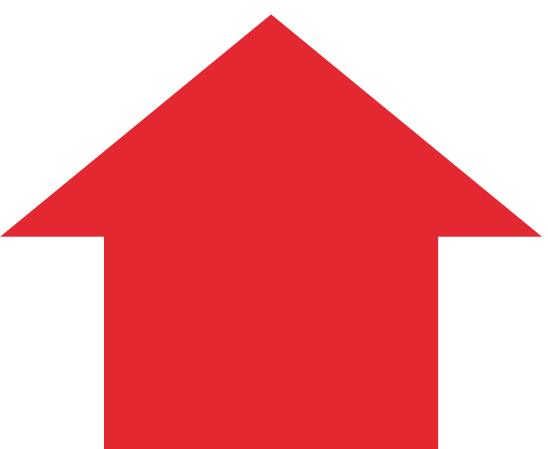
LOW EVOLVABILITY COSTS MONEY



28% longer to implement
new features [3]

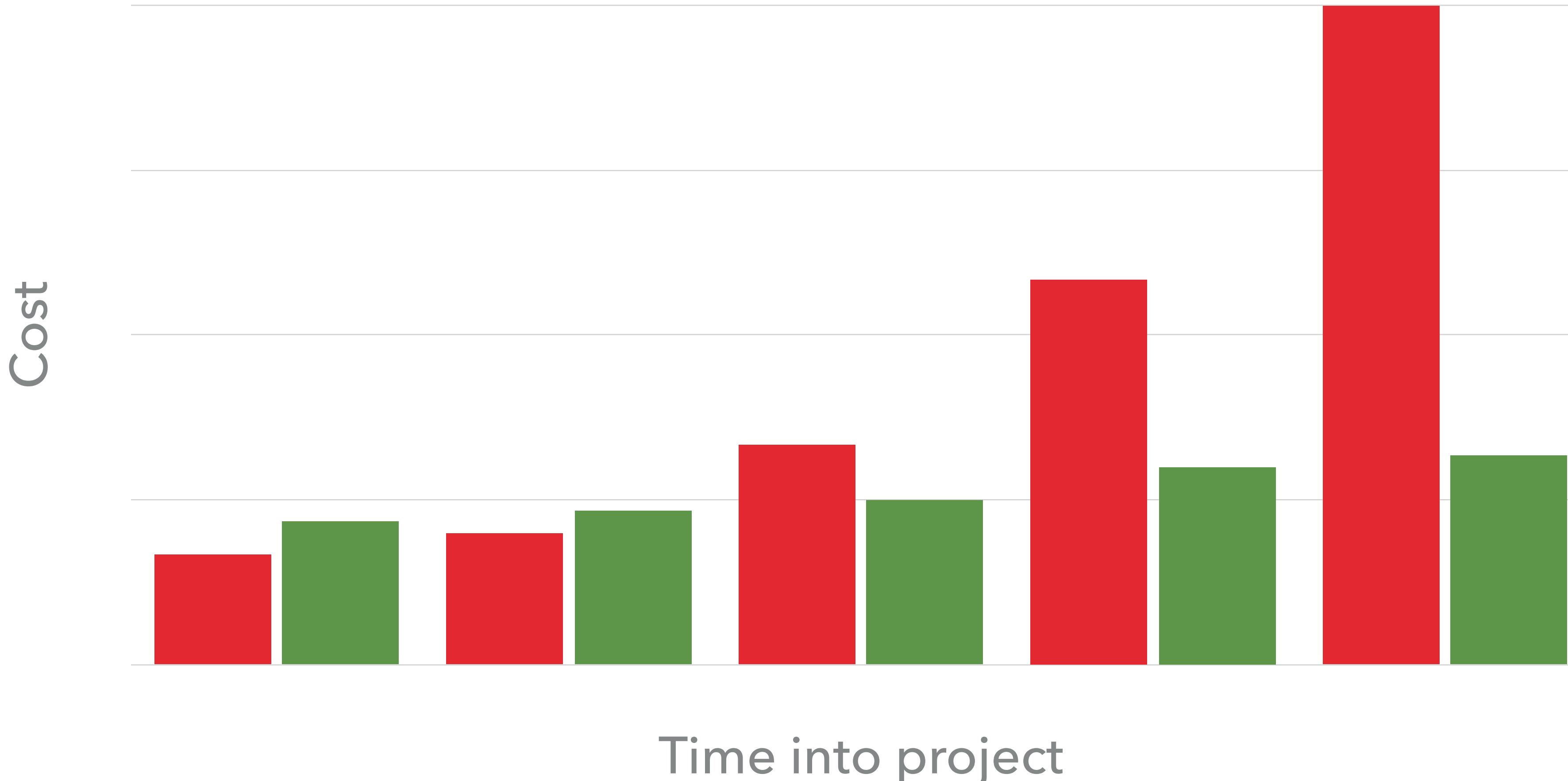


36% longer to fix bugs [3]

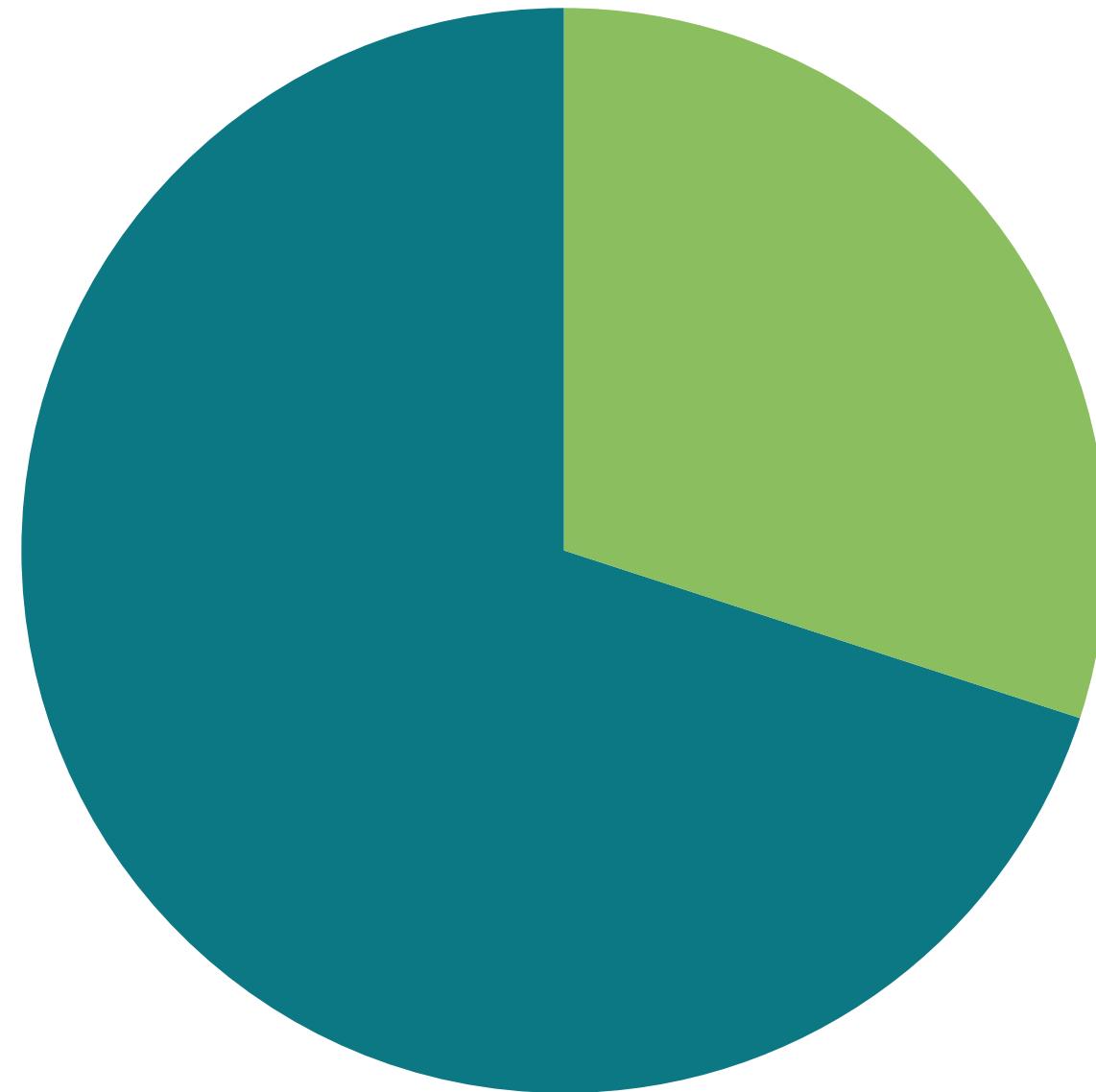


Software structure may account for 25%
of total maintenance costs [4]

COST TO DEVELOP SIMILAR SIZED FEATURE OVER TIME

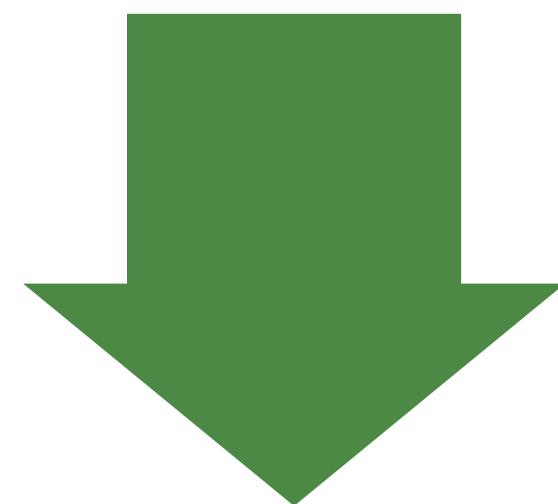


CODE REVIEW BENEFIT 1: FEWER DEFECTS



● Bugs
● Evolvability

- ▶ OK not to find lots of “bugs”
- ▶ Remember to sell the right metric to management.



Reduce
evolvability
defects

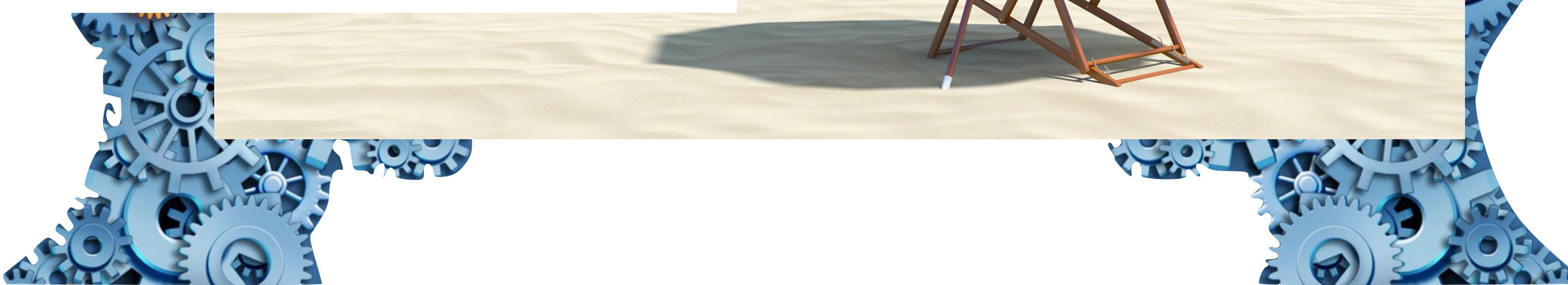


Reduce costs
[1, 2, 3]

CODE REVIEW BENEFIT 2: SECURITY REVIEW

- ▶ Writing sensitive data to logs (e.g. password)
 - ▶ #[SensitiveParameter]
- ▶ Files that shouldn't be there? (e.g. malware)
- ▶ OWASP top 10
 - ▶ OWASP top 10 cheat sheet
- ▶ Rolled your own authentication / hashing / encryption algorithms

CODE BENEFIT 3: SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE



CODE REVIEW BENEFIT 4: MENTORING



CODE REVIEW BENEFITS

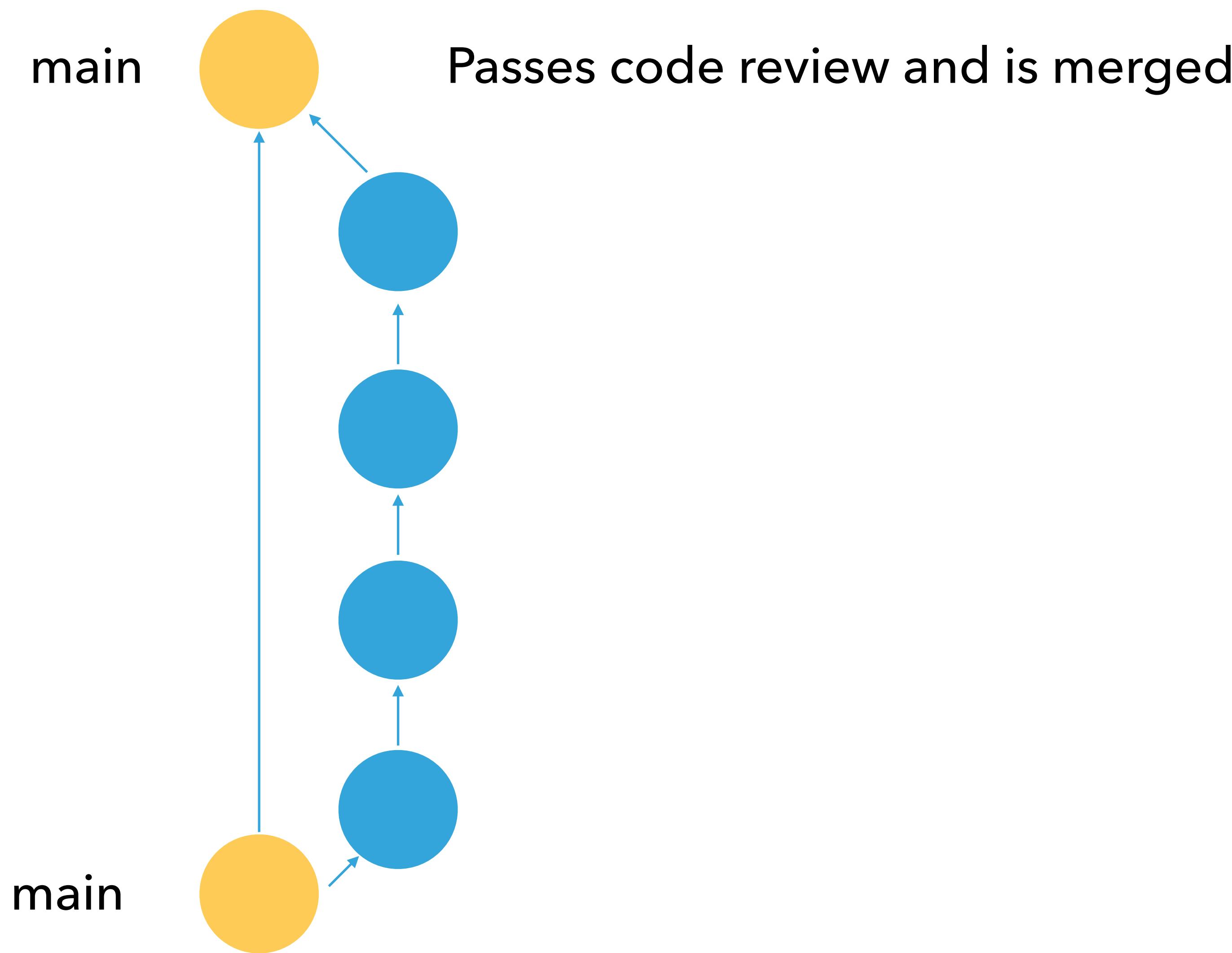
- ▶ Reduce defects
 - ▶ Mainly evolvability defects
- ▶ Find security vulnerabilities
- ▶ Spread knowledge
- ▶ Mentoring

**EFFECTIVE CODE REVIEW
REDUCES OVERALL COST OF
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

What is code review?



FEATURE BASED DEVELOPMENT



PHPUnit



GitHub Actions



circleci



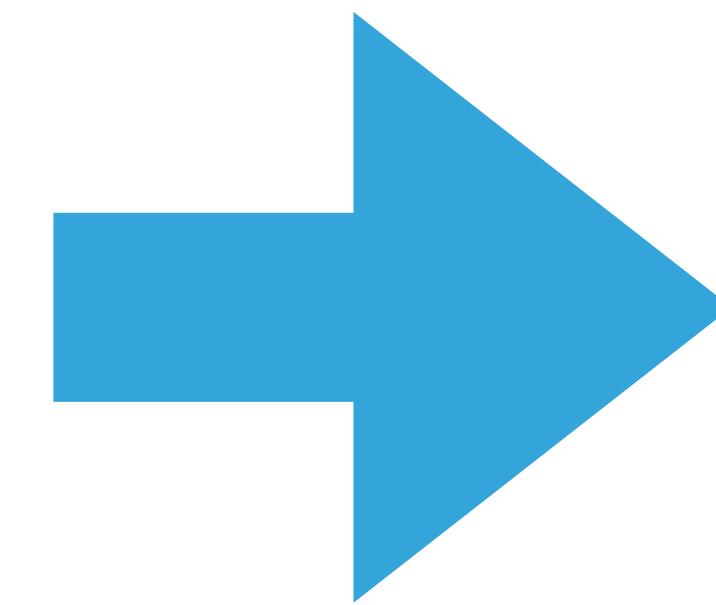
CodeSniffer



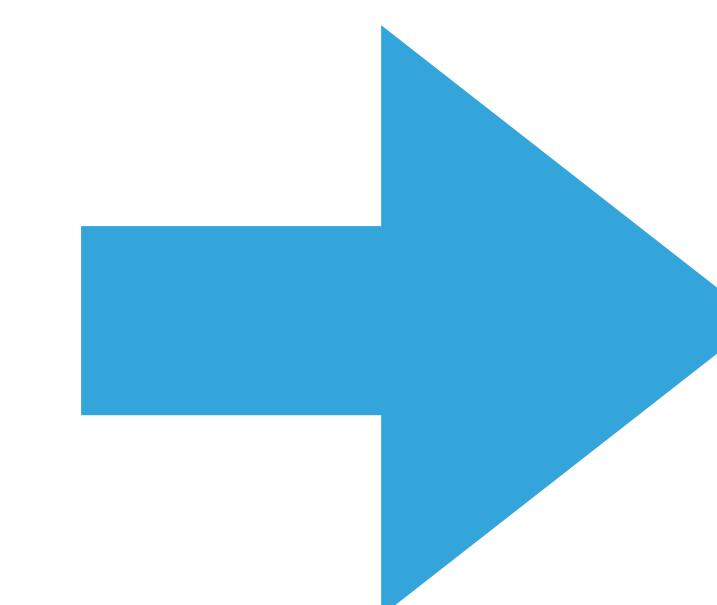
@daveliddament

CODE REVIEW STEPS

Purpose



Tests

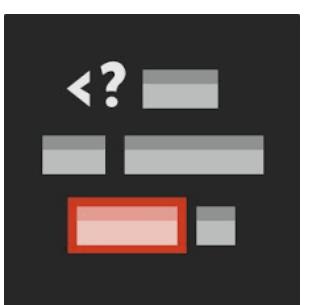


Rest of the code
(commit by commit)

Bugs

Evolvability

Bugs



WHAT ARE WE REVIEWING?



DaveLiddament commented on 30 Dec 2018

Owner + 😊 ...

Previously SARB generated a diff from the baseline commit and the most recent commit. However static analysis might be run on the current state of the code. These 2 might be different.

When running on CI the current state of the code and latest commit will *probably* be the same.

Developing locally this will probably not be the case. Developers will want to make sure no errors have been introduced since the baseline before committing code. To improve DX SARB will look at diff between the baseline commit and HEAD.

It is assumed the process will be something like this:

- developer edits code
- developer runs static analysis tool
- developer runs SARB
- developer removes any issues raised since the baseline
- once all post baseline issues are removed developer commits code

Hence the need for the diff to be taken against current state of code rather than last commit.

ARE THE TESTS TESTING THE RIGHT THING?

Input	Expected Output
my blog	my-blog
hello Dave	hello-Dave

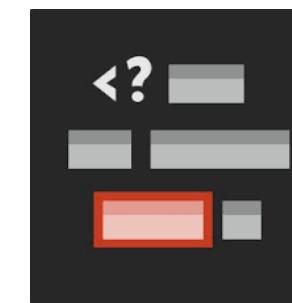
ARE ALL TEST CASES COVERED?

Input	Expected Output
my blog	my-blog
it's Saturday	its-saturday

**WILL I UNDERSTAND
THIS CODE IN 6
MONTHS?**

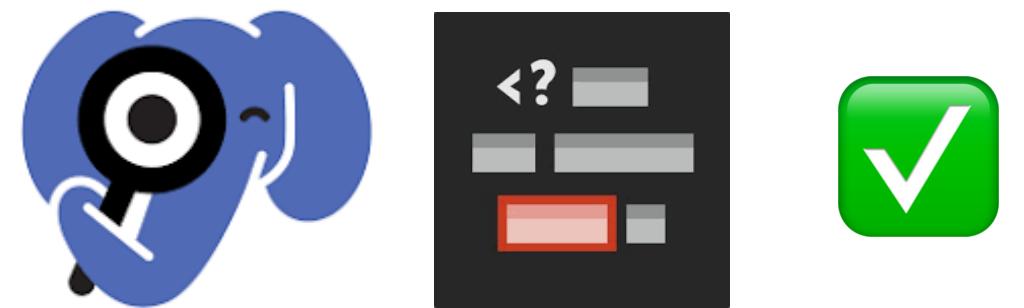
WILL I UNDERSTAND THIS CODE IN 6 MONTHS?

```
$userFields = [  
    'Username',  
    'Email',  
    'FirstName',  
    'LastName',  
    'Phone',  
];  
  
foreach ($userFields as $key) {  
    if ($userDetails->{'get' . $key} ()) {  
        $user->{'set' . $key} ($userDetails->{'get' . $key}());  
    }  
}
```



WILL I UNDERSTAND THIS CODE IN 6 MONTHS? (2)

```
if ($userDetails->getUsername()) {  
    $user->setUsername($userDetails->getUsername());  
}  
  
if ($userDetails->getEmail()) {  
    $user->setEmail($userDetails->getEmail());  
}  
  
if ($userDetails->getFirstName()) {  
    $user->setFirstName($userDetails->getFirstName());  
}  
  
if ($userDetails->getLastName()) {  
    $user->setLastName($userDetails->getLastName());  
}  
  
if ($userDetails->getPhone()) {  
    $user->setPhone($userDetails->getPhone());  
}
```



CAN WE REMOVE COMMENTS?

```
if ($this->messageSender->sendMessage ($message) === true) {  
    // 3 means message sent  
    $message->setStatus (3);  
}
```

CAN WE REMOVE COMMENTS?

```
class Message
{
    public const CREATED = 1;
    public const PENDING = 2;
    public const SENT = 3;

    ... rest of class ...
}

if ($this->messageSender->sendMessage ($message) === true) {
    $message->setStatus(Message::SENT);
}
```

DO WE NEED COMMENTS?

```
/**  
 * Populates template string containing placeholders with placeHolderValues  
 *  
 * Inputs of  
 *   $template: "Hello {name}. Prepare to play {game}"  
 *   $values: ["name" => "Jane", "game" => "monopoly"]  
 * Returns: "Hello Jane. Prepare to play monopoly"  
 *  
 * Optional values are marked with a ?  
 * E.g. inputs of  
 *   $template: "Hello {name}. Prepare to play {game?}"  
 *   $values: ["name" => "Bob"]  
 * Returns: "Hello Bob. Prepare to play "  
 *  
 * @param array<string,string> $placeHolderValues  
 * @throws MissingPlaceHolderValue  
 */  
  
function populateTemplate( string $template,  
                           array $placeHolderValues,  
                           ) :string { ... }
```

**ARE COMMENTS
UP TO DATE?**

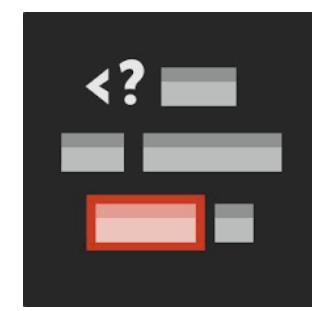
HOW DO WE MAKE THIS MORE OBVIOUS?

```
class MarketingCampaign
{
    public function addAddress(
        string $address
    ): void {
        .. some implementation ..
    }
}
```

HOW DO WE MAKE THIS MORE OBVIOUS (2)

```
class MarketingCampaign
{
    public function addEmailAddress (
        string $emailAddress
    ): void {
        .. some implementation ..
    }

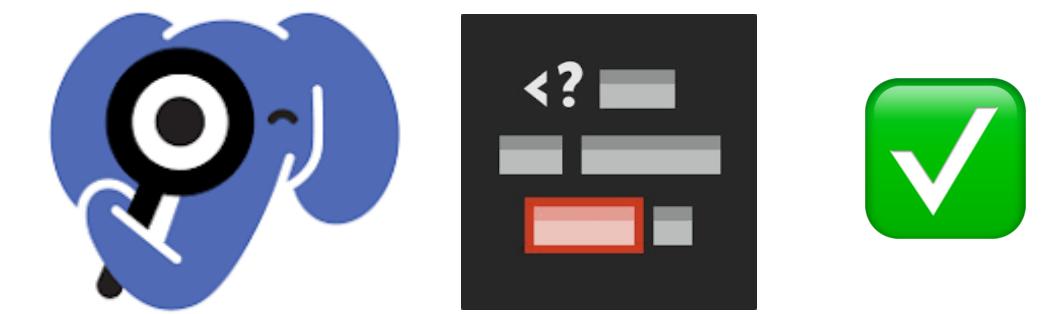
}
```



HOW DO WE MAKE THIS MORE OBVIOUS (3)

```
class MarketingCampaign
{
    public function addEmailAddress(
        EmailAddress $emailAddress
    ): void {
        .. some implementation ..
    }

}
```



ARE WE FOLLOWING PROJECT CONVENTIONS?

```
interface LocationRepository
{
    public function findClosestTo($point);
    public function findByName($name);
    public function findBySlug($slug);
    public function searchForLocation($name, $type);
    public function findAllByType($type);
}
```

DOCUMENT PROJECT CONVENTIONS

#coding-standards

☆ | 84 | ⚡ 0 | Add a topic



dave 10:55 AM

Naming: Do not use abbreviations

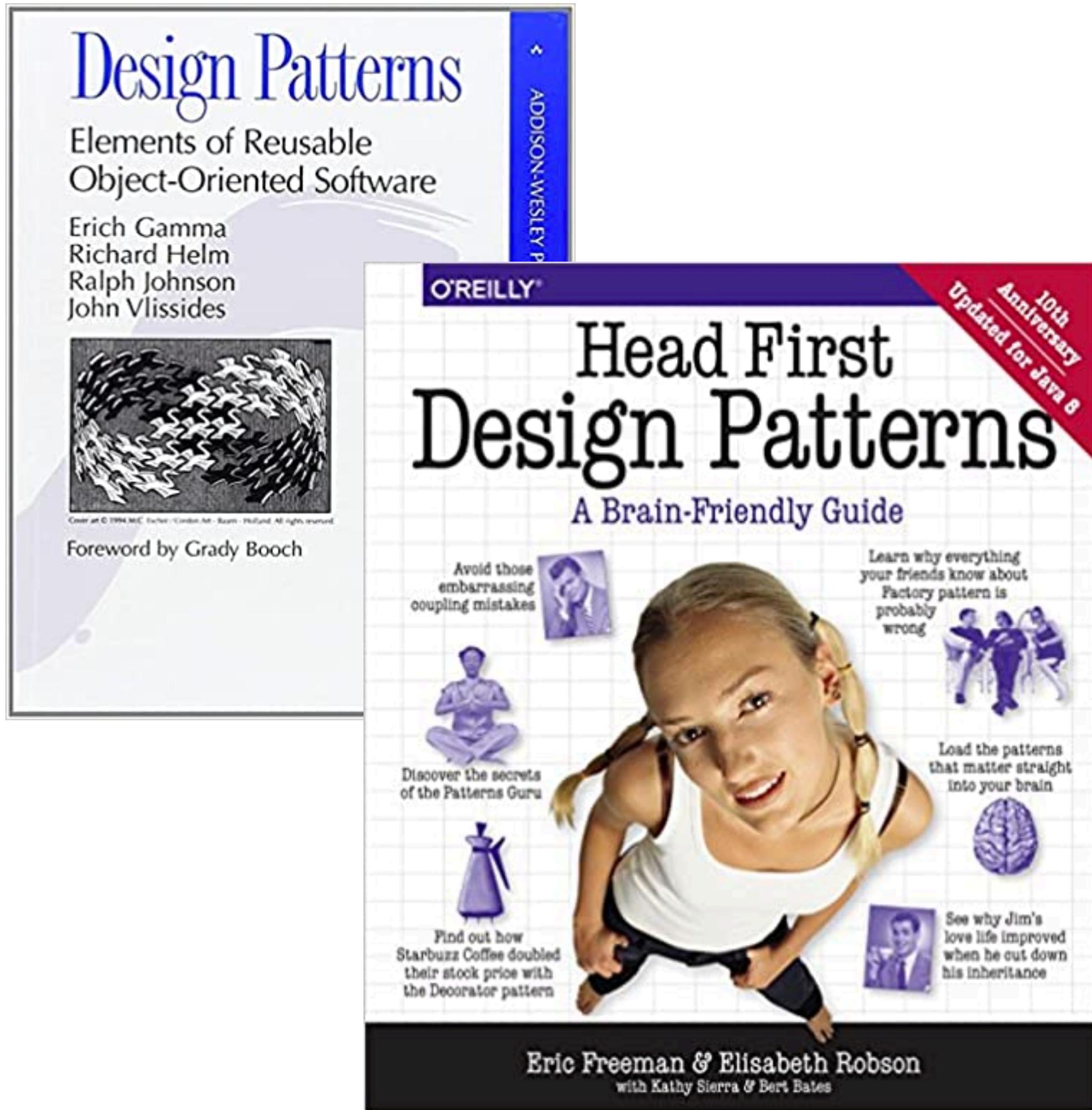


8 replies Last reply 3 months ago



dave 11:29 AM

CORRECT NAMING



Glossary

Contents

- High level terminology
- User types
- Company types

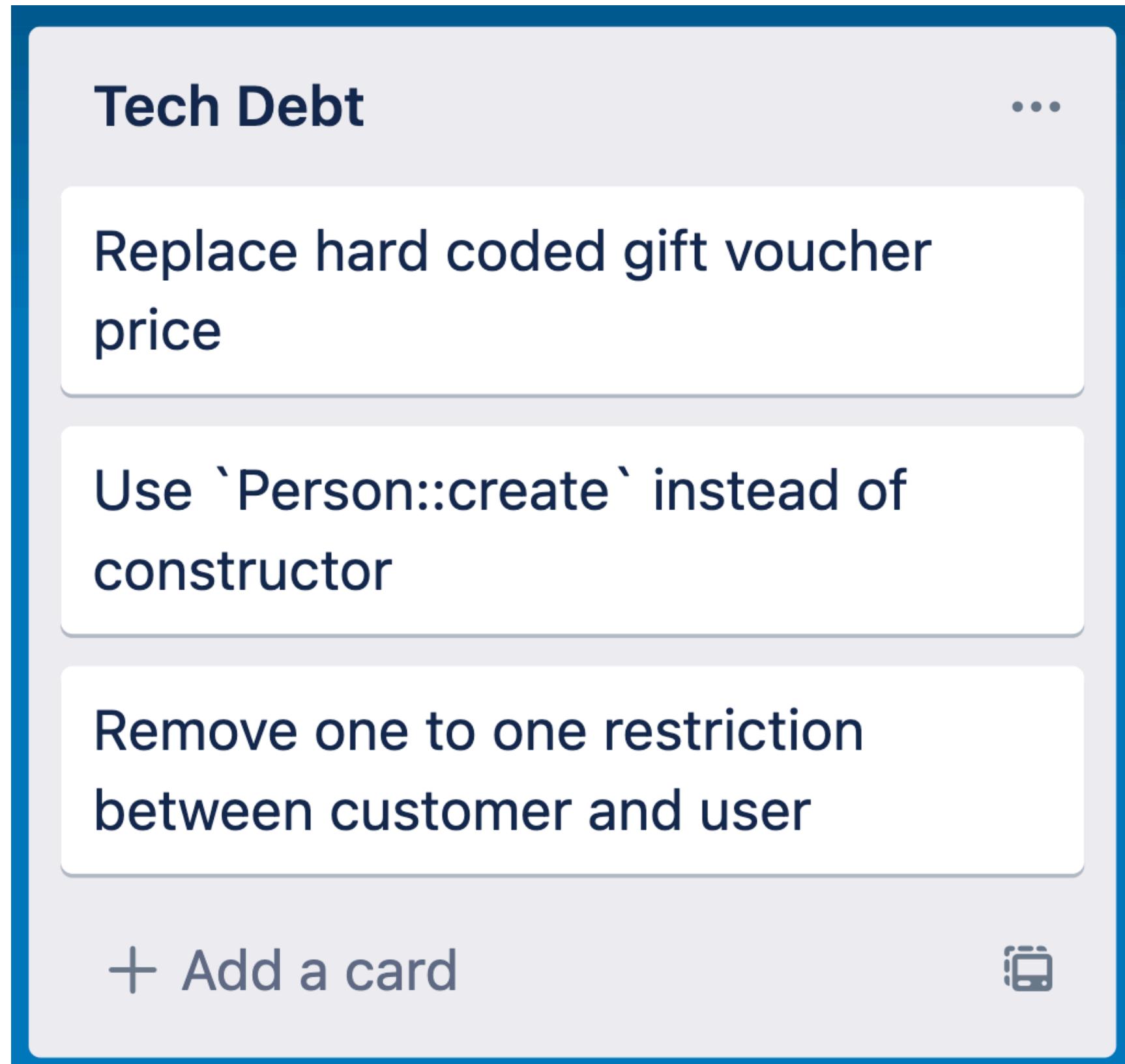
High Level Terminology

GoA Grade of Automation

The level of automation from 1 to 4.

- Level 1: Driver starts and stops to schedule trains and controls the doors
- Level 2: Start and stop is automatic. Driver operates the doors
- Level 3: No driver. Only attendee on the train, they operate doors
- Level 4: Full automation

HAS TECHNICAL DEBT BEEN DOCUMENTED?



// TODO <https://trello.com/c/Aaa123>
// Refactor to method

... some hacky code ...

IS THE
ARCHITECTURE
GOOD?

**ARE THERE ANY
BUGS?!**

CHECK LIST

- ▶ What are we reviewing?
- ▶ Do the tests fully test the required functionality?
- ▶ Will I understand this code in 6 months?
- ▶ Do comments match the code?
- ▶ Is the code obvious and explicit?
- ▶ Does the code follow project conventions?
- ▶ Has technical debt been documented?
- ▶ Can architecture be improved?
- ▶ Are there any bugs?

EVERYONE SHOULD CODE REVIEW



What is code review?

Benefits

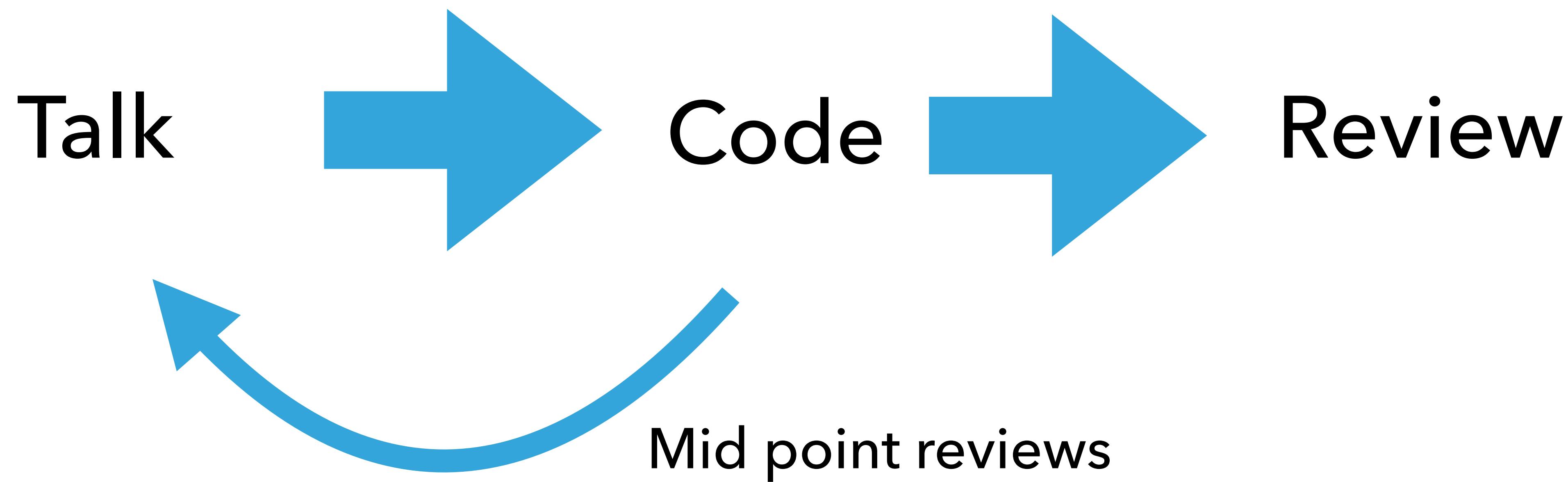
Implementation

Tips

Practical



CODE REVIEW

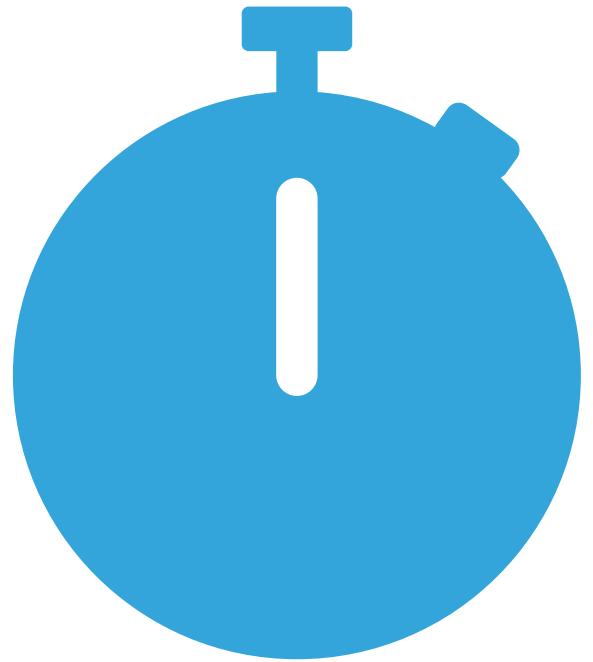


**ASK PROGRAMMERS TO REVIEW 10 LINES
OF CODE THEY'LL FIND 10 ISSUES....**

**ASK THEM TO DO 500 LINES THEY'LL SAY
IT'S GOOD TO GO**

Anyone who's done code review

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU REVIEW IN ONE GO?

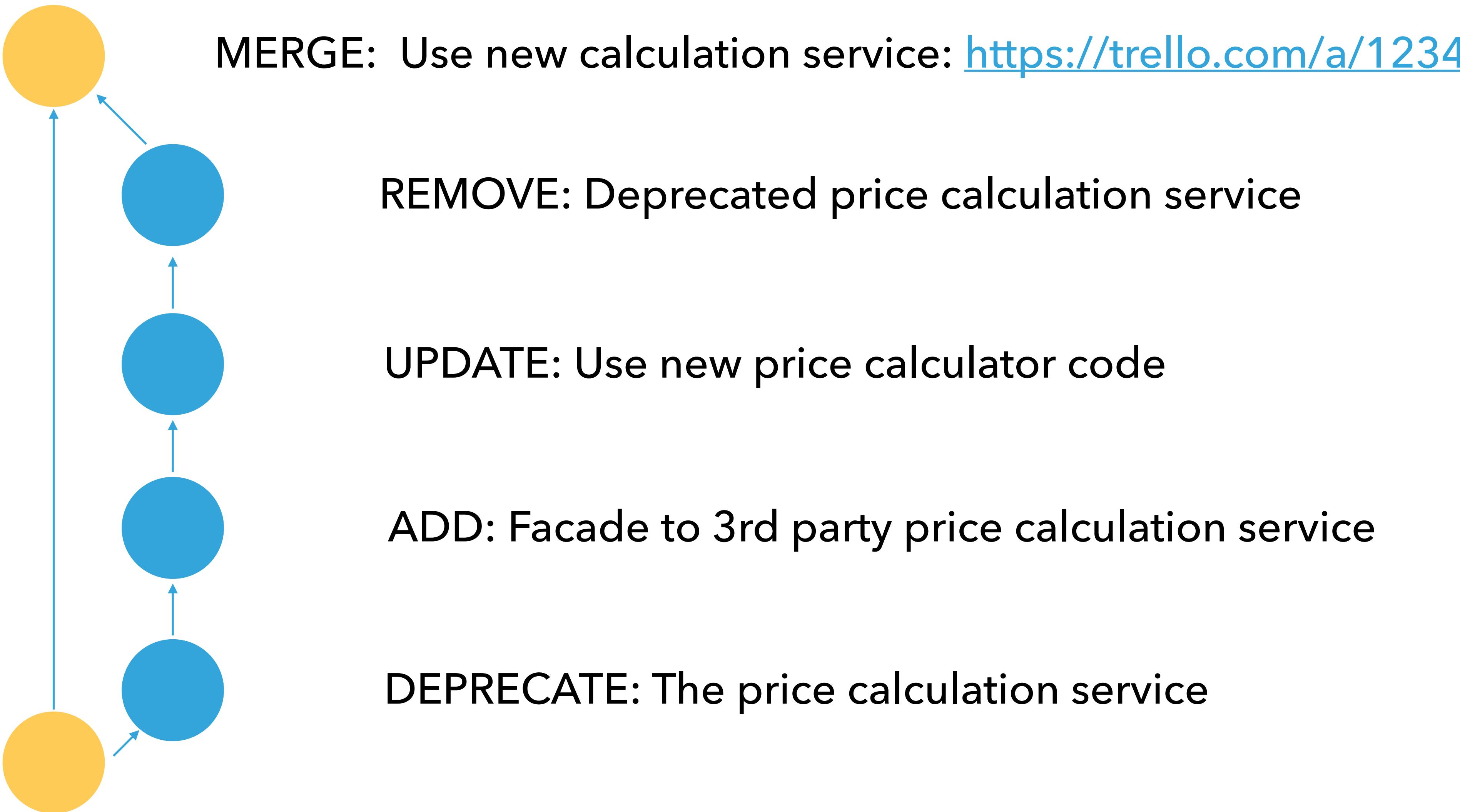


Max 1 hour review at a time [5]



Fewer than 400 lines of code at a time [5]

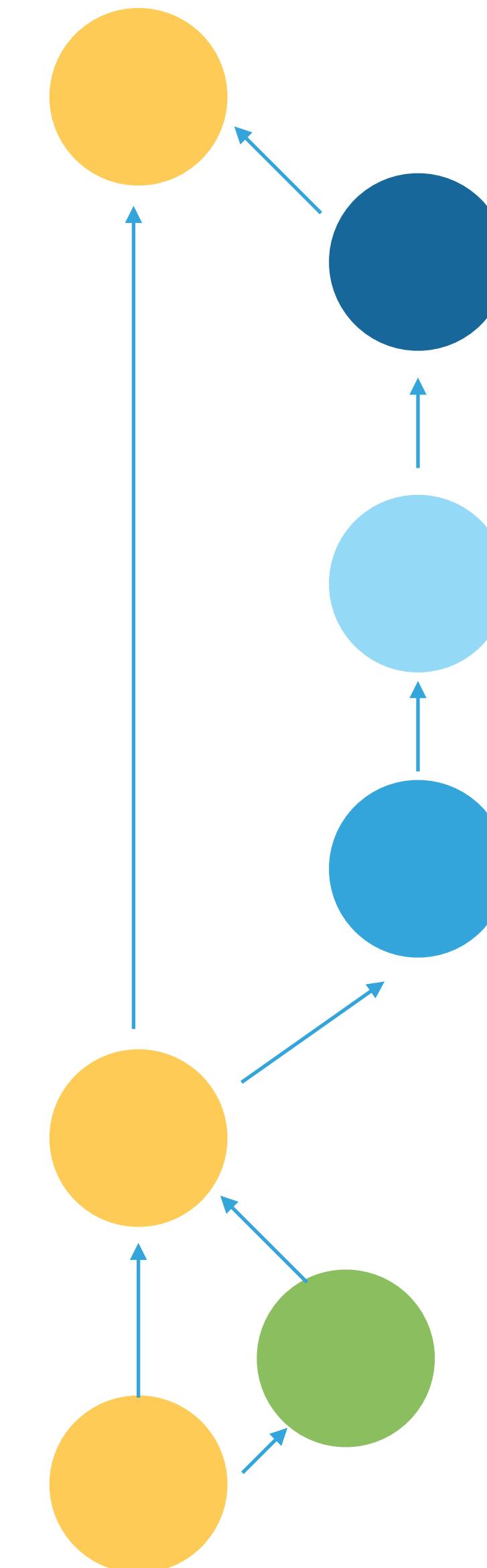
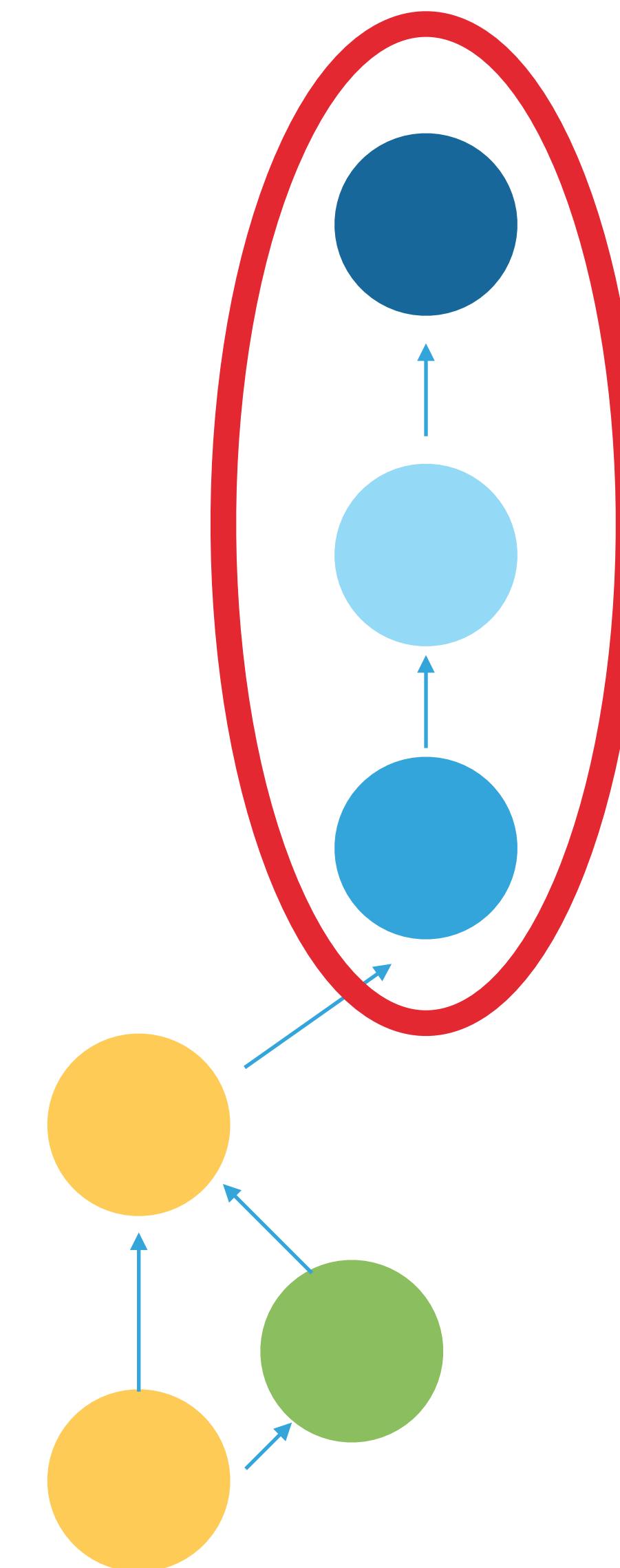
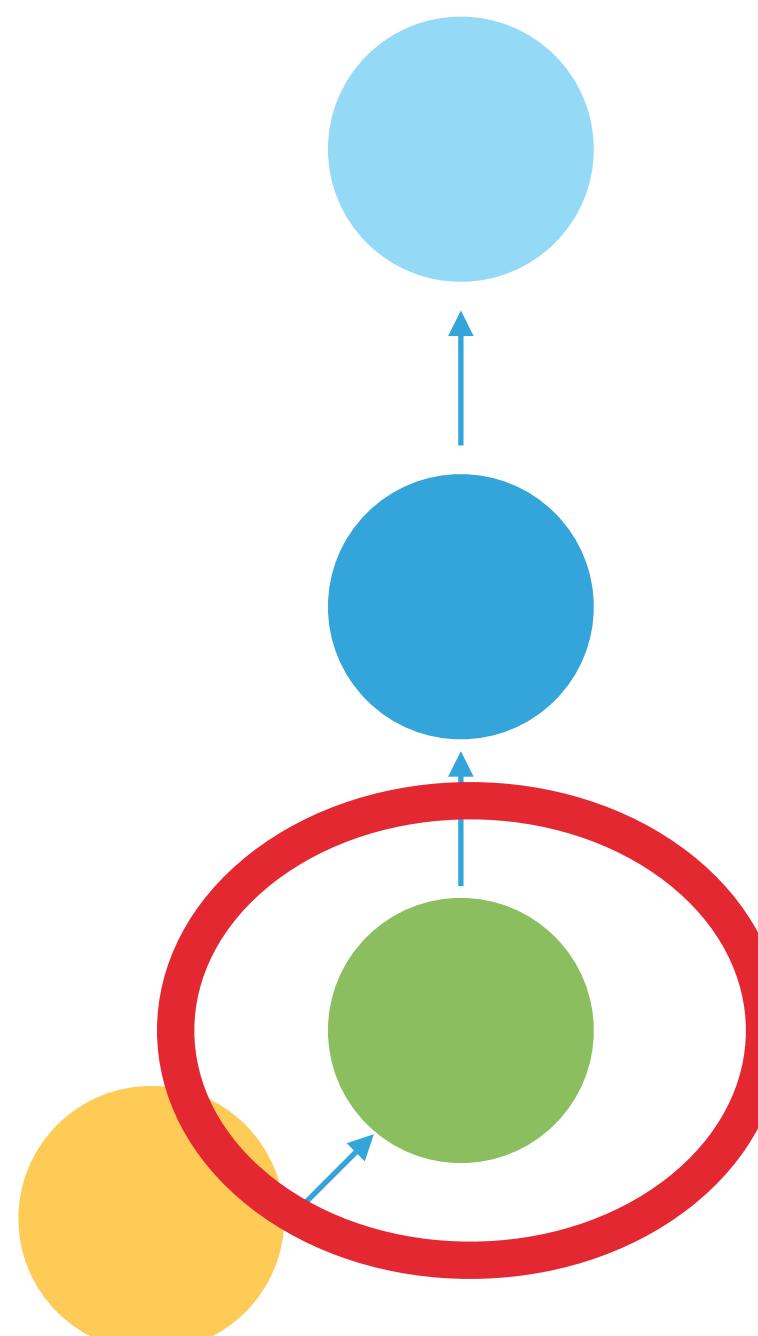
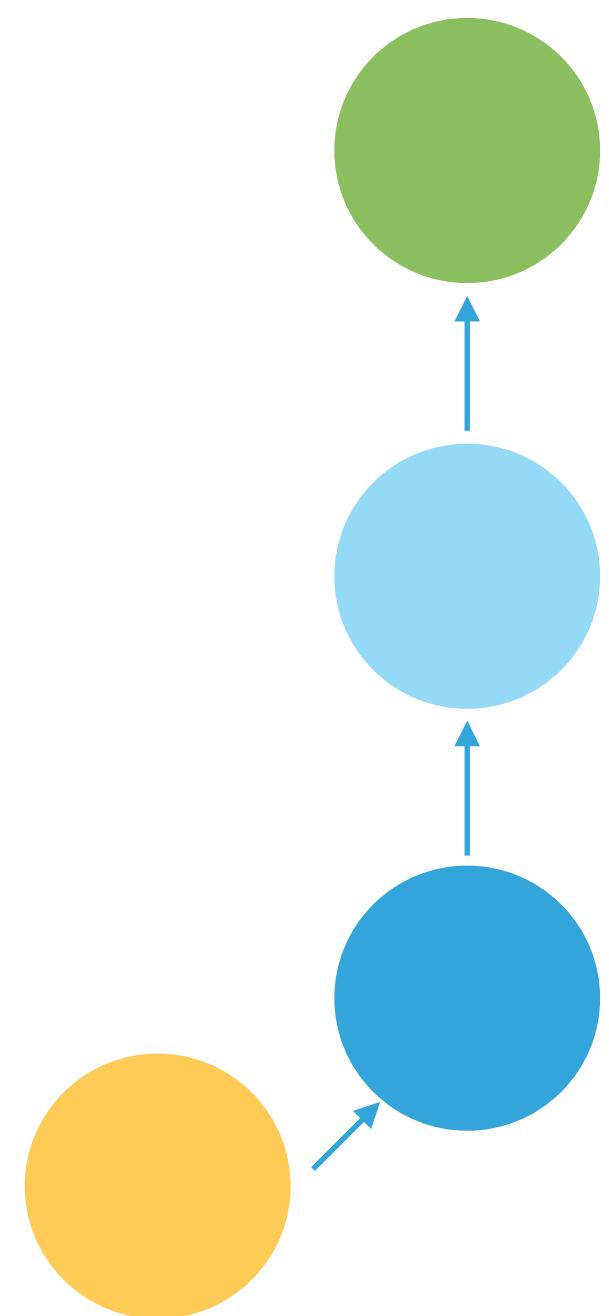
STORY OF ATOMIC COMMITS



ATOMIC COMMITS (2)

- ▶ Use individual commits for:
 - ▶ whitespace changes
 - ▶ class renames or moves
 - ▶ method or property renames
 - ▶ composer updates

PULL OUT REFACTORS TO THEIR OWN REVIEW



GOOD REVIEW COMMENTS

- ▶ Don't be an idiot. Don't be rude.
- ▶ Not critical of the author. (Use we rather than you).
- ▶ State problem and solution. (Maybe as a commit).
- ▶ Link to Stack Overflow, blog, etc.
- ▶ Use: "Let's chat".
- ▶ Use: "Question".
- ▶ Compliment.

RECEIVING REVIEW COMMENTS

- ▶ Don't be an idiot. Don't be rude
- ▶ Don't take offence
- ▶ Do say if you disagree
- ▶ Compliment



dave 10:16

Check out Remi's great PR (#634).

This is a great example of how to split out the work into multiple commits. Each commit focused on one task, which makes reviewing so much easier. (edited)

Great work. 

KEEP ON TOP OF CODE REVIEWS

- ▶ Code review > new code
- ▶ 30 to 60min focus blocks

PRAGMATIC USE OF CODE REVIEW

- ▶ Default: Review everything
- ▶ Don't review:
 - ▶ Small changes
 - ▶ Common refactors

CODE REVIEW TIPS

- ▶ Plan and communicate before you code
- ▶ Keep code to be reviewed small in quantity
- ▶ Be constructive in code review comments
- ▶ Prioritise code review over new work
- ▶ Be pragmatic

What is code review?

Benefits

Implementation

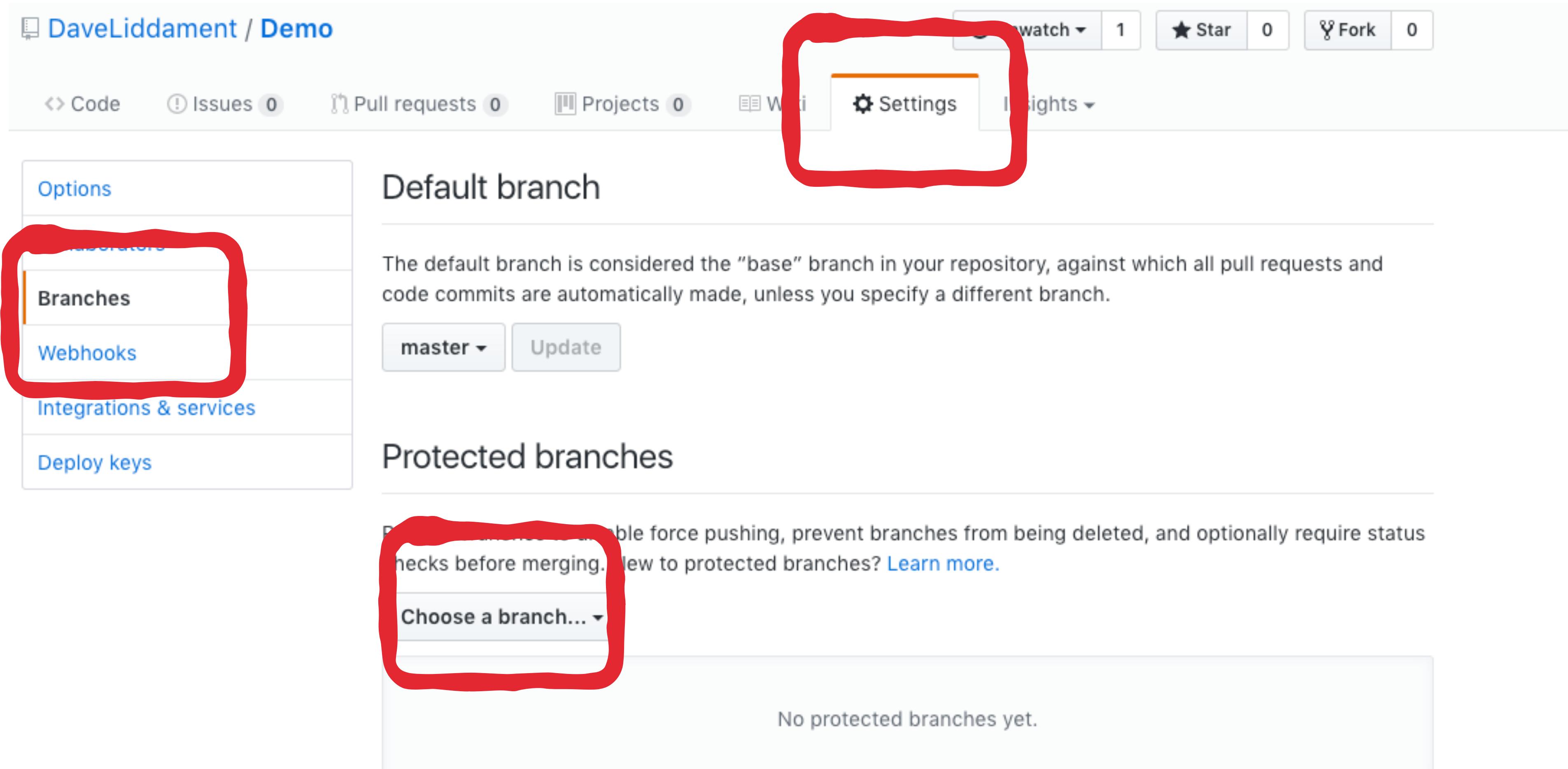
Tips

Practical



CODE CAN ONLY BE DEPLOYED IF:

- ▶ CI passes
- ▶ Code review passes

A screenshot of a GitHub repository settings page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Code, Issues (0), Pull requests (0), Projects (0), Wiki, Settings (which is highlighted with a red box), and Insights (0). Below the navigation, there's a sidebar on the left with options like Options, Collaborators, Branches (which is also highlighted with a red box), Webhooks, Integrations & services, and Deploy keys. The main content area starts with a section titled "Default branch". It contains a description: "The default branch is considered the "base" branch in your repository, against which all pull requests and code commits are automatically made, unless you specify a different branch." Below this is a dropdown menu set to "master" with a "Update" button next to it. The next section is "Protected branches". It has a description: "Protected branches enable force pushing, prevent branches from being deleted, and optionally require status checks before merging. New to protected branches? [Learn more](#)." Below this is a dropdown menu labeled "Choose a branch..." (also highlighted with a red box). At the bottom of the "Protected branches" section, it says "No protected branches yet."

[Code](#)[Issues 0](#)[Pull requests 0](#)[Projects 0](#)[Wiki](#)[Settings](#)[Insights ▾](#)[Options](#)[Collaborators](#)[Branches](#)[Webhooks](#)[Integrations & services](#)[Deploy keys](#)

Branch protection for master

 Protect this branch

Disables force-pushes to this branch and prevents it from being deleted.

 Require pull request reviews before merging

When enabled, all commits must be made to a non-protected branch and submitted via a pull request with at least one review approval.

 Dismiss stale pull request approvals when new commits are pushed

New reviewable commits pushed to a branch will dismiss pull request review approvals.

 Require review from Code Owners

Require an approved review in pull requests including files with a designated code owner.

 Require status checks to pass before merging

Choose which [status checks](#) must pass before branches can be merged into master. When enabled, commits must first be pushed to another branch, then merged or pushed directly to master after status checks have passed.

 Require branches to be up to date before merging

This ensures the branch has been tested with the latest code on master.

Sorry, we couldn't find any status checks in the last week for this repository.

[Learn more about status checks on GitHub.](#)

Require status checks to pass before merging

Choose which [status checks](#) must pass before branches can be merged into master. When enabled, commits must first be pushed to another branch, then merged or pushed directly to master after status checks have passed.

Require branches to be up to date before merging

This ensures the branch has been tested with the latest code on master.

Status checks found in the last week for this repository

ci/circleci

Required

Include administrators

Enforce all configured restrictions for administrators.

**INTEGRATING CODE
REVIEW INTO PROJECT
WORKFLOW IS EASY!**

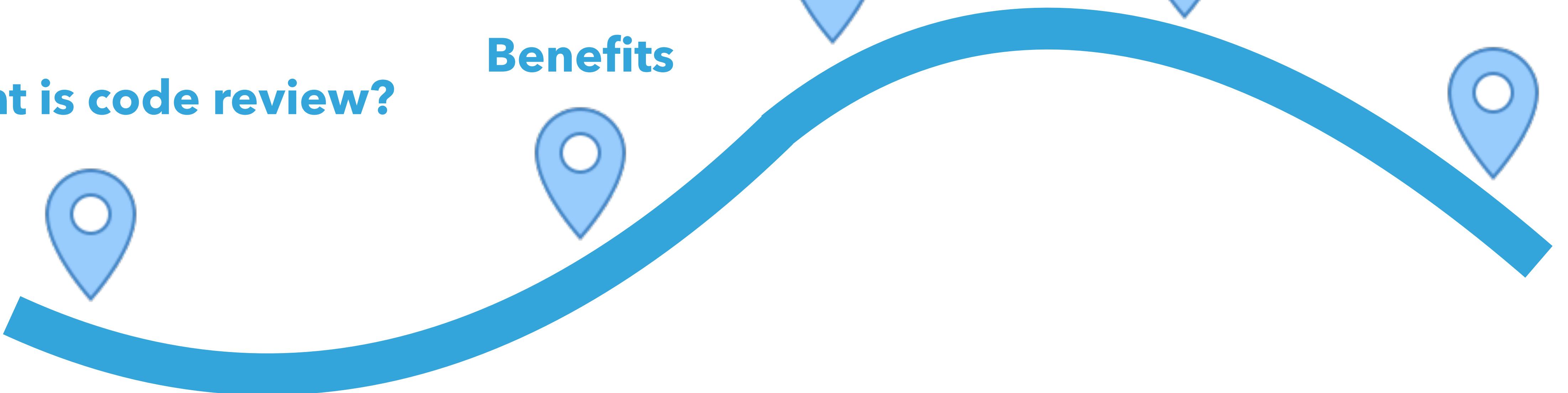
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Dave Liddament

Lamp Bristol

Thank you for
listening

@daveliddament

Organise PHP-SW meetup

Author of Static Analysis Results Baseline (SARB)

And PHP Language Extensions library

20 years of writing software (C, Java, Python, PHP)

REFERENCES

- ▶ [1] Mika V. Mantyla and Casper Lassenius "What Types of Defects Are Really Discovered in Code Reviews?" IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering
- ▶ [2] Harvey Siy, Lawrence Votta "Does The Modern Code Inspection Have Value?"
- ▶ [3] R.K. Bandi, V.K. Vaishnavi, and D.E. Turk, "Predicting Maintenance Performance Using Object-Orientated Design Complexity Metrics"
- ▶ [4] R.D. Banker, S.M. Datar, C.F. Kemerer, and D. Zweig, "Software Complexity and Maintenance Costs,"
- ▶ [5] <https://smartbear.com/learn/code-review/best-practices-for-peer-code-review/>