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2-1 Journal: What Makes a Productive Code Review?

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*What is code review?*

Code review is a systematic examination (peer review) of computer source code. It is intended to find and fix mistakes overlooked in the initial development phase, improving both the overall quality of software and the developers’ skills. (Code Project, 2023)

*Why is it an important practice for computer science professionals?*

Code reviews help developers to learn new techniques and learn the code base, improving their skillsets. It also helps to expose vulnerabilities and find ways to increase security and fix those vulnerabilities. It is important to computer science professionals as it is implementing a different perspective, adding objectivity. Peer reviews provide the distance needed to recognize problems. (Code Project, 2023) Code reviews also embrace team cohesiveness, bring people together and nurturing collaboration.

*When and how does it occur?*

Code review happens after a software developer has completed coding a project. It is the next step before merging it into a main branch or implementation. Code review is best to be conducted with no more than 400 lines of code at a time. The brain can only process so much, and a review of 200-400 lines of code over 60- 90 minutes should yield 70-90% defect discovery. (SMARTBEAR, 2023)

*What are some code review best practices that you would advocate?*

Create a code review checklist would be the first best practice I would advocate. The checklist gives you a structured approach to necessary quality checks before you approve the code. It helps you to stay organized and not forget things for both the author and reviewer. (Code Project, 2023) Another best practice I would advocate is ensuring feedback justifies your stance. Giving well supported explanations, instead of just suggestions on what needs to be fixed. This will not only help the developer understand your logic but also teach them an approach for tackling an issue in a specific way that may have they never considered before. (Ghani, 2023)

# References

*Code Project*. (2023, January). Retrieved from Code Review Guidelines: https://www.codeproject.com/Articles/524235/Codeplusreviewplusguidelines

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