

iOS development efficiency at Facebook

**MOVE
FAST AND
BREAK
THINGS**



Brief history of iOS at Facebook

2011-2016

Best practices for scaling

revision control, branching strategies, development cycle

iOS open source tools/frameworks

brief overview

Applying Facebook development efficiency

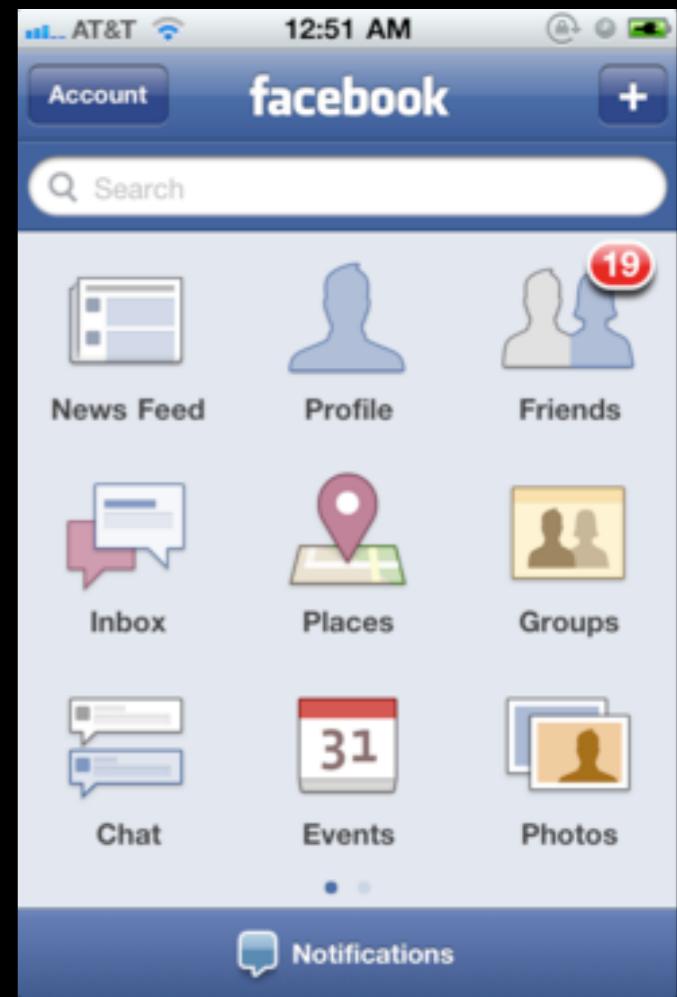
at Bellabeat

2011

Web company



A screenshot of the Facebook mobile application showing a news feed. The top status bar shows '12:00 PM'. The feed includes posts from Soleio Cuervo, Kate Aronowitz, Nicholas Felton, and Rose Yao. The post from Soleio Cuervo links to an HP One-Year Plan video. The post from Kate Aronowitz mentions training resumes and an event in San Jose. The post from Nicholas Felton adds him to a group called 'Feedback To The Future'. The post from Rose Yao is a simple status update.



2012 - Rebuilding Facebook for iOS

Three20

Scaling up with html5

Rebuilding for speed

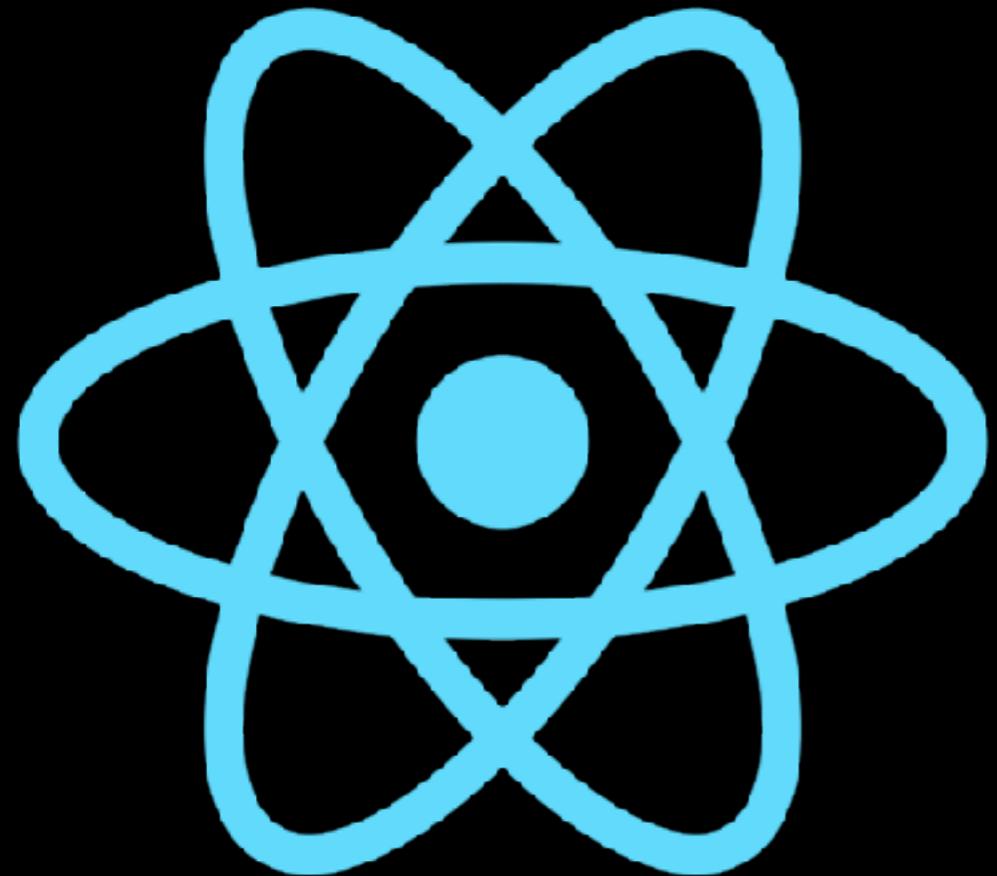
System of modules - shared code e.g. for Messenger

I DON'T ALWAYS BETA TEST



**"BUT WHEN I DO, I DO IT IN
PRODUCTION"**

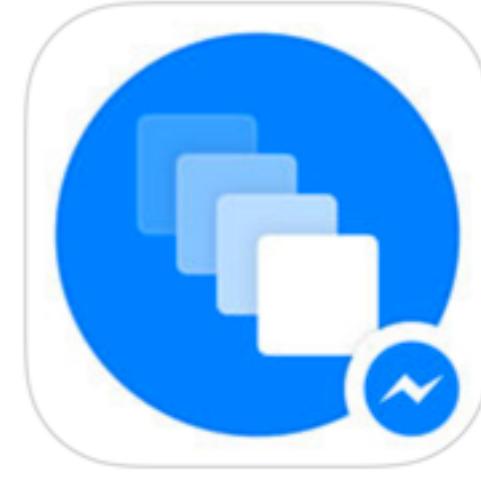
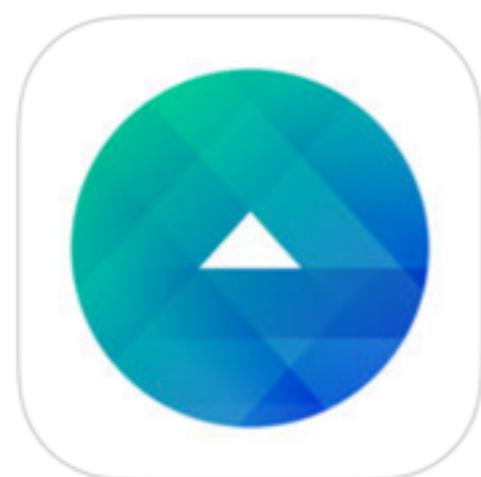
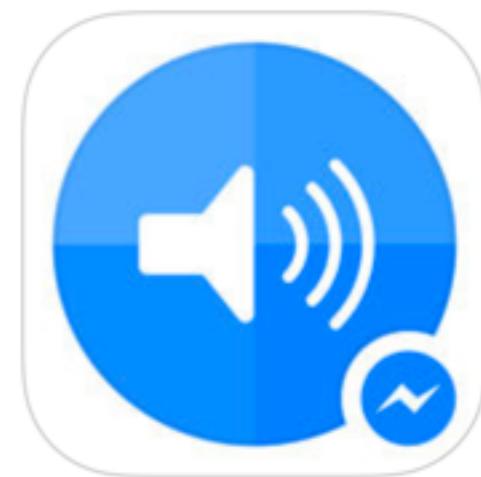
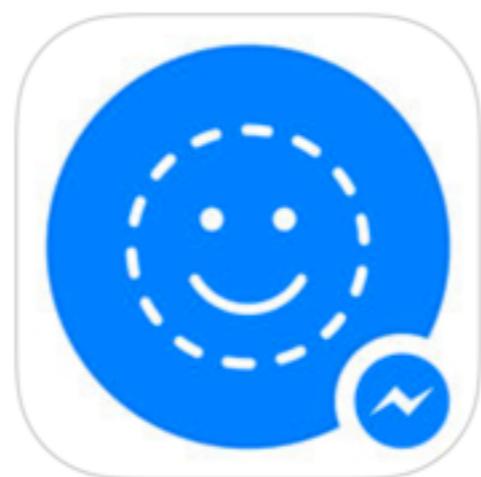
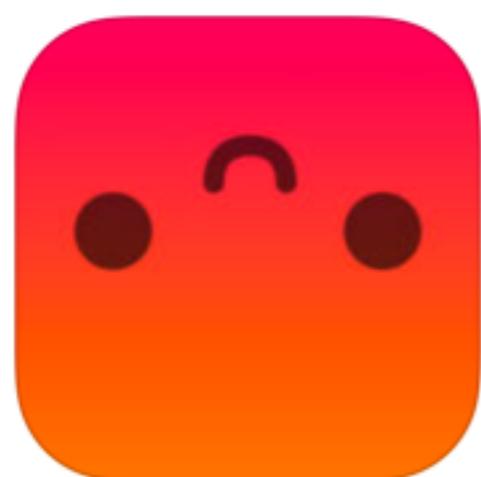
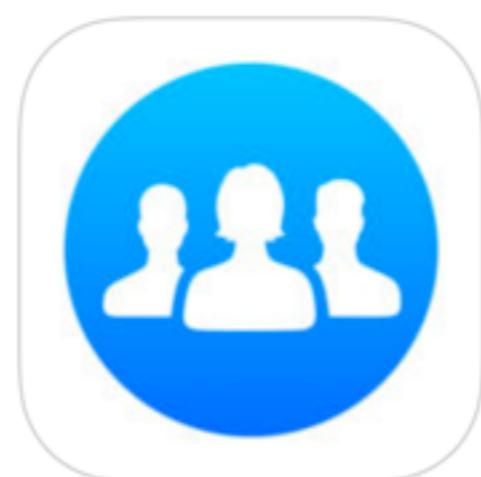
React native



Declarative

Component based

Learn once, write anywhere

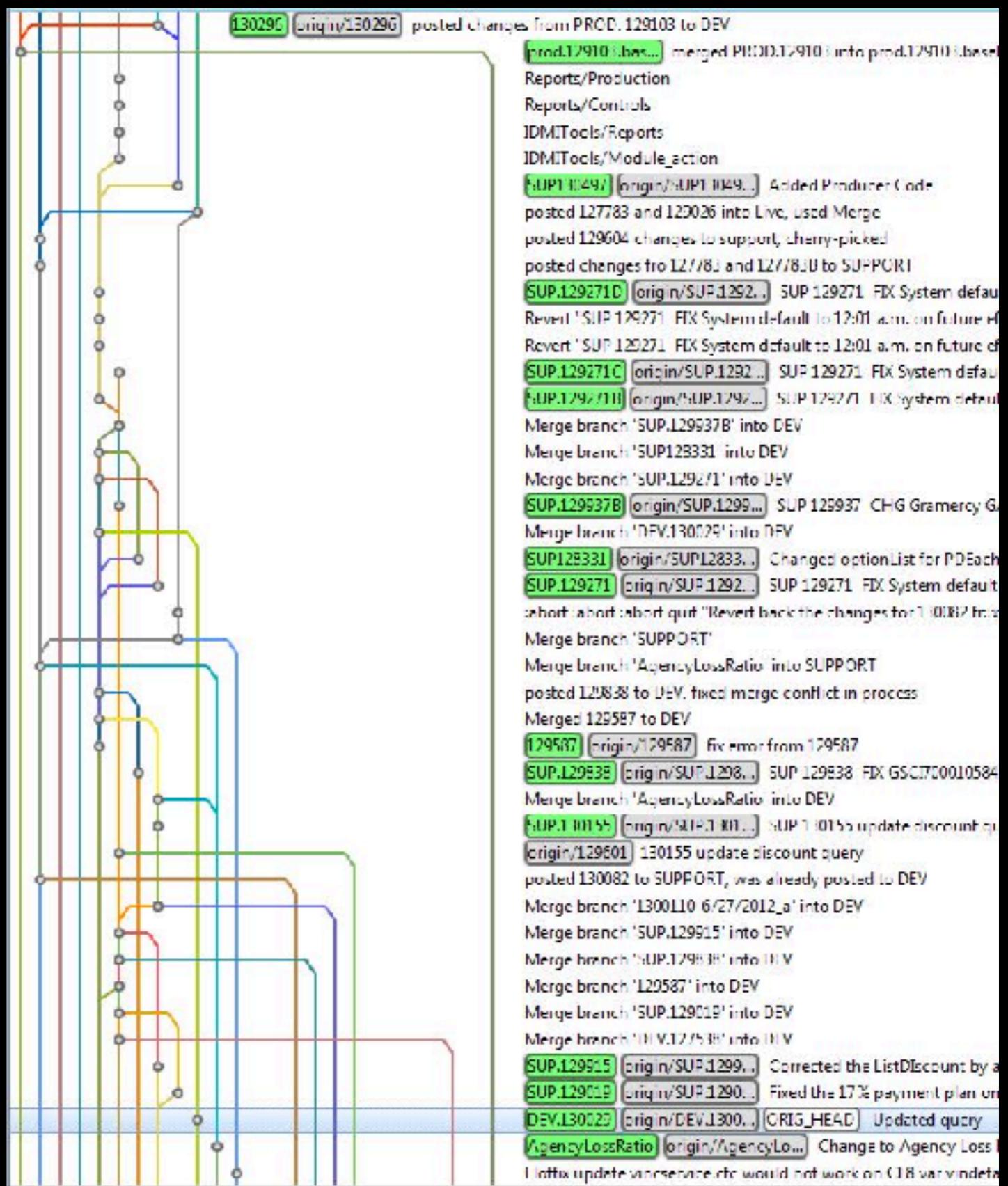
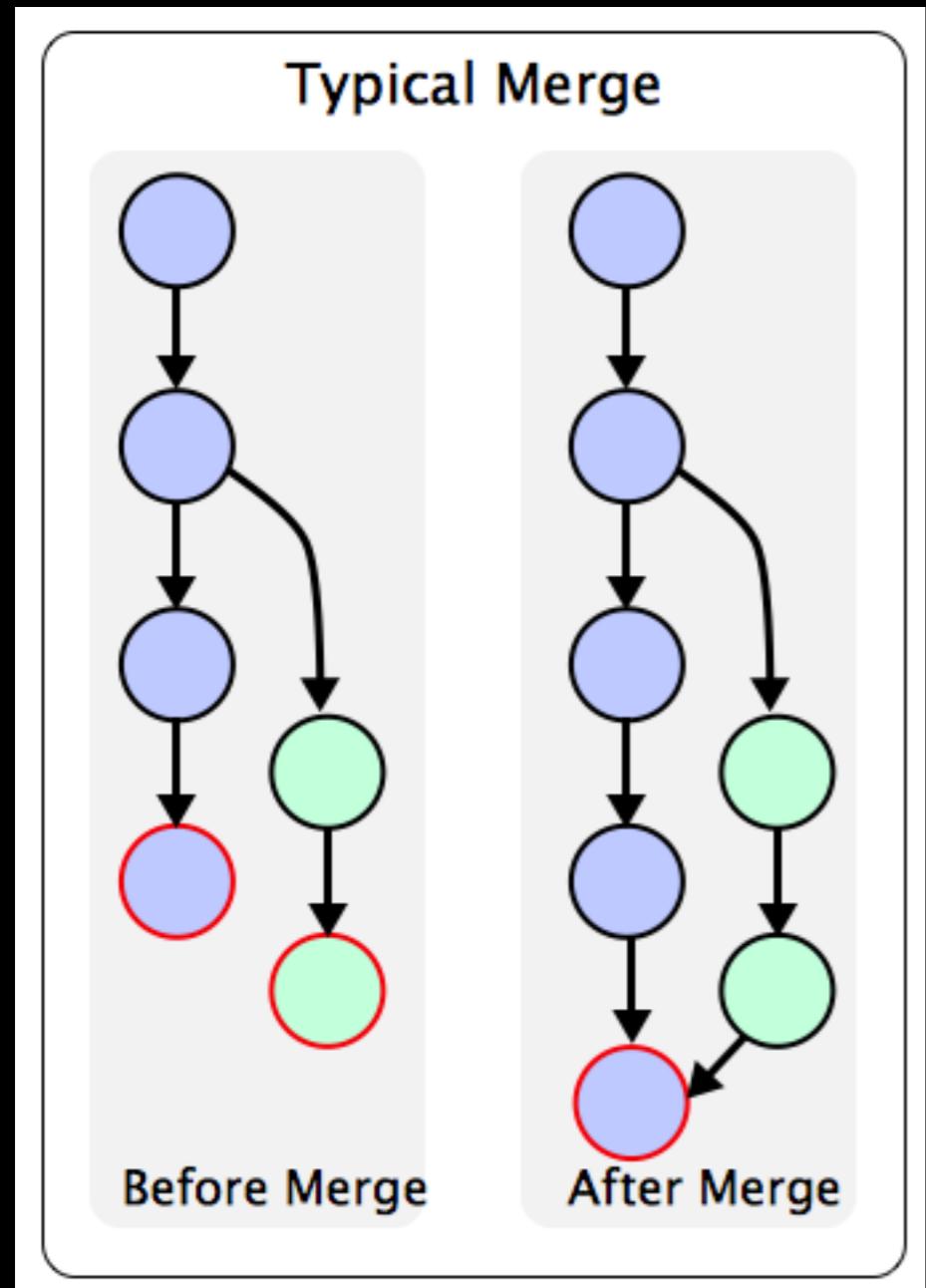


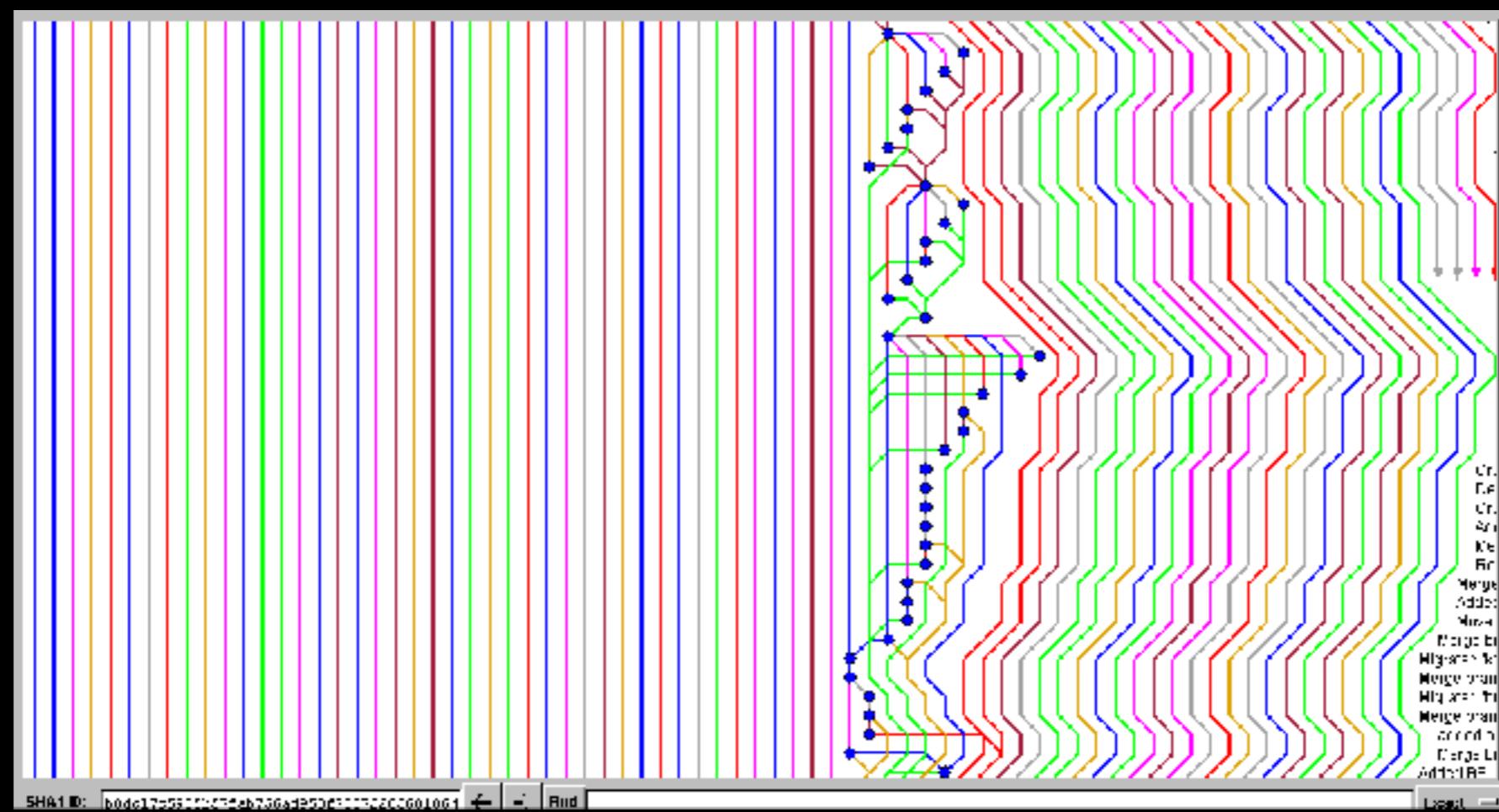
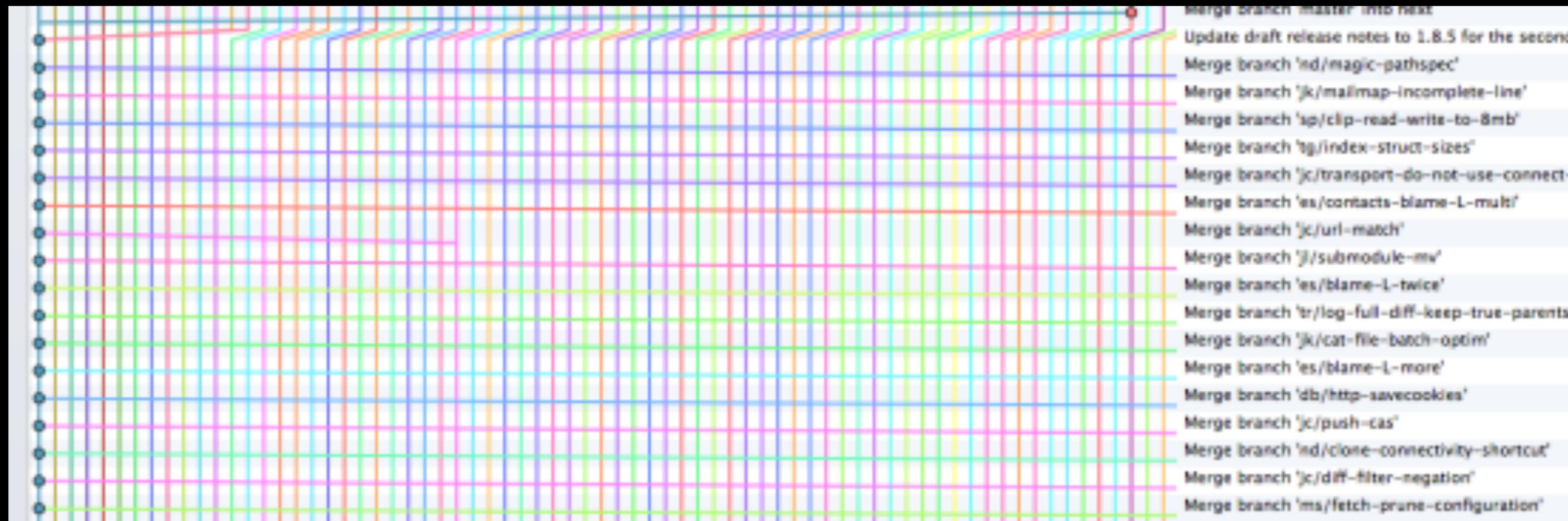


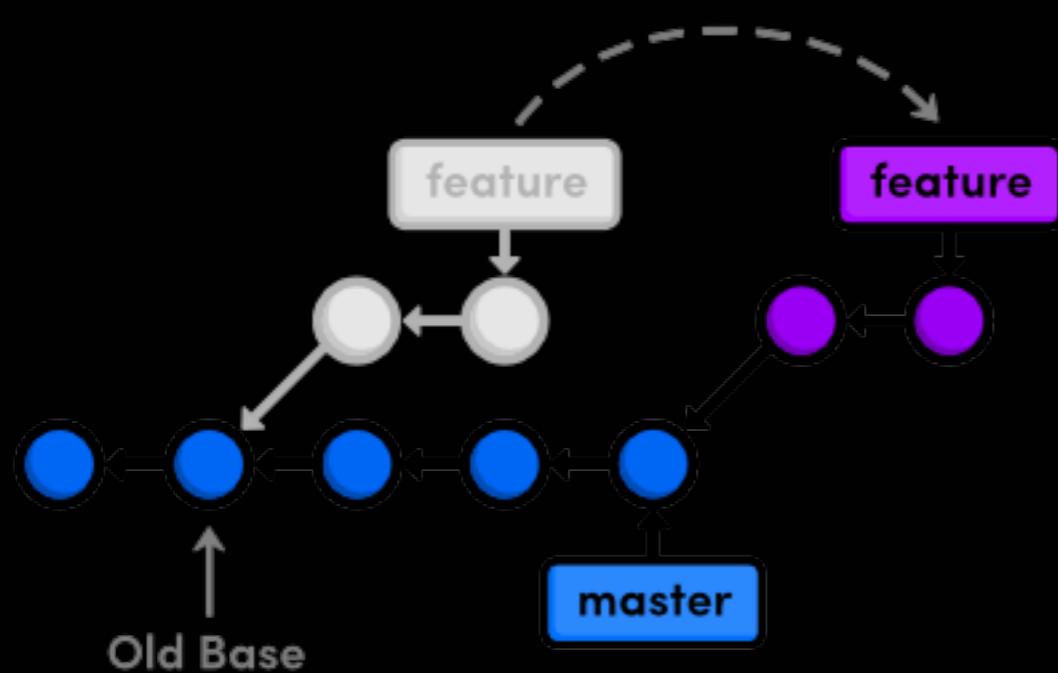
Recommendations on branching

- never put feature branches in the remote/origin/trunk
- control access to new features with runtime configuration, not branching

Choose a strategy where one idea is one commit in the authoritative master/remote version of the repository







Graph	Message	Author	Date
	[master][origin/HEAD][origin/master] Pulling up some methods in to the interface	Jimmy Bogard	2 days ago
	[Integration] Fixed a failing test (forgot to ignore the new destination transformer property)	Richard Banks	3 days ago
	Added support for destination member prefixes, postfixes and naming transformers	Richard Banks	3 days ago
	Making the configuration public on the mapper class	Jimmy Bogard	4 days ago
	Added test to SL project	Jimmy Bogard	4 days ago
	Fixed weird inheritance issue where resolution contexts did not pull down the type map source/dest type	Jimmy Bogard	6 days ago
	Fixed bug where the interface matching got overwritten	Jimmy Bogard	2 weeks ago
	Fixed bug on enums matching on value as well as name	Jimmy Bogard	2 weeks ago
	[IEnumarableBug] Trying out the bug but it seems to work just fine	Jimmy Bogard	4 weeks ago
	Adding support for generic ICollection	Jimmy Bogard	4 weeks ago
	Moving common assembly info versioning to ci-only build	Jimmy Bogard	4 weeks ago
	Changed samples and benchmark to use project reference to AutoMapper.dll instead of file reference.	maxild	4 weeks ago
	[ThreadingIssues] Trying again	Jimmy Bogard	5 weeks ago
	Trying to figure out threading issue	Jimmy Bogard	5 weeks ago
	Fixed bug where ForAllMembers skipped missing members	Jimmy Bogard	5 weeks ago
	Trying to repro an intermittent missing type map error	Jimmy Bogard	5 weeks ago
	Adding a non-SL version solution	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Adding conditional mapping based on the ResolutionContext	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Adding conditional skipping based on the source object	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Marking master as 1.1	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Using SL-specific DynamicMethod ctor and making all unit test types public	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Fixed IL merge issue to pull correct SL libs in	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Fixed issue with INotifyPropertyChanged proxy that the event target was the wrong object	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Making the profile name public	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	[NullValuesInProfilesBug] Failing test that is not supported	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	Fixing bug in null resolution to allow assignable types to be properly created when no null destination types allowed	Jimmy Bogard	6 weeks ago
	integrating jflanagan/latatype	Jimmy Bogard	7 weeks ago

Feature branches

Cons

- you have to merge
- this strategy generally aggregates risk into a single high-risk merge event of development
- when you have multiple feature branches, it's impossible to test interactions between the features until they are merged
- you generally can't A/B test code in feature branches

Pros

- replacing old feature
- the chance that this code will impact production before the merge is nearly zero

Abandoning feature branches

Advantages

- you don't have to merge
- risk is generally spread out more evenly into a large number of very small risks created as each commit lands
- you can test interactions between features in development easily
- you can A/B test and do controlled rollouts easily

Tradeoffs

- if a new feature replaces an older feature, both have to exist in the same codebase for a while
- you need an effective way to control access to features so they don't launch before they're ready

Controlling access to features

Gatekeeper



```
if is_feature_launched("like_button") {  
    showLikeButton()  
}
```

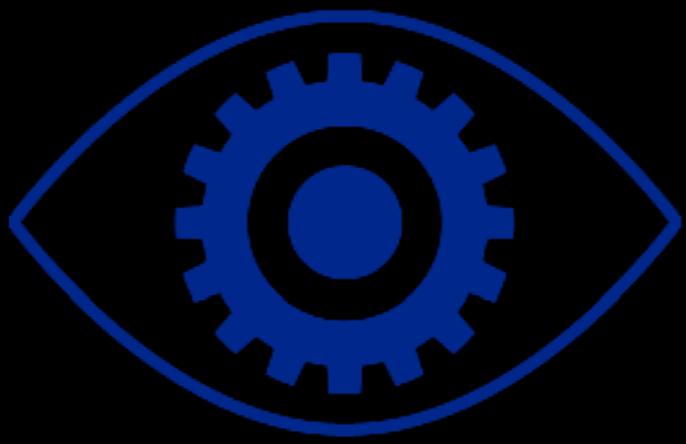
Gatekeeper

- allowing features to have states like "3%" instead of just "on" or "off"
allows you to roll out features gradually and watch for trouble
- if you perform A/B testing, integrating A/B tests with feature rollouts is probably a natural fit.
- building a control panel where you hit "Save" and all production servers immediately reflect the change allows you to quickly turn things off if there are problems

Recommendations on Revision Control

**When projects scale, strategies
which enforce one idea is one
commit are better**

- when one idea is many commits, everything you do is more complicated because you need to figure out which commits represent an idea
- release engineering is greatly simplified
- automated testing is greatly simplified
- understanding changes is greatly simplified
- there is no clear value in having checkpoint commits



PHABRICATOR

review code

host git/svn/mercurial

build with continuous integration

review designs

discuss in internal chat channels

Writing reviewable code

- the smallest a commit can be is a single cohesive idea
- there should be a one-to-one mapping between ideas and commit
- turn large commits into small commits by dividing large problems into small problems
- write sensible commit messages

Title

Summary:

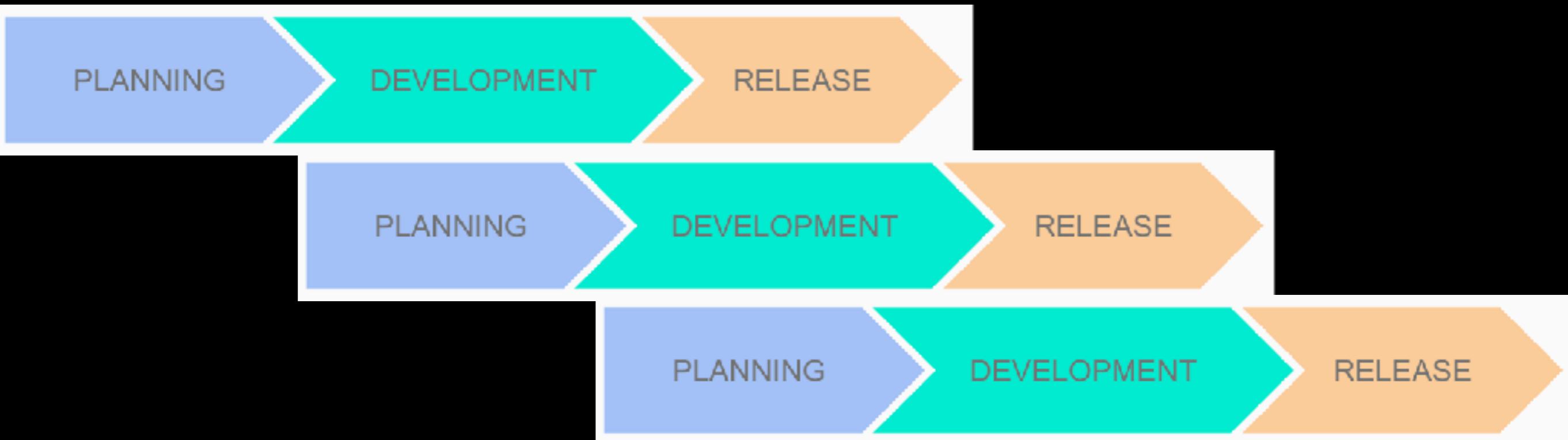
Brief explanation what you have done in this commit

Test plan:

- exhaustive test plan
- writing down edge cases
- ‘it works’ or ‘it compiles’ is not a good test plan
- error handling, service impact, performance, unit tests, concurrent change robustness, revert plan, security

Development cycle

“A week of coding can save you an hour of thinking.”



Two week cycle

	Cycle Planning Meeting		M	T	W	T	F
	Development - DEV						
	Hard cut - DEV						
	Testing and polishing - OPS						
	Release - OPS						

Development cycle

- Do not postpone releases to ship features.
- Ship a subset of the feature to meet the release deadline.
- During planning phase - split features into smaller batches.
- When you're blocked, resolve the problem, ask for help.
- Report progress regularly. And setbacks.

Testing

- Engineer
- Dogfooding
- gatekeeper
- Quick experiments
- Monitoring metrics



Speed up your builds

It encourages the creation of small, reusable modules

Add reproducibility to your builds

Better understanding your dependencies

Component Kit



A React-Inspired View Framework for iOS

one-way data flow from immutable models to immutable components

No need to do any calculations for view layout

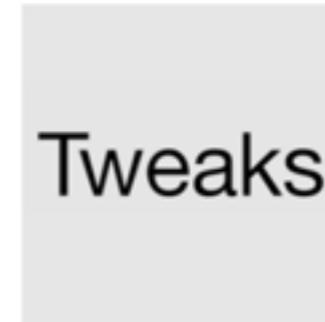
Snapshot testing

<https://github.com/facebook/ios-snapshot-test-case>

It's straightforward to test logic code, but less obvious how you should test views

FBSnapshotTestCase

<https://code.facebook.com/projects/ios/>



Shimmer for iOS



pop

```
#!/usr/bin/python
# Example file with custom commands, located in the same directory as lldb

import lldb
import FBlldbBase as FB

def lldbCommands():
    return [ PrintKeyWindowLevel() ]

class PrintKeyWindowLevel(FB.FBCommand):
    def name(self):
        return 'pkeywindowlevel'

    def description(self):
        return 'An incredibly contrived command to demonstrate how to add your own commands to lldb's command shell.'
```

chisel

Swift at Bellabeat

transitioning from obj c to swift

far less crashes

far less code

rxSwift

single repo - shared code in modules



Takeaways

switch from pushing feature branches to remote - to single master/remote branch

create a mechanism that allows you to switch off features

create small reusable modules

keep up with the open source community

most of the problems happen only when your repo hits a specific velocity

Thank you