

★ ReviewProcess

Describes the process for conducting a source code review.

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Phases

A source code review consists of three phases that should be close to each other but must not necessarily be directly followed by each other. The phases are *preparation inspection meeting* and *rework*.

Preparation

Every inspector receives the source code for the review and a checklist that leads him on his way through the source code. Every inspector creates a list of errors that he has found. This is done by every inspector on his own.

A role is assigned to every inspector in order to improve the productivity of the review. With this approach different aspects of the source code can be covered. The roles are *maintainer*, *architect*, *tester*, *web developer* and *application user*.

A separate wiki page describes the [roles and the checklist](#).

Inspection meeting

The moderator defines a person - which is not the author - that describes the concept of the source code and reads out the source code line by line. The scribe writes down every finding that the inspectors have found. It is not wise to discuss about possible solutions to errors.

It is important that the author is not criticized during the review. The review should be a positive experience for the author.

Rework

After the review the moderator creates an inspection report which contains all findings and describes what has been reviewed. With this collection of data the method of source code reviews can be defended against people that think that reviews are not very sensible.

The moderator assigns the fixing of the findings to a person, normally the author of the source code. The moderator is responsible that all findings that came up during the review are fixed. If the findings are too complex, a separate review meeting is conducted to inspect the source code again.

Roles

- **Moderator** The moderator leads the review.
- **Author** The author has a minor role during the review.
- **Inspector** Every person who is interested in the source code. These are usually the developers, maintainers, architects and testers.
- **Scribe** Writes down all found errors and importances of the mistakes.
- **Management** In order to keep a constructive and open atmosphere during the review, the management it is not a good idea for management people to take part in the review. They can receive a report after the review to get to know the results of the review.