APPROACHING A NEW CODEBASE

An intuitive guide

WHAT IS A CODE BASE?

- Source code is a plain text list of commands

- Collection of source code used to build software

- Architecture describes the design and structure

- Usually measured in lines of code (LOC) and size of files

- Open vs Closed Source governs visibility

EXAMPLES OF CODEBASES ✕

- React JS (Open Source)

- VS Code (Open Source)

- Tensorflow (Open Source)

- Microsoft Office (Closed Source)

- MacOS (Closed Source)

- Skype (Closed Source)

FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF ✕

- Understand the bigger picture

- You DON'T need to understand the whole codebase

- Take note of the structure of the codebase

- Search for specific information in the code

- Read the documentation

- Read through the test suites

DOCUMENTATION

- High level descriptions of different aspects of a codebase

- Helps end users understand a project's functionality

- Best ones are clear and concise

- Can exist in many places (README, blog, site)

- Comments can only do so much

DOCUMENTATION CONT.

- Read documentation actively

- Review multiple sources

- Look for a tutorials and examples section

- API Reference is a glossary of code

LOCAL SETUP

- Download a copy of the project

- Configure your local environment

- Run the code

- Locate what you'd like to work on

LOCAL SETUP CONT.

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- Get accustomed to naming conventions

- Follow import statements closely

- Take note of external dependencies

- Make sense of the business logic

MAKING CHANGES

- Start writing when you're most comfortable

- Debug and log events in the code

- Research if you are stuck

- Write insightful comments

- Write test cases

MAKING CHANGES CONTD.

- Update documentation if necessary

- Create Pull Request when finished with changes

- Be open to feedback during code review

- Pat yourself of the back when you're changes are merged 😊

- Keep up to date with the latest changes to the codebase

EXERCISE

Hands on activity

BACKGROUND

- Fleet is a ride sharing company like Uber and Lyft

- It's an early startup based in Silicon Valley

- Has received $23 million in Series A funding

- Named one of Y Combinator's hot startups

YOUR JOB

✕

- You're an engineer at Fleet

- You're apart of a crew of talented and hardworking people

- You're tasked with building out Fleet's core system

- See the github repo for more info

WRAP UP

How'd it go?