



Exercise 5.2: Is it Better to Submit Small or Large Patches?

Suppose you are making a rather large set of changes to a project. Is it better to:

- Submit a sequential series of bite-size patches that are easier to digest, even if there is not much functionality until all are accepted.
- Wait until the work is essentially complete and submit one or two large change sets.

✔ Solution 5.2

Usually small and incremental patch sets are preferred. This has the advantage that they are easier to understand, and if something is not quite right, it is preferable to catch it early and nip it in the bud.

Larger patch sets tend to overwhelm reviewers and maintainers. Sometimes they are just refused out of hand for that reason.

There is no hard and fast rule here and some projects might like to see the complete set. Sometimes it is very hard to test anything until the work is complete, as the intermediate evolutionary steps are just that. However, smaller patch sets are more often the preferred method.