Jenkins

& Continuous Integration

What is it?

- Continuous integration server - **detects** changes in Subversion, **performs** tasks, **repeatedly**. (Build, Test, Deploy, Test, Package)
- Seven years old approx
- 47000+ installations
- 600+ plugins
- A fork of the original Hudson project

Why do we need it?

- To integrate more frequently, detect errors quicker, improve quality and reduce cost
- Co-ordinate the running of tasks as part of workflows.
- Compile, test and package, deploy, script, verify, build vm's

Jenkins Alternatives

TeamCity - allows for personal builds, pre-tested commits

Bamboo - Atlassians CI server, good, but somewhat inflexible

Cruise Control - bleurgh, old, behind the times

Cron and bash...

Terminology

- **Job** - a unit of work for a project
- **View** - user defined collection of jobs or a workflow
- **Master** - the central Jenkins master, does job scheduling
- **Slave** - executes one or more jobs within slots (executors)

Terminology (more)

- **Workspace** - the working area where a job is carried out
- **Plugin** - user defined collection of jobs or a workflow

Jenkins Architecture

cismaster

Slaves connect to cismaster over JNLP

jenkins-modslave
Windows XP
Java JDK 6

cisrwin1
Windows 7
R (2.8.1 and upwards)

cisjava1
Centos 5.9
Java JDK 6

cisjava2
Centos 5.9
Java JDK 6

javalinuxslaves

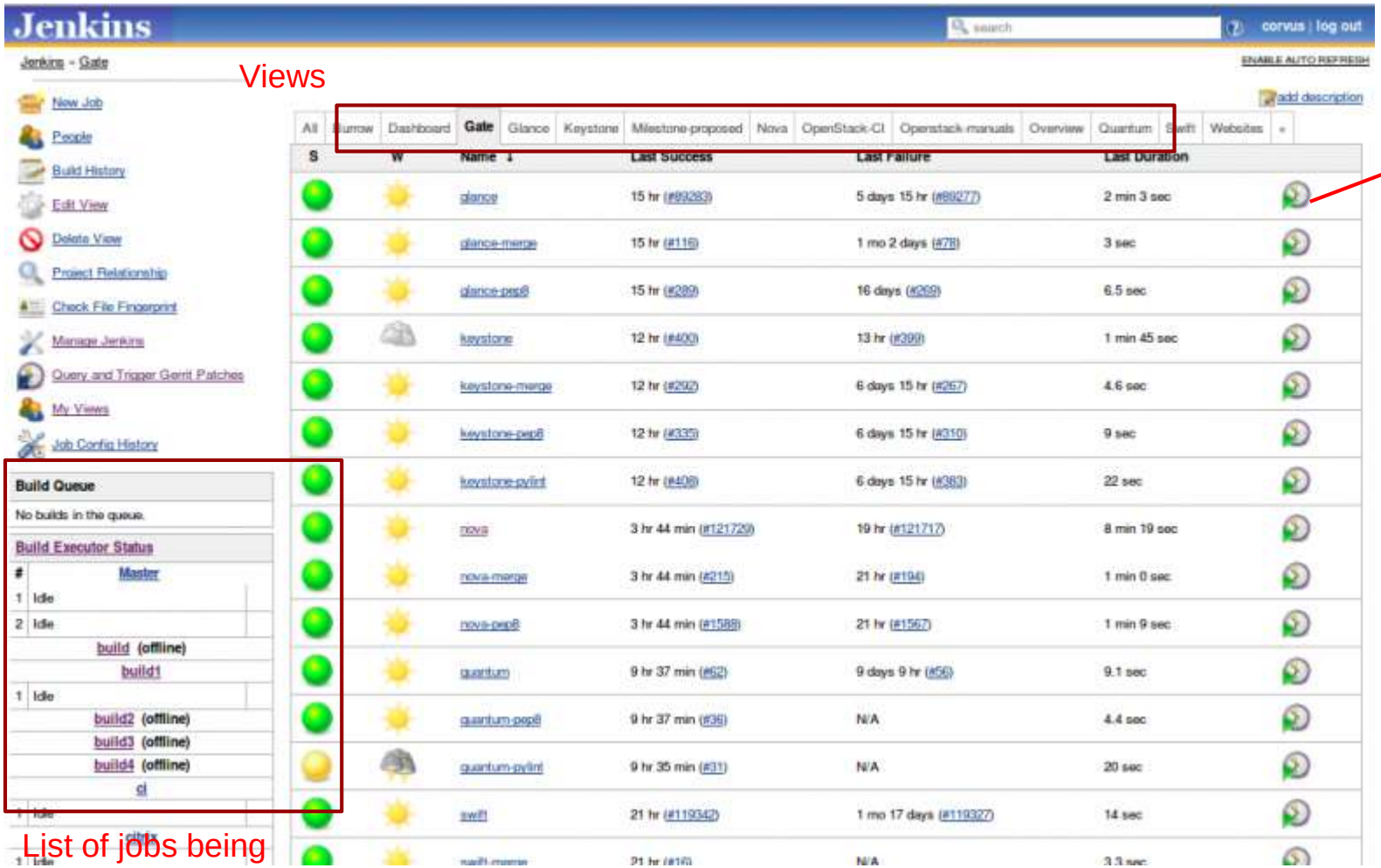
cisjavawin
Windows 7
Java JDK 6

javawindowsslaves

cislave-w7net4
Windows 7
.NET 4

cisr1
Centos 5.9
R (2.8.1 and upwards)

Jenkins Main User Interface



Job Creation

- Let's create a job to compile and test a project...

[Walkthrough]

Jenkins Job Types

We have:

- Java (Maven) jobs
- Java (Ant) jobs
- R (Ant) jobs
- R (batch) jobs
- Bash scripts (almost)

plus:

- Server Deployment jobs
- Formal Software Release jobs

Workflows - Job Pipelines

You can chain jobs together in a pipeline.

Promotion occurs when a job succeeds

Then the next job in the pipeline executes (based on some conditions)

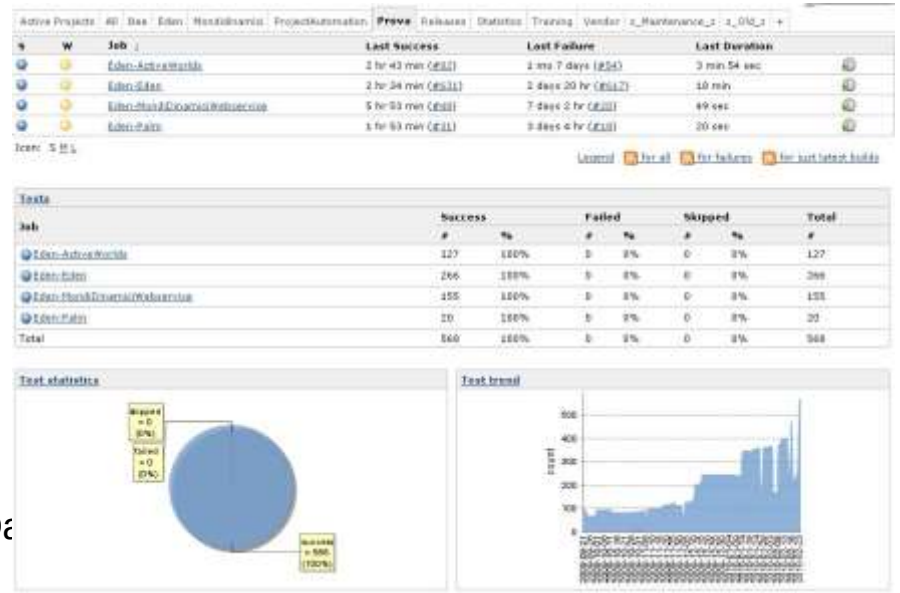
[Walkthrough]

Custom Jenkins Views

You can build your own views of Jenkins jobs

Jobs of interest that you're working on

You can also build custom views with the dashboard plugin



- https://wiki.jenkins-ci.org/display/JENKINS/Da

Investigating a Failure

Look at the build log in detail

Try executing the job on the slave (via SSH)

Permissions are a common issue

[Walkthrough]

Jenkins Plugins

- Subversion - polls for changes to build
- Sonar - publishes metrics on builds
- Parameterised triggers - trigger builds on conditions
- Copy Artifact - copy artifact for completed builds
- Workflow - setup build workflows
- JClouds - provisions environments

Jenkins Tips

When a job fails - **claim the failure** so people know what's going on. Send an email out

Use parameterised builds - **don't hardcode paths** to R, Java etc... think generic

Don't install dependencies on Jenkins build servers. Build your own environment!

Where Next With Jenkins?

1. **Information Radiators** (build wall) plugin and some hardware to display project stats

2. **Validated Merge** - ensure changes are good

3. Continuous **Automation** - automate other tasks

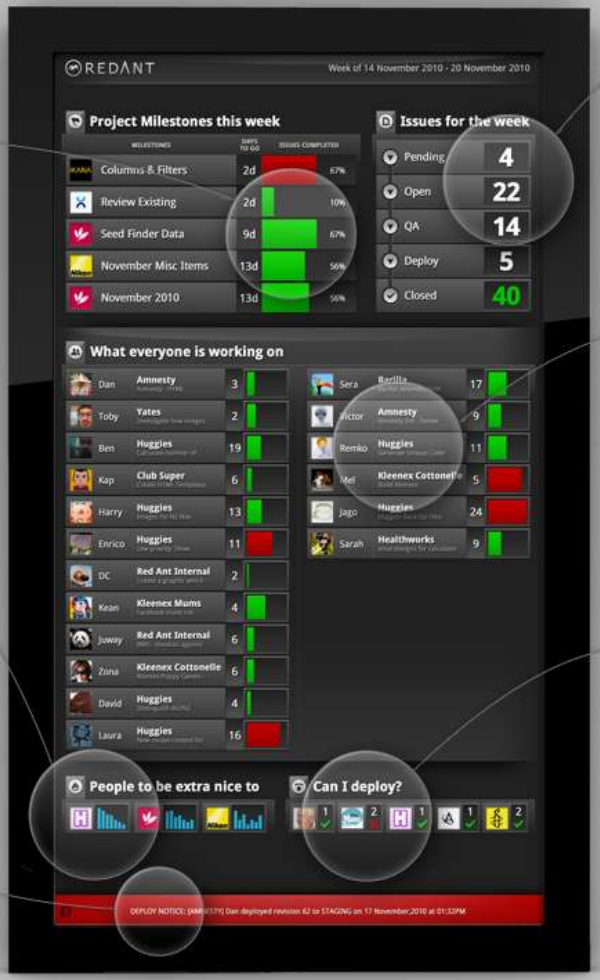
1. Information Radiators

RedAnt's Ultimate Wallboard

Projects
These are milestones that are coming up – so how many days to go and how many issues are outstanding. We compare the information we have in Jira (our issue tracker) to Harvest (our time sheet system). If there are more issues than we have time left in the budget, the project goes red.

Be nice
This pulls information from a tool we've made to track interactions. We look at lots of different things to measure how well a project is going - number of issues, whether it is on budget, etc. One thing we weren't looking at is how well customer interactions were going- how well did that meeting or phone call go? So we built a tool to measure this- hopefully it will provide some interesting data.

Alert message - calling all cars
We have various alerts popping up down the bottom - this one is from Capistrano letting us know that Dan has just deployed to Staging (really helpful if you just happen to be walking the client through the site at the same time). These also pop up in Campfire. Other alerts include ones from Hoptoad and New Relic RPM.



Issues for the week
We wanted to create an overall list of issues for the week. On some projects we have sprints or deadlines where we are trying to close off a certain number of issues. But we wanted to have something that would give the overall numbers at a glance. The point being to get as many closed this week as we can.

Who is working on what
This is a list of what everyone is working on- the project name and the specific task. Next to that is the number of issues they have this week. Since not all issues are created equal (one might take 10min, another might take 10h), the graph shows the amount of time. This goes red if a person has more time than everyone else (a hint to PMs to reschedule something)

Can I deploy?
This was designed to answer one of our most common Campfire questions - "Am I OK to deploy Project X?" Our PMs had an issue where work was being done, but then it was unclear whether it had been done and committed, or also moved onto staging or production. There was a separate problem where some tasks were "deploy blockers", and had to get completed before the next deploy. This answers those - it tells everyone how many issues are ready to deploy, and whether there is anything lurking around that they should be aware of.

2. Validated Merge

- Dev **commits** to branch
- Jenkins **tests** branch and **merges** into trunk (if successful)
- Mistake doesn't impact other people
- Slower (in terms of admin), but not in terms of team productivity

3. Continuous Automation

- Automate more **tests**
- Automate our **Infrastructure**
  - Automate **VM creation/"The Cloud"**

Questions?