Code Review Practices

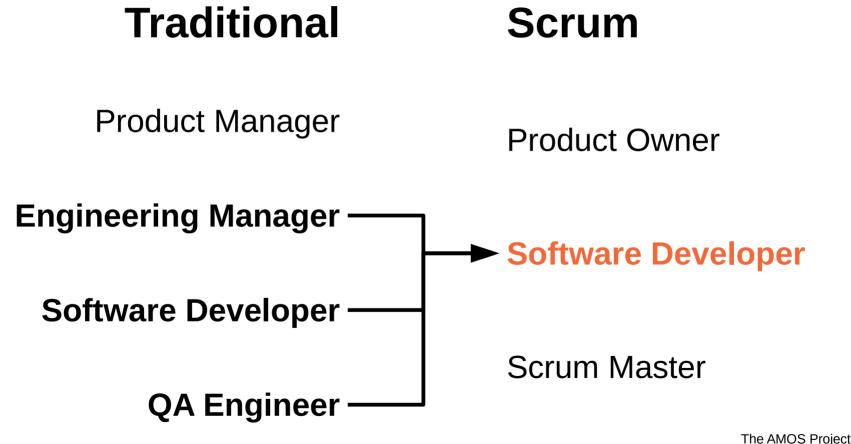
Prof. Dr. Dirk Riehle

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

AMOS F01

Licensed under CC BY 4.0 International

Traditional to Scrum Role Mapping (Recap)



Code Review

- Definition and purpose
 - "Code review is systematic examination [...] of computer source code.
 - It is intended to find and fix mistakes overlooked in the initial development phase,
 - improving both the overall quality of software
 - and the developers' skills.
 - Reviews are done in various forms such as
 - pair programming,
 - informal walkthroughs, and
 - formal inspections." [1]

When to Review Code?

- 1. In the moment
- 2. Before commit
- 3. At another time
- 4. Before release

Pair Programming

Definition

- Is programming carried out by pairs of programmers
- One programmer implements, and the other programmer reviews
- Effectiveness is debated; empirical studies show conflicting evidence

Purpose

- Quality assurance
- Collaborative learning
- Knowledge sharing

Synonyms

- Programmer and reviewer
- Driver and co-driver
- Pilot and navigator

Agile Code Review Practices

- 1. Pair programming
- 2. Pre-commit code review

Pair Programming (Practices)

Process

- Find comfortable partner
- Switch roles often
- Communicate regularly



Advice

- Don't force it for small stuff
- Don't overheat, take a break
- Switch partners at times



Dilbert on Pair Programming 1 / 2

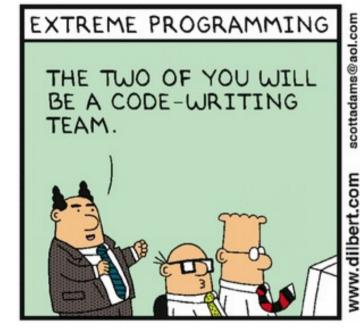


FIRST, PICK A
PARTNER. THE TWO
OF YOU WILL WORK
AT ONE COMPUTER
FOR FORTY HOURS
A WEEK.



THE NEW SYSTEM IS A MINUTE OLD AND I ALREADY HATE EVERYONE. 2002 United 00

Dilbert on Pair Programming 2 / 2



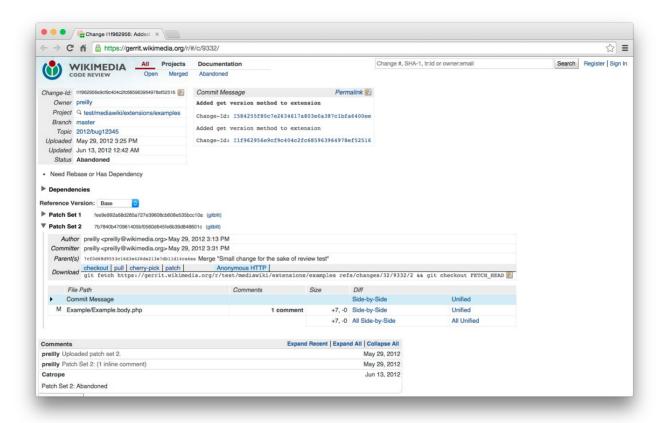
STUDIES PROVE THAT TWO PROGRAMMERS ON ONE COMPUTER IS THE MOST PRODUC-TIVE ARRANGEMENT.



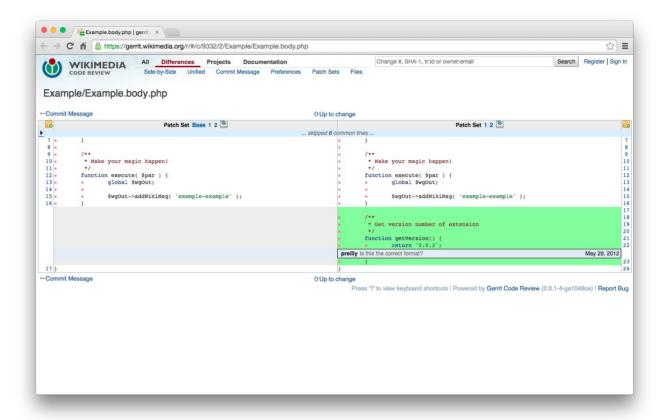
Pre-Commit Code Review

- Code review
 - Is the (peer) review of source code for quality criteria
 - Reviewer has accept or reject responsibility
 - Cf. "Vier-Augen-Prinzip" (in German)
- Pre-commit code review
 - Is the review of source code before it gets committed to a team repository
 - Typically facilitated by a software tool, e.g. Gerrit
 - May lead to back and forth between developers until "LGTM"

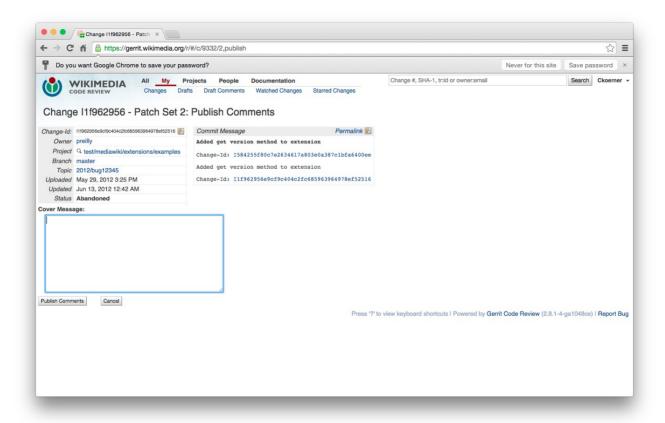
Example Code Review with Gerrit 1/3



Example Code Review with Gerrit 2/3



Example Code Review with Gerrit 3/3



Benefits of Pre-commit Code Review

- Collaboration
 - Improves knowledge sharing and teamwork
 - Makes it easier to establish topics like security
- Quality assurance
 - Leads to more disciplined developers
 - Prevents (some) errors before they happen
 - Raises overall quality standards
- Feeling of responsibility
 - Specifically, supports collective code ownership
 - Strengthens overall feeling of responsibility

Agile vs. Open Source Code Review

Agile methods

- Programming guidelines
 - Code reading >> writing
 - Make it easy to get acquainted
- Collective code ownership
 - Feature-oriented development
 - Typically co-located development
 - Everyone has write access
- Pair programming
 - Changes are reviewed directly
 - Everyone is a peer

Open source

- Programming guidelines
 - Code reading >> writing
 - Showing respect for project
- Individual code ownership
 - Component-oriented development
 - Typically distributed development
 - Strictly regulated write access
- Patch review
 - Changes are submitted for review
 - Two-class reviewing hierarchy

Review / Summary of Session

- Code review practices
 - Pair programming
 - Pre-commit code review
- Agile vs. open source approach

Thank you! Questions?

dirk.riehle@fau.de – http://osr.cs.fau.de

dirk@riehle.org – http://dirkriehle.com – @dirkriehle

Credits and License

- Original version
 - © 2020 Dirk Riehle, some rights reserved
 - Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License
- Contributions
 - None yet