





Containerized CI/CD based on GitLab runners

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Outline - CI/CD

- 1. Why?
- 2. How
- 3. Missing and possible features





Why?

- Enforcement of containers
 - Easier moving to new platforms
 - Test setup on own machine, ship same setup to HPC centre
 - Container engine is developed by CSCS, ensuring near native performance
- Enforcement of common CI/CD best practices
 - We know that a CI pipeline will (almost) always consist of a build-step and a test-step



Why?

- Jenkins:
 - Allows running bare metal tests
 - Has access to Crays programming environments
 - Complicated when containerized CI is wanted
- Containerised GitLab runner setup:
 - Easy access to build containers and run them on CSCS machines
 - CI recipe is part of the repository



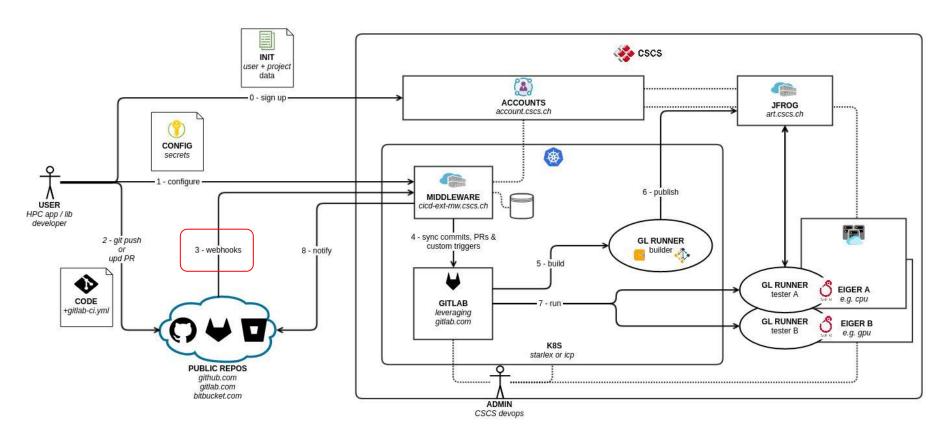


How

- But my project is not hosted at GitLab, how can I use your GitLab runners?
 - A middleware communicates between your repository (github, bitbucket, GitLab) and a mirror repository in GitLab
 - Middleware takes all the work to keep your repository and the mirror repository in sync (mirror repository is automatically created, no user interaction required)
 - Middleware informs your repository about build results

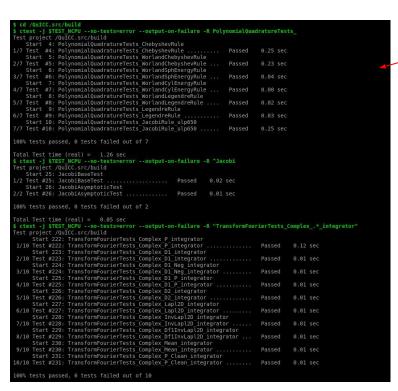


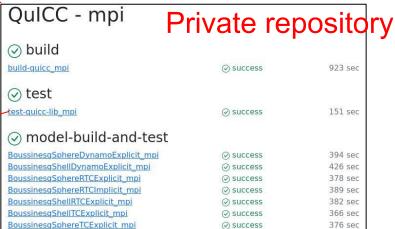
How - Setup















How

- Let your repository be registered
 - a. You will receive webhook details (a webhook URL with ID, a secret)
- 2. Setup webhook

(https://cicd-ext-mw.cscs.ch/ci/webhook_ci?id=MY_REPO_ID)

- a. webhooks have a secret, requests with the wrong secret are rejected
- b. repository ids are tied to a git url, i.e. you cannot reuse the same ID for another git repository webhook, the webhook events will be rejected
- 3. Setup CI (https://cicd-ext-mw.cscs.ch/ci/setup_ci)
 - a. Credentials are username: repository id, password: webhook secret
- 4. Commit pipeline yml files to your repository (gitlab Cl documentation is a good starting point)



How - CI and Gitlab terms

- One repository has many pipelines
- One pipeline has one entrypoint
- One pipeline has many stages
- One stage has many jobs
- Every job has a script tag, which contains the commands to be executed
- One pipeline creates one status report in the original repository
- Implementation detail: One pipeline is a fully mirrored repository on GitLab (because GitLab knows only of one entrypoint per repository)
- Private repos are mirrored to a private repo in gitlab



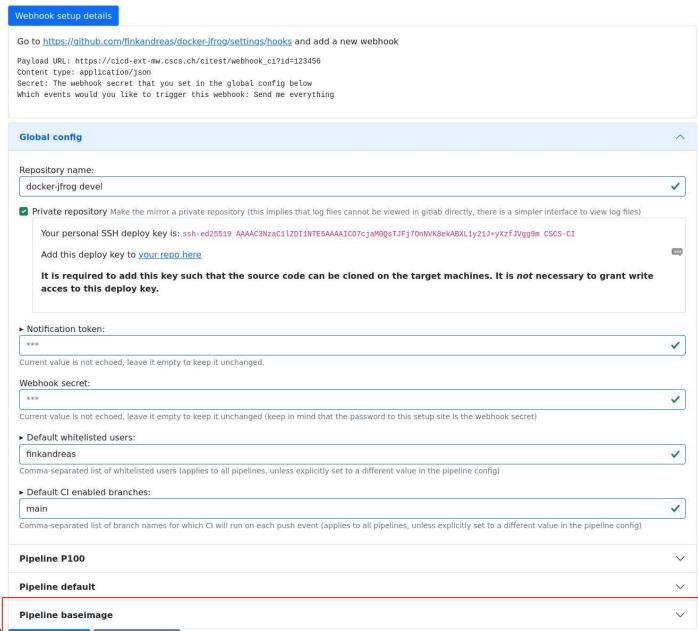
How - When is a CI pipeline triggered

- A repository has a default set of branches that are triggering on every push
- A pipeline can overwrite this set of branches
- A pull request (not from a forked repository) that is targeting one of the branches that triggers a pipeline, will also trigger pipelines
- A pull request from a forked repository is only triggering the pipeline, when the user is white-listed
- White-listed user can be set on repository level or overwritten on pipeline level



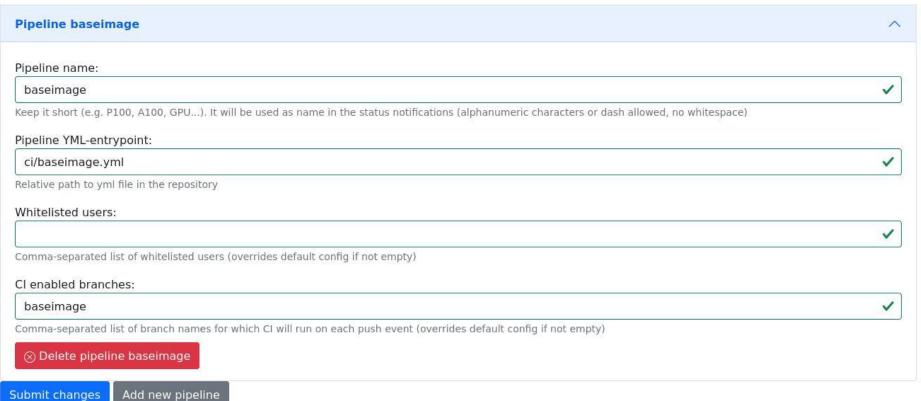


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Add new pipeline



How - Typical pipeline

- A pipeline has (typically at least) two stages
 - Build stage (docker_jfrog runner)
 - A new docker image is created and pushed to a registry (JFrog)
 - Test stage (daint-container runner)
 - The newly created image will be pulled and
 (MPI)-tests are being run inside the new container





How - Docker-JFrog runner

- This runner takes a Dockerfile as input and produces a new docker image as output
- Image is pushed automatically to JFrog (jfrog.svc.cscs.ch)
- Image name is static (<u>predefined variables</u> can be used)
- Instead of a Dockerfile the commands can be given directly too
- Hosted at

https://gitlab.com/cscs-ci/ci-testing/webhook-ci/gitlab-runner-docker-jfrog





How - Docker-JFrog runner

Example without Dockerfile

```
tags:
   - docker_jfrog
stage: build
image: ubuntu:22.04
script:
   - mkdir build
   - cd build
   - cmake -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX=/opt/hello ..
   - make -j2
   - make install
variables:
PERSIST_IMAGE_NAME: ${CSCS_REGISTRY_PATH}/my_project:1.0
```

Example with Dockerfile

```
tags:
   - docker_jfrog
stage: build
variables:
   PERSIST_IMAGE_NAME: ${CSCS_REGISTRY_PATH}/my_project:1.0
   DOCKERFILE: ci/docker/Dockerfile
```

Generated Dockerfile

FROM ubuntu:22.04
WORKDIR /sources
COPY . /sources
RUN buildscript.sh

Generated by runner and copied to the root directory of the git source directory (filename is not really buildscript.sh, to avoid overwriting files)





How - Slurm-Sarus-Runner

- This runner has a container image as input and runs
 executables inside the container (on N nodes with M tasks)
- All slurm environment variables are supported and alter the job setup (number of nodes, number of tasks, output, time limit, etc)
- N containers are spawned that can communicate via MPI
- Inside the container it is not possible to spawn another MPI environment, i.e. the running container is the MPI environment
- https://gitlab.com/cscs-ci/gitlab-runner-slurm-sarus



How - Slurm sarus runner

```
tags:
   - daint-container
stage: test
image: ${PERSIST_IMAGE_NAME}}
script:
   - /opt/my_project/bin/my_binary
variables:
   PULL_IMAGE: 'YES'
   CSCS_REGISTRY_LOGIN: 'YES'
   SLURM_JOB_NUM_NODES: 2
   SLURM_PARTITION: normal
   SLURM_NTASKS: 2
```



```
How - Full yml file
stages: [build, test]
variables:
  PERSIST_IMAGE_NAME: $CSCS_REGISTRY_PATH/my_image:${CI_COMMIT_BRANCH}
build_job:
  tags: [docker_jfrog]
  stage: build
  variables:
    DOCKERFILE: ci/docker/Dockerfile
test_job1:
  stage: test
  image: ${PERSIST_IMAGE_NAME}
  script:
    - /opt/my_project/bin/my_binary arg_1 arg_2
    - /opt/my_project/bin/my_binary arg_A arg_B
variables:
  PULL_IMAGE: 'YES'
  CSCS_REGISTRY_LOGIN: 'YES'
  SLURM_JOB_NUM_NODES: 1
  SLURM_PARTITION: normal
  SLURM_NTASKS: 1
test_job2:
  stage: test
  image: ${PERSIST_IMAGE_NAME}
  script:
    - /opt/my_project/bin/other_binary
variables:
  PULL_IMAGE: 'YES'
  CSCS_REGISTRY_LOGIN: 'YES'
  SLURM_JOB_NUM_NODES: 2
  SLURM_PARTITION: normal
  SLURM_NTASKS: 2
```



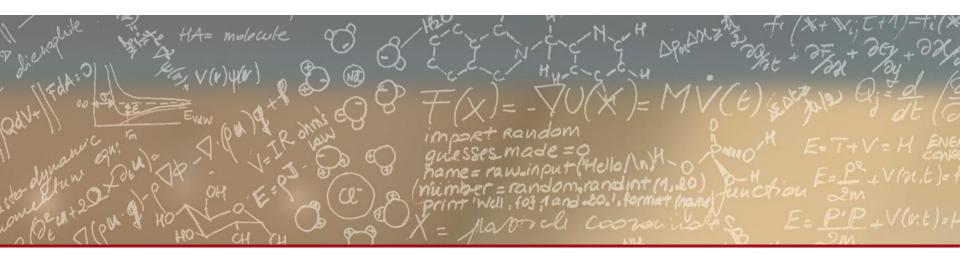
Missing features

- Many features are still missing, it's a work in progress
- No secrets management at the moment
- Container image names are static -> no matrix pipeline setup (could be worked around by having many pipelines dynamically created with a script)
- No bare metal access
- No sarus slurm GitLab runner on Eiger (or other Alps system)
- No docker runner on Alps
 - One docker_jfrog runner per CPU architecture is planned









Thank you for your attention. Time for some questions.

