# Using Nix to Create Reproducible Go Development Environments

#### Introduction

- Haseeb Majid
  - Backend Software Engineer at Curve
  - https://haseebmajid.dev
- Loves cats
- Avid cricketer #BazBall

#### Who is this for?

- Interested in Nix
- Consistent development environments
  - Old project; still works
  - New developers
  - "It works on my machine"



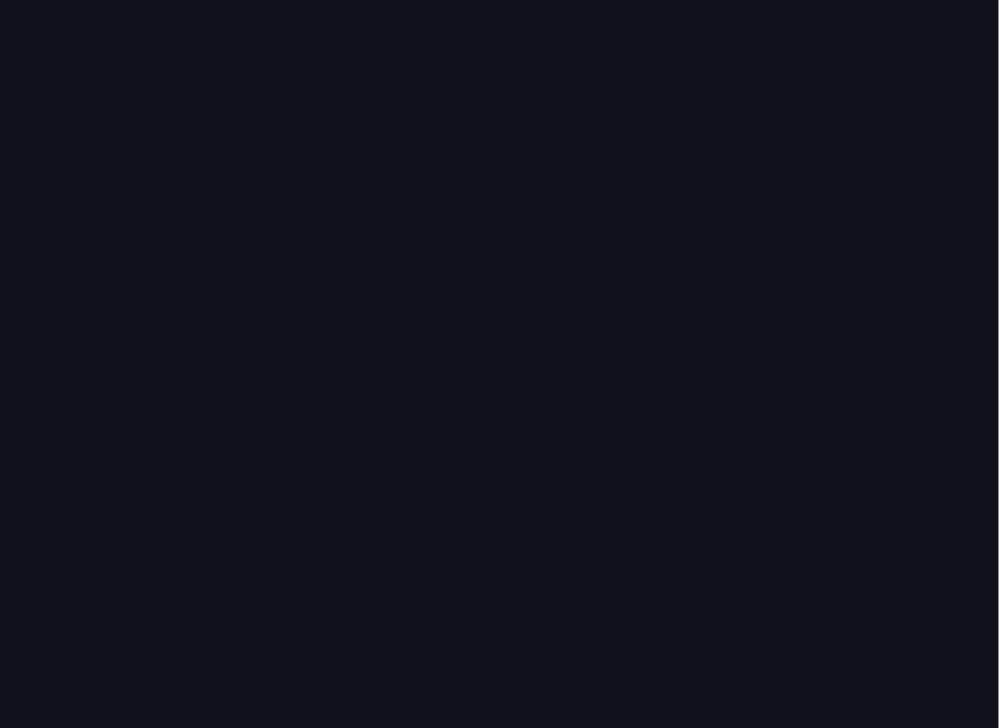
Credit

#### What is Nix?

- Nix is a declarative package manager
- Nixlang the programming language that powers Nix
- Nixpkgs is the largest repository of Nix packages

#### Declarative

```
{
  wayland.windowManager.sway.enable = true;
  xsession.windowManager.i3.enable = false;
}
```





#### Summary

- We want reproducible and ephemeral environments
- Nix is an ecosystem of tools

>

# Golang

- Tools to aid development
  - lint
  - testing
  - docker

# tools.go

```
1 // +build tools
2
3 package main
4
5 import (
6 _ "github.com/golangci/golangci-lint/cmd/golangci-lint"
7 _ "github.com/goreleaser/goreleaser"
8 )
```

# tools.go

```
1 // +build tools
2
3 package main
4
5 import (
6 _ "github.com/golangci/golangci-lint/cmd/golangci-lint"
7 _ "github.com/goreleaser/goreleaser"
8 )
```

go run github.com/..../cmd/golangci-lint

```
description = "I use Nix btw!";
4
    inputs = {
5
      nixpkgs.url = "github:NixOS/nixpkgs";
6
      flake-utils.url = "github:numtide/flake-utils";
    };
    outputs = {
      self,
      nixpkgs,
      flake-utils,
```

```
HIXPKES ULL = GILHUD:NIXUS/HIXPKES
       flake-utils.url = "github:numtide/flake-utils";
9
     outputs = {
10
       self,
       nixpkgs,
11
12
       flake-utils,
13
14
     }: (
       flake-utils.lib.eachDefaultSystem
       (system: let
         nude - nivnude ladaryDarkadae ({cyctam}:
```

```
outputs = {
       self,
       nixpkgs,
       flake-utils,
15
       flake-utils.lib.eachDefaultSystem
       (system: let
         pkgs = nixpkgs.legacyPackages.${system};
18
       in {
20
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
           packages = with pkgs; [
```

```
flake-utils,
       flake-utils.lib.eachDefaultSystem
       (system: let
18
         pkgs = nixpkgs.legacyPackages.${system};
       in {
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
           packages = with pkgs; [
             go_1_22
             golangci-lint
             gotools
```

```
flake-utils.lib.eachDefaultSystem
       (system: let
         pkgs = nixpkgs.legacyPackages.${system};
18
       in {
20
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
           packages = with pkgs; [
             go_1_22
             golangci-lint
             gotools
             go-junit-report
             gocover-cobertura
```

```
flake-utils.lib.eachDefaultSystem
       (system: let
         pkgs = nixpkgs.legacyPackages.${system};
18
       in {
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
21
           packages = with pkgs; [
             go_1_22
             golangci-lint
             gotools
             go-junit-report
             gocover-cobertura
             go-task
```

```
1N {
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
            packages = with pkgs; [
22
              go_1_22
23
              golangci-lint
24
              gotools
25
              go-junit-report
26
              gocover-cobertura
27
              go-task
              goreleaser
28
29
              sqlc
```

```
1 example on / main via  v1.22.8
2  which golangei-lint
3
4 example on / main via  v1.22.8
5  nix develop
6
7 example on / main via  v1.22.8  impure (nix-shell-end)
8  which golangei-lint
9 /nix/store/kcd...golangei-lint-1.56.2/bin/golangei-lint
```

```
nix run 'gitlab:hmajid2301/optinix' get --no-tui
  # Output
   Option: 0
   Name: services.prometheus.scrapeConfigs.*.docker_sd_col
  Type: null or string
8 Default: null
   Example:
10 From: NixOS
11 Sources: [/nix/store/xr9wjzx0cdnwkmhzz74h8lphgn5jmyv3-
```

```
1 nix run 'gitlab:hmajid2301/optinix' get --no-tui
  # Output
4
   Option: 0
   Name: services.prometheus.scrapeConfigs.*.docker_sd_co
7 Type: null or string
8 Default: null
   Example:
   From: NixOS
10
   Sources: [/nix/store/xr9wjzx0cdnwkmhzz74h8lphgn5jmyv3-
```

#### Summary

- Leverage dev shells for installing packages
  - nix develop
- Make sure each dev gets the same package
  - nix flake update

#### direnv

```
# .envrc
use flake
```

Direnv Code "use flake"

```
1 > which golangci-lint
3 > cd banterbus
4 direnv: error /home/haseeb/banterbus/.envrc
5 is blocked. Run `direnv allow` to approve
6 its content
  banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.7
9 > direnv allow
10 direnv: loading ~/banterbus/.envrc
  direnv: using flake
12 direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
```

```
1 > which golangci-lint
3 > cd banterbus
4 direnv: error /home/haseeb/banterbus/.envrc
5 is blocked. Run `direnv allow` to approve
6 its content
  banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.7
9 > direnv allow
10 direnv: loading ~/banterbus/.envrc
  direnv: using flake
12 direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
```

```
1 > which golangci-lint
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6 its content
  banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.7
9 > direnv allow
10 direnv: loading ~/banterbus/.envrc
11 direnv: using flake
12 direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
```

```
3 > cd banterbus
4 direnv: error /home/haseeb/banterbus/.envrc
5 is blocked. Run `direnv allow` to approve
6 its content
  banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.7
9 > direnv allow
10 direnv: loading ~/banterbus/.envrc
11 direnv: using flake
12 direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
15 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🗱 impure (nix-
```

```
is blocked. Run difenvallow to approve
 6 its content
  banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.7
9 > direnv allow
   direnv: loading ~/banterbus/.envrc
   direnv: using flake
11
12 direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
13
   . . .
15 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🕸 impure (nix-
16 > which golangei-lint
17 /nix/store/kcd...golangci-lint-1.56.2/bin/golangci-lin
```

# Usage

```
To differing coading ~/ pauretons/ envic
11 direnv: using flake
12 direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
15 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🗱 impure (nix-
16 > which golangei-lint
   /nix/store/kcd...golangci-lint-1.56.2/bin/golangci-lin
18
19 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🗱 impure (nix-
20 > cd ...
21 direnv: unloading
23 \ which dolandci_lint
```

# Usage

```
11 direnv: using flake
   direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
15 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🗱 impure (nix-
16 > which golangei-lint
   /nix/store/kcd...golangci-lint-1.56.2/bin/golangci-lin
18
19 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🕸 impure (nix-
20 ) cd ...
21
   direnv: unloading
23 > which golangei-lint
```

# Usage

```
11 direnv: using flake
   direnv: nix-direnv: Renewed cache
15 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🕸 impure (nix-
16 > which golangei-lint
   /nix/store/kcd...golangci-lint-1.56.2/bin/golangci-lin
18
19 banterbus on / main via 🐹 v1.22.8 via 🕸 impure (nix-
20 > cd ...
21 direnv: unloading
23 > which golangci-lint
```

#### **Remote Environments**

```
# .envrc
use flake "github:the-nix-way/dev-templates?dir=go"
```

## pre-commit

```
description = "Development environment for example pro
4 inputs = {
  nixpkgs.url = "github:NixOS/nixpkgs";
6 flake-utils.url = "github:numtide/flake-utils";
   pre-commit.url = "github:cachix/pre-commit-hooks.nix";
   outputs = {
   self,
12 nixpkgs,
13 flake-utils,
```

## pre-commit

```
flake-utils.lib.eachDefaultSystem
   (system: let
18
     pkgs = nixpkgs.legacyPackages.${system};
     pre-commit-check = pre-commit.lib.${system}.run {
20
21
       src = ./.;
22
       hooks = {
23
         golangci-lint.enable = true;
24
         gotest.enable = true;
25
26
27 in {
     devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
28
       chall Hook - nra-commit-chack chall Hook:
```

### pre-commit

```
golangci-lint.enable = true;
         gotest.enable = true;
27 in {
     devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
28
       shellHook = pre-commit-check.shellHook;
29
       packages = with pkgs; [
         go_1_22
         golangci-lint
         gotools
         go-junit-report
         gocover-cobertura
```

## Summary

- We can use direnv to reduce cognitive load
- Use dev shell from remote git repository
- We can manage pre-commit in Nix as well

### How does Nix work?

```
1 { lib
2 , stdenv
3 , fetchurl
4 , tzdata
5 , substituteAll
 , iana-etc
7, Security
  , Foundation
  , xcbuild
  , mailcap
  , buildPackages
  , pkgsBuildTarget
  , threadsCross
```

#### Go Nix Expression

```
isCross = stdenv.buildPlatform != stdenv.targetPlat<sup>.</sup>
46
47 in
   stdenv.mkDerivation (finalAttrs: {
48
        pname = "go";
49
        version = "1.22.7";
50
51
52
        src = fetchurl {
            url = "https://go.dev/dl/go....";
53
            hash = "sha256-ZkMth9h...";
54
        };
55
56
     strictDeps = true;
     buildInputs = [ ]
58
```

#### Go Nix Expression

#### Evaluation

- Evaluation Time: Nix Expression (.nix) is parsed and returns a derivation set .drv
- Build Time: The derivation is built into a package

#### Derivations

```
1 /nix/store/<hash>-<name>-<version>.drv
2 /nix/store/zg65r8ys8y5865lcwmmybrq5g...-go-1.21.8.drv
3 /nix/store/z45pk6pw3h4yx0cpi51fc5nwm...-go-1.22.1.drv
```

#### Derivations

```
1 /nix/store/<hash>-<name>-<version>.drv
2 /nix/store/zg65r8ys8y5865lcwmmybrq5g...-go-1.21.8.drv
3 /nix/store/z45pk6pw3h4yx0cpi51fc5nwm...-go-1.22.1.drv
```

```
1 nix derivation show nixpkgs#go_1_21
   "/nix/store/gccilxhvxkbhm79...-go-1.21.8.drv": {
   "args": [
  "/nix/store/v6x3cs394jgqfbi0a42pam708flxaphh-defaul
   "builder": "/nix/store/5lr5n...-bash-5.2p26/bin/bash"
   "env": {
     "CGO_ENABLED": "1",
10
     "G0386": "softfloat",
12 "GOARCH": "amd64",
    "GOARM": "",
```

```
3 "/nix/store/gccilxhvxkbhm79...-go-1.21.8.drv": {
   "args": [
 6 "/nix/store/v6x3cs394jgqfbi0a42pam708flxaphh-defaul
   "builder": "/nix/store/5lr5n...-bash-5.2p26/bin/bash"
   "env": {
    "CGO_ENABLED": "1",
10
    "G0386": "softfloat",
    "GOARCH": "amd64",
    "GOARM": ""
     "GOHOSTARCH": "amd64",
```

```
3 "/nix/store/gccilxhvxkbhm79...-go-1.21.8.drv": {
 4 "args": [
    "/nix/store/v6x3cs394jgqfbi0a42pam708flxaphh-defaul
   "builder": "/nix/store/5lr5n...-bash-5.2p26/bin/bash"
   "env": {
     "CGO_ENABLED": "1",
10
     "G0386": "softfloat",
     "GOARCH": "amd64",
     "GOARM": "",
     "GOHOSTARCH": "amd64",
     "GOHOSTOS": "linux",
```

```
"src": "/nix/store/p81s0316n7snx40fwkhda4p5jczf2pff
     "stdenv": "/nix/store/c8dj731bkcdzhgrpawhc8qvdgls4x
48
     "strictDeps": "1",
     "system": "x86_64-linux",
50
     "version": "1.21.8"
   "inputDrvs": {
53
     "/nix/store/17gdfyx...-stdenv-linux.drv": {
       "dynamicOutputs": {},
       "outputs": [
56
         "out"
58
```

```
"inputDrvs": {
54
     "/nix/store/17gdfyx....-stdenv-linux.drv": {
       "dynamicOutputs": {},
55
       "outputs": [
56
          "out"
57
58
     },
59
     "/nix/store/9j2pqjj8...-mailcap-1.17.patch.drv": {
60
       "dynamicOutputs": {},
61
       "outputs": [
62
          "out"
63
64
65
```

```
105
      "/nix/store/m88mg4d43hwkkbip6dha7p858c0vm5c1-go_no_
      "/nix/store/v6x3cs394jgqfbi0a42pam708flxaphh-defaul
106
      "/nix/store/x48d0s4gns4jrck6qkwrpqn7nh9ygpx6-remove
107
108
    "name": "go-1.21.8",
109
    "outputs": {
110
      "out": {
111
        "path": "/nix/store/afv3zwqxyw062...-go-1.21.8"
112
113
114
    "system": "x86_64-linux"
115
116
```

A derivation is immutable

```
/nix/store/afv3zwqxyw062vg2j220658jq0g1yadv-go-1.21.8
   bin
   ____go -> ../share/go/bin/go
   ___gofmt -> ../share/go/bin/gofmt
   share
      — арі
      — bin
      — doc
      — go.env
      — lib
      — misc
```

Binary cache

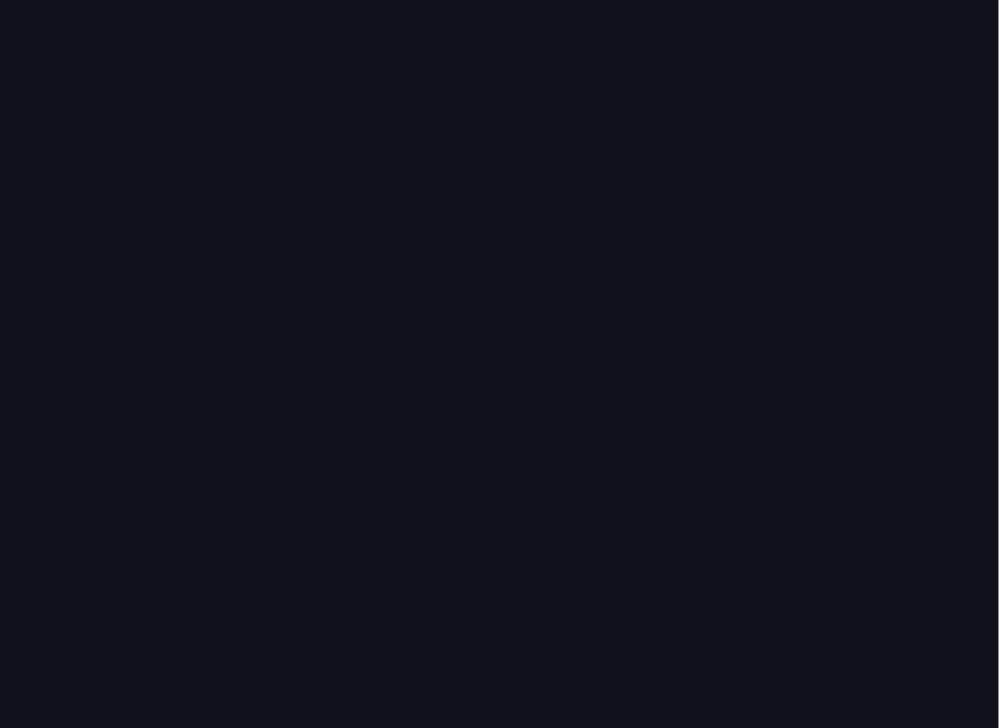
```
1 > nix-shell -p go_1_21
2
3 this path will be fetched
4 (39.16 MiB download, 204.47 MiB unpacked):
5  /nix/store/k7chjapvryi....-go-1.21.8
6 copying path '/nix/store/k7chjapvryi....-go-1.21.8'
7 from 'https://cache.nixos.org'..
```

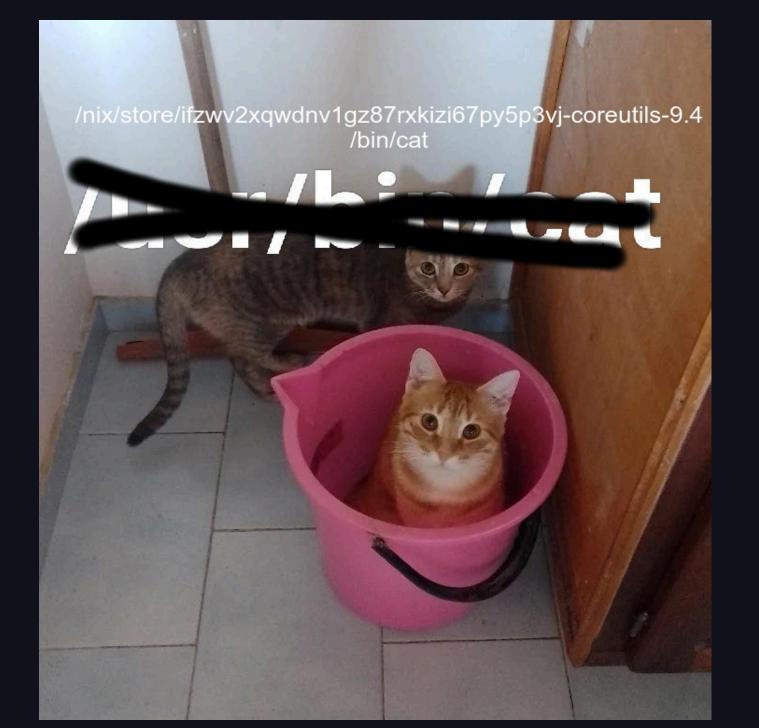
Binary cache

```
1 > nix-shell -p go_1_21
2
3 this path will be fetched
4 (39.16 MiB download, 204.47 MiB unpacked):
5  /nix/store/k7chjapvryi....-go-1.21.8
6 copying path '/nix/store/k7chjapvryi....-go-1.21.8'
7 from 'https://cache.nixos.org'..
```

Atomic updates

```
> ls -al ~/.nix-profile/bin
                                , -> /nix/store/09irdfc2nq;
lrwxrwxrwx - root
                    1 Jan
                    1 Jan
                                 accessdb -> /nix/store/09ii
                           1970
lrwxrwxrwx
           - root
                                 addgnupghome -> /nix/store/
lrwxrwxrwx - root
                    1 Jan
                           1970
                                 ag -> /nix/store/09irdfc2nd
                    1 Jan
                           1970
lrwxrwxrwx - root
                                 animate -> /nix/store/09ird
                    1 Jan
                           1970
lrwxrwxrwx - root
                                 applygnupgdefaults -> /nix/
                    1 Jan
<u>lrwxrwxrwx - root</u>
                           1970
                                 apropos -> /nix/store/09ird
lrwxrwxrwx - root
                    1 Jan
                           1970
                                 atuin -> /nix/store/09irdfo
                    1 Jan
                           1970
lrwxrwxrwx - root
```





### Summary

- Derivations are a key building block of Nix
- Nix derivations -> immutable packages

#### **Nix Flakes**

- Per project dependencies
  - flake.lock
- Improves reproducibility

### flake.nix

#### flake.lock

```
"nodes": {
3
       "nixpkgs": {
4
         "locked": {
           "lastModified": 1668703332,
5
6
           // A SHA of the contents of the flake
           "narHash": "sha256-PW3vz30DXaInogvp2I...=",
8
           // The GitHub org
           "owner": "NixOS",
9
10
           // The GitHub repo
           "repo": "nixpkgs",
11
12
           // The specific revision
           "rev": "de60d387a0e5737375ee61848872b1...",
13
```

### flake.lock

```
"nodes": {
       "nixpkgs": {
         "locked": {
           "lastModified": 1668703332,
           "narHash": "sha256-PW3vz30DXaInogvp2I...=",
8
           "owner": "NixOS",
10
           "repo": "nixpkgs",
           "rev": "de60d387a0e5737375ee61848872b1...",
```

#### flake.lock

```
"narHash": "sha256-PW3vz30DXaInogvp2I...=",
           "owner": "NixOS",
           "repo": "nixpkgs",
           "rev": "de60d387a0e5737375ee61848872b1...",
13
           "type": "github"
18
```

# Summary

- Nix Flakes improve reproducibility
  - Lock dependencies
- Provide a more standard way to configure Nix
- Are an EXPERIMENTAL feature still

#### CI

- Use same versions as local
- Leverage Nix "cachability"

### ci.nix

```
pkgs,
 devPackages,
pkgs.dockerTools.buildImage {
 name = "banterbus-dev";
  tag = "latest";
  copyToRoot = pkgs.buildEnv {
    name = "banterbus-dev";
    pathsToLink = ["/bin"];
    paths = with pkgs;
```

#### ci.nix

```
pathsToLink = ["/bin"];
       paths = with pkgs;
13
14
            coreutils
15
            gnugrep
16
            bash
17
            cacert.out
18
            curl
19
            git
20
21
          ++ devPackages;
     config = {
```

### ci.nix

```
gnugrep
            bash
            cacert.out
18
            curl
            git
21
          ++ devPackages;
     config = {
        Env = [
          "NIX_PAGER=cat"
```

#### flake.nix

```
description = "Development environment for BanterBus
inputs = {
  nixpkgs.url = "github:NixOS/nixpkgs/nixos-unstable
  flake-utils.url = "github:numtide/flake-utils";
  pre-commit-hooks.url = "github:cachix/pre-commit-hooks.url"
outputs = {
  self,
  nixpkgs,
```

### flake.nix

```
go-task
           goreleaser
            sqlc
       in {
34
         packages.ci = pkgs.callPackage ./ci.nix {
35
            inherit pkgs;
36
            inherit devPackages;
37
         };
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
            packages = devPackages;
```

### flake.nix

```
sqlc
       in {
         packages.ci = pkgs.callPackage ./ci.nix {
           inherit pkgs;
           inherit devPackages;
38
         devShells.default = pkgs.mkShell {
39
           packages = devPackages;
40
         };
```

# .gitlab-ci.yml

```
publish:docker:ci:
     stage: pre
     variables:
       DOCKER_HOST: tcp://docker:2375
       DOCKER_DRIVER: overlay2
       DOCKER_TLS_CERTDIR:
       IMAGE: $CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE/ci
8
     rules:
       - if: $CI_PIPELINE_SOURCE == "merge_request_event"
10
         changes:
           - "containers/ci.nix"
     services:
       - docker:25-dind
```

# .gitlab-ci.yml

```
changes:
            - "containers/ci.nix"
     services:
       - docker:25-dind
     script:
       - echo "experimental-features = nix-command flakes
       - nix-env -iA nixpkgs.docker
       - nix build .#ei
18
       - docker load < ./result</pre>
       - docker login -u $CI_REGISTRY_USER -p $CI_REGISTR`
19
20

    docker image tag banterbus-dev:latest $IMAGE:late

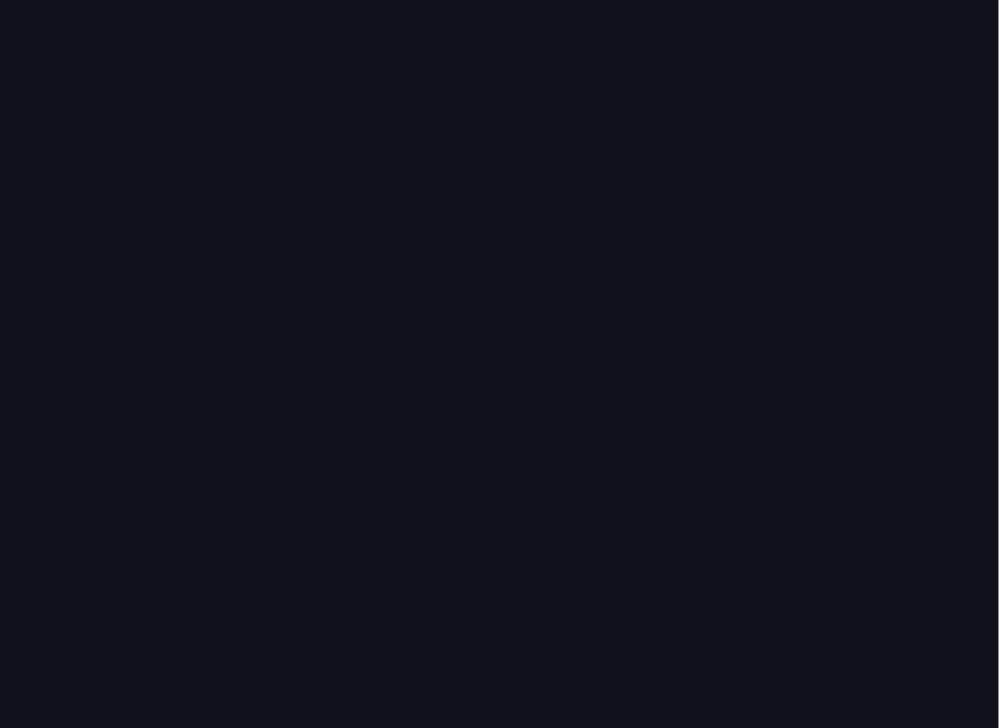
       - docker push $CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE/ci:latest
21
22
```

```
stages:
     - deps
     - test
   .task:
     stage: test
8
     image: $CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE/ci:latest
     variables:
       GOPATH: $CI_PROJECT_DIR/.go
10
     cache:
11
12
       paths:
13
         - ${GOPATH}/pkg/mod
```

```
stages:
    - deps
    - test
  .task:
    stage: test
8
    image: $CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE/ci:latest
    variables:
      GOPATH: $CI_PROJECT_DIR/.go
    cache:
      paths:
         - ${GOPATH}/pkg/mod
      policy: pull
```

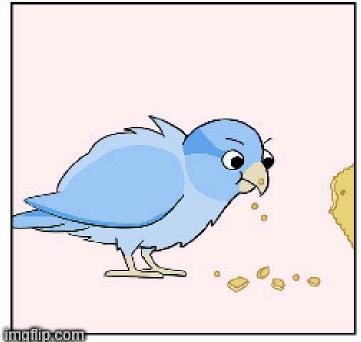
```
.task:
     stage: test
     image: $CI_REGISTRY_IMAGE/ci:latest
9
     variables:
10
       GOPATH: $CI_PROJECT_DIR/.go
11
     cache:
12
       paths:
13
         - ${GOPATH}/pkg/mod
14
       policy: pull
     rules:
       - if: $CI_PIPELINE_SOURCE == "merge_request_event"
  tactc unit.
```

```
GOPATH: $CI_PROJECT_DIR/.go
     cache:
       paths:
         - ${GOPATH}/pkg/mod
       policy: pull
     rules:
       - if: $CI_PIPELINE_SOURCE == "merge_request_event"
18
   tests:unit:
19
     extends:
20
       task
21
     script:
       - go test -skip '^TestIntegration' ./internal/...
22
```











## Why not Docker?

- Docker is imperative
  - Repeatable but not reproducible
- Hard to personalise
  - bash vs fish vs zsh

## Try Nix!

- Install Nix
  - https://determinate.systems/posts/determin nix-installer/
- Use dev template
  - https://flakehub.com/f/the-nix-way/devtemplates
- Install direnv-nix
  - https://github.com/nix-community/nix-diren

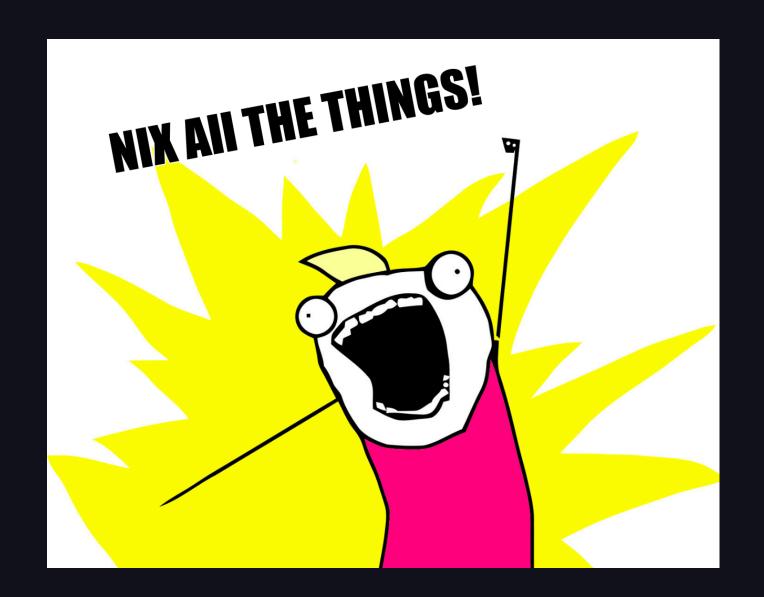
```
curl --proto '=https' --tlsv1.2 -sSf -L \
  https://install.determinate.systems/nix | sh -s -- insta'

nix flake init --template \
  "https://flakehub.com/f/the-nix-way/dev-templates/*#go"

nix profile install nixpkgs#nix-direnv
```

#### **Further**

- gomod2nix: https://www.tweag.io/blog/2021-03-04-gomod2nix/
- Build Docker image: https://jameswillia.ms/posts/go-nixcontainers.html
- Arion: Manage docker-compose with nix
- devenv: https://devenv.sh/



## My Links

- My Dotfiles Configured Using Nix
- How I setup dev shell for a Go project
  - Project using dev shell

## Appendix

- Useful Articles:
  - https://blog.ysndr.de/posts/guides/2021-12-01-nix-shells/
  - https://serokell.io/blog/what-is-nix
  - https://shopify.engineering/what-is-nix
  - nix-shell vs nix shell vs nix develop: https://blog.ysndr.de/posts/guides/2021-12-01-nix-shells/

## **Useful Tools**

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- Get started with Nix
  - https://zero-to-nix.com/
  - https://nixos.org/guides/nix-pills/why-youshould-give-it-a-try
  - https://nixos-andflakes.thiscute.world/introduction/

#### More about flakes:

- https://nixos.wiki/wiki/Flakes
- https://zero-to-nix.com/concepts/flakes

- Useful Channels/Videos
  - https://www.youtube.com/@vimjoyer
  - Docker and Nix (Dockercon 2023):
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I17oRkhg
  - How to build a new package in Nix: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hMlqxb
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch? app=desktop&v=TsZte\_9GfPE&si=osBujLY3py



https://haseebmajid.dev/slides/londongophers-reproducible-envs-with-nix/

## References & Thanks

- GIFs made with vhs
- Photos editted with pixlr
- All my friends who took time to give me feedback on this talk
- Some memes from https://github.com/gytisivaskevicius/high-quality-nix-content