Code Review

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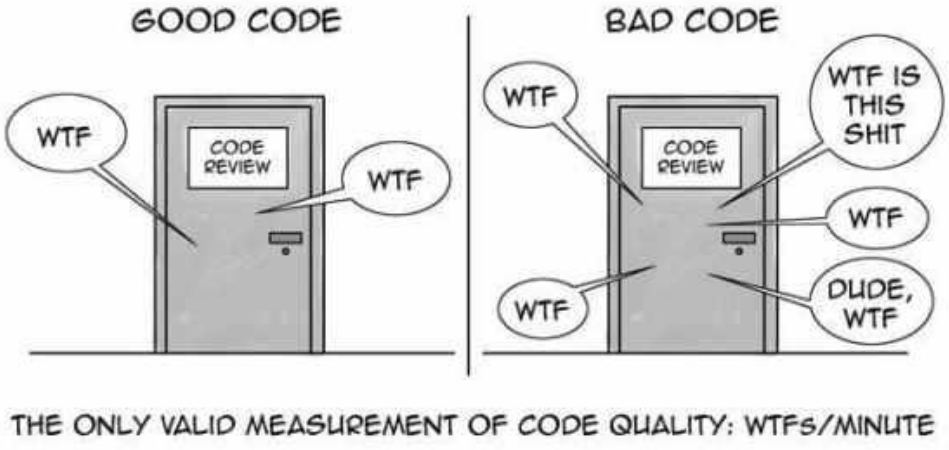
Code Review

Code review is a software development practice, where code is reviewed by other people to detect problems. Usually the review is done before the introduction of the code into a codebase.



Types of Code Review

Greenfield reviews

- Completely *new code* gets added to the codebase

Changes, improvements and optimizations

- Modifies *existing* APIs and code

Bug fixes

- *Isolated* changes to fix specific problems

Code Review Process

Author

Review Tool

Reviewers

Writes changes

push

Creates diff

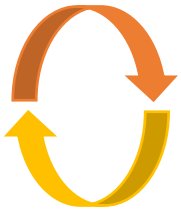
Double checks diff, fixing automated suggestions.

assign/notify

Analyze and check changes.

post comments

fixes suggestions

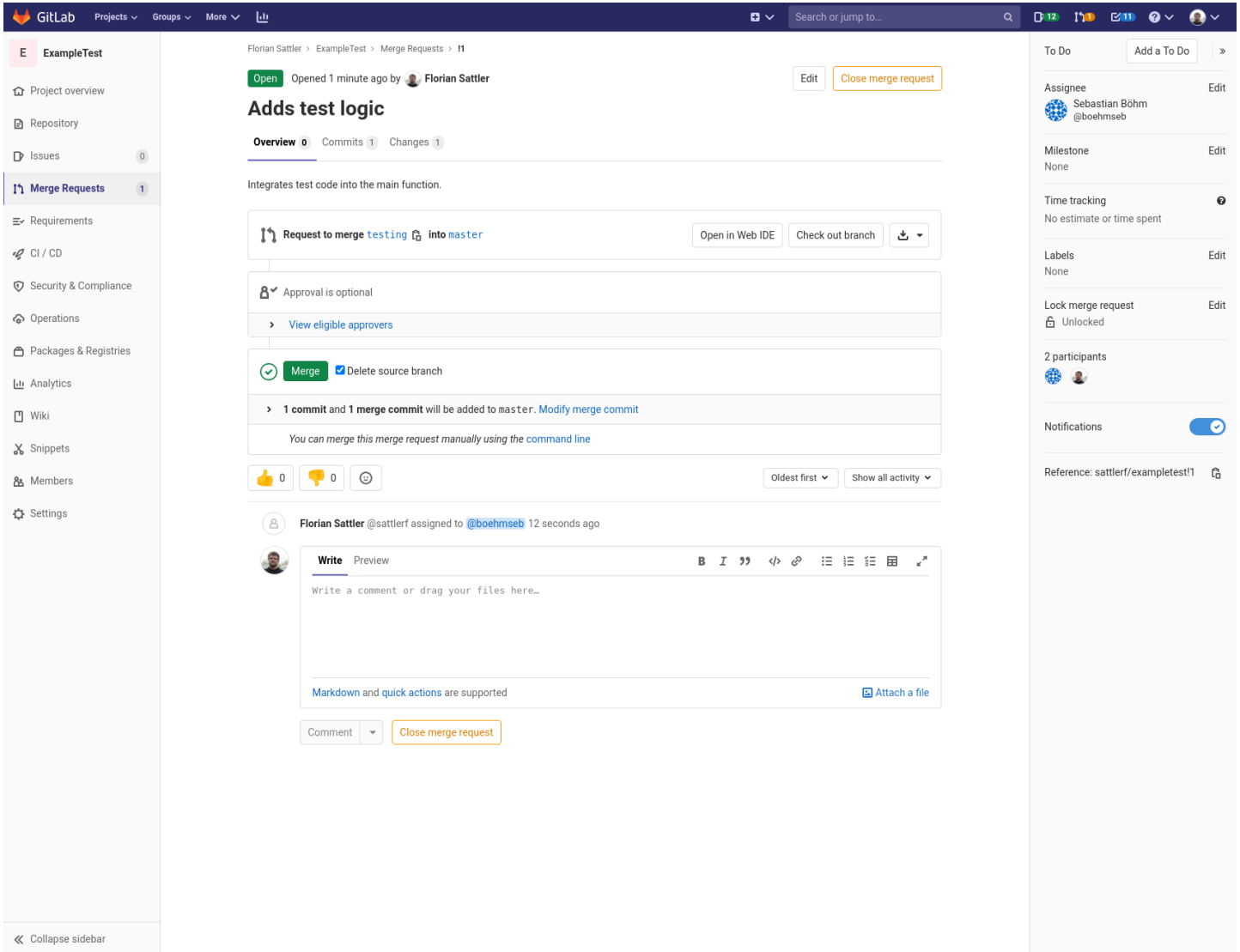


LGTM

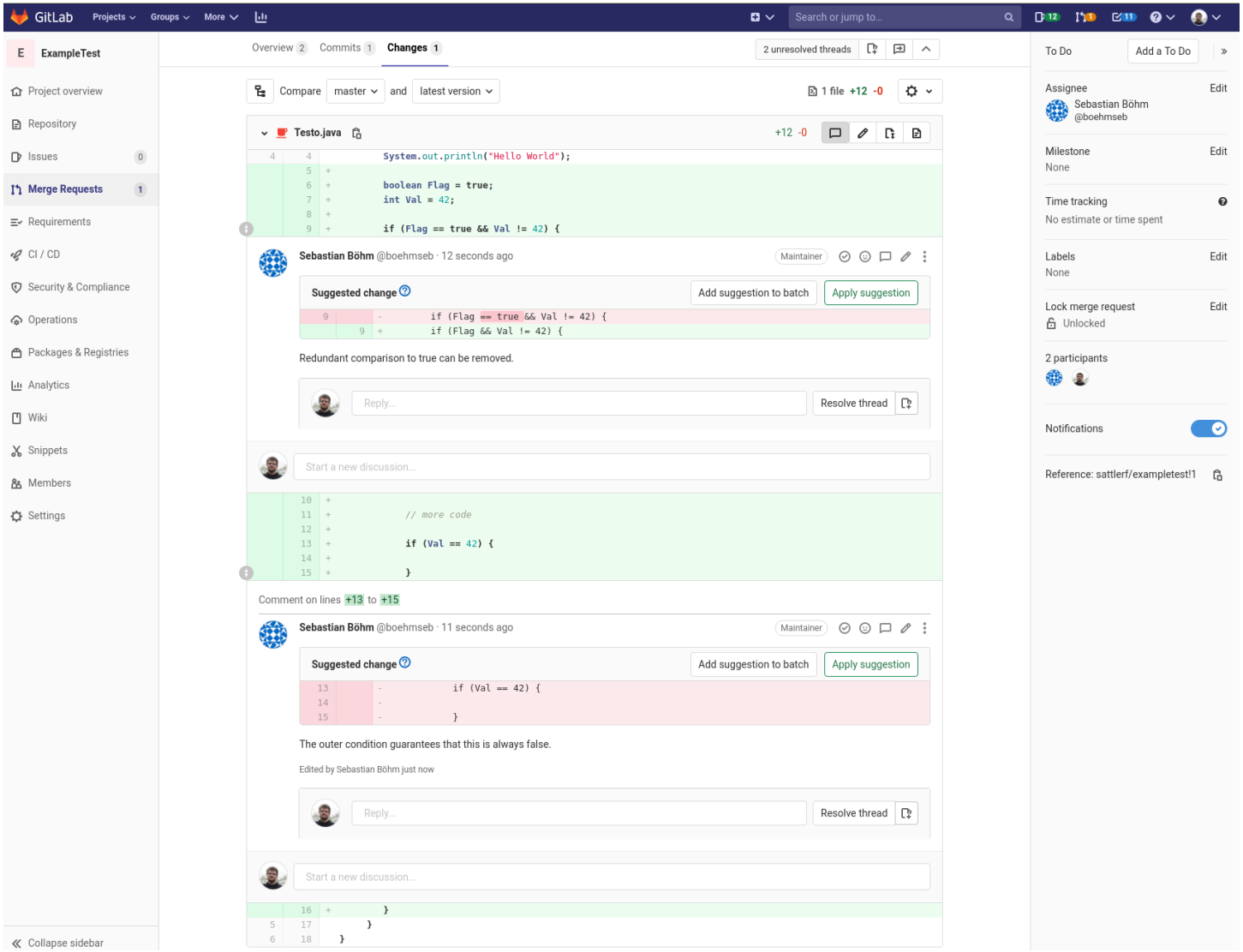
Resolves leftover comments.

merges changes

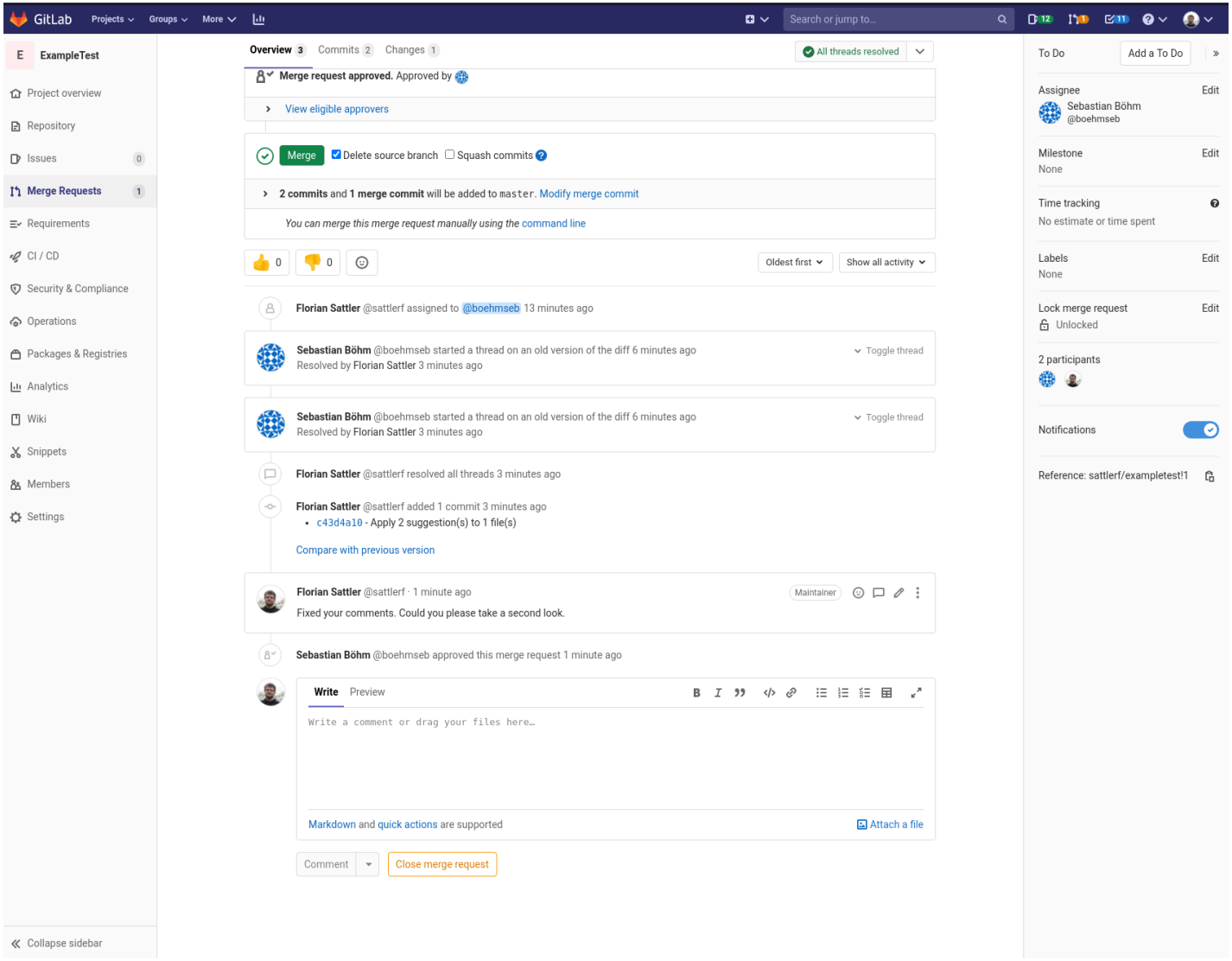
Code Review Process



Code Review Process



Code Review Process



Benefits of Code Review

Why should we use code review in our project?

Code correctness: catching code/design bugs as early as possible, reduces development costs.

Ensures that code *is comprehensible* by other developers.

Increasing the *number of developers* that know about a certain part of the codebase (Bus Factor).

Promotes *team ownership* of the code.

Learning from others (code + design).

The contributor learns from the reviewer and vice versa

Improves *consistency* across the codebase.

Who should review the code?

Reviewers based on *project* knowledge.

- Code Owners, i.e., developers that are responsible and care about a part of the codebase.
- Team leads that see the projects bigger picture.

Reviewers based on *language* knowledge.

- Developers that have a good understanding about the programming languages used.

How to 'Receive' Code Reviews

Write small changes.

Try to be proactive and thoroughly check your code before requesting feedback from reviewers.

Take on constructive feedback and learn from review comments.

Reviewers are not out to get you; they care about the health of their codebase.

How to 'Write' Code Reviews

Be polite and professional.

Try to note all problems in the first round of feedback.

Do not unnecessarily criticize the author's approach, only when an alternative is beneficial.

Try to provide feedback in a relative short period of time, don't keep your teammates waiting.

Automating parts of code review

Code review can slow down development time while increasing code change quality.

To reduce slow down, parts of the code review process can and should be automated.

- Run automatic *code formatters*.
- Run *style checkers* to enforce style requirements.
- Run *static analysis* tools to detect bugs early.

Every error fixed before review, reduces work for the reviewer and cuts down overall code-review time.

Automating parts of code review