Lecture 9: Software Quality in Practice

17-313: Foundations of Software Engineering Rohan Padhye, Michael Hilton, Chris Timperley, and Daye Nam

Administrivia

- Missing lecture policy (see Syllabus on website)
- HW2: In-person presentation during this week's recitation
- HW3A: plan due on Thursday
 - Implementation due October 6th
 - Reflection due October 13th
- Midterm is on October 11th
 - review will take place in the week before the midterm

Learning Goals

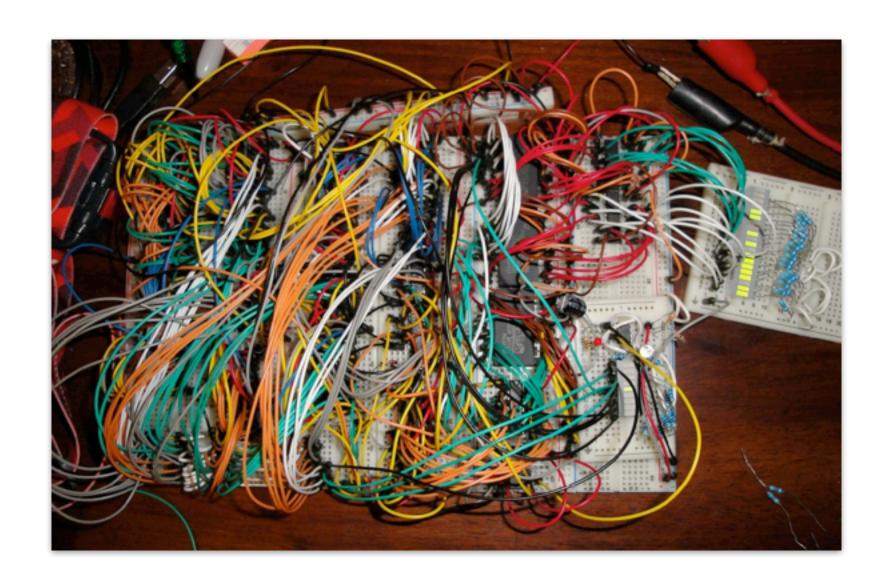
- Understand the concepts of software quality and technical debt
- Reflect on personal experiences of technical debt
- Learn best practices for proactively ensuring quality
- Design an explicit QA process for your project
- Learn techniques for reactively dealing with quality problems

Software Quality





Internal Quality



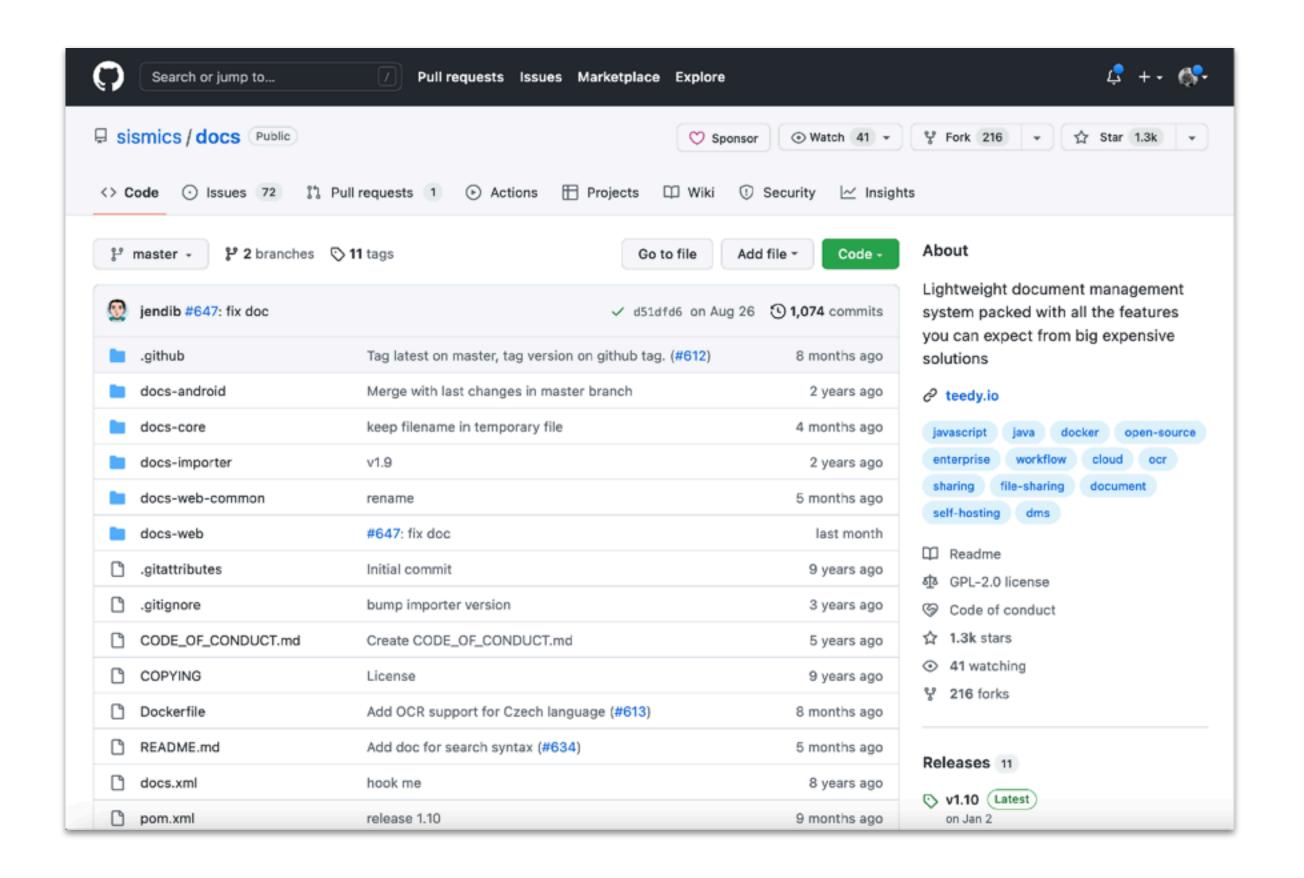
- Is the code well structured?
- Is the code understandable?
- How well tested is the code?

External Quality

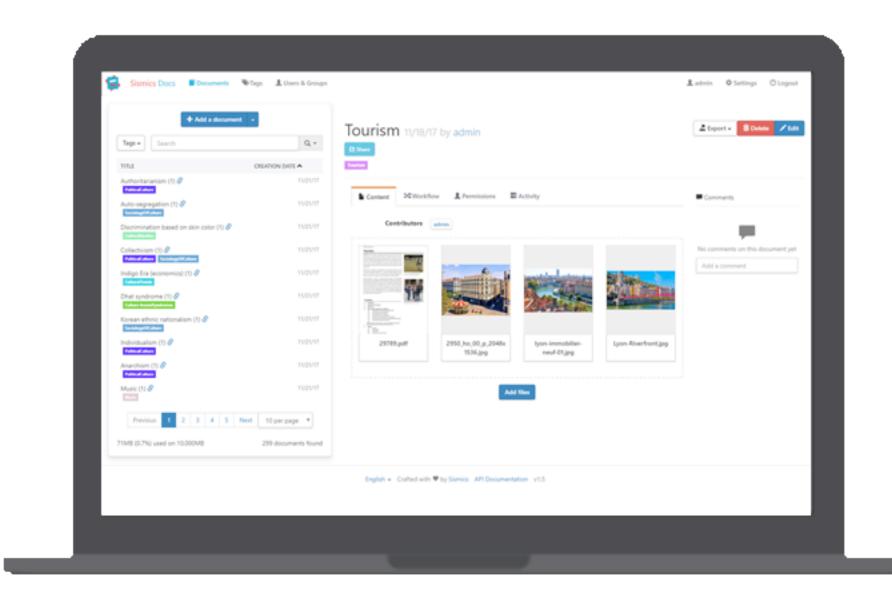


- Does the software crash?
- Does it meet the requirements?
- Is the UI well designed?

How would you rate Teedy?



teedy

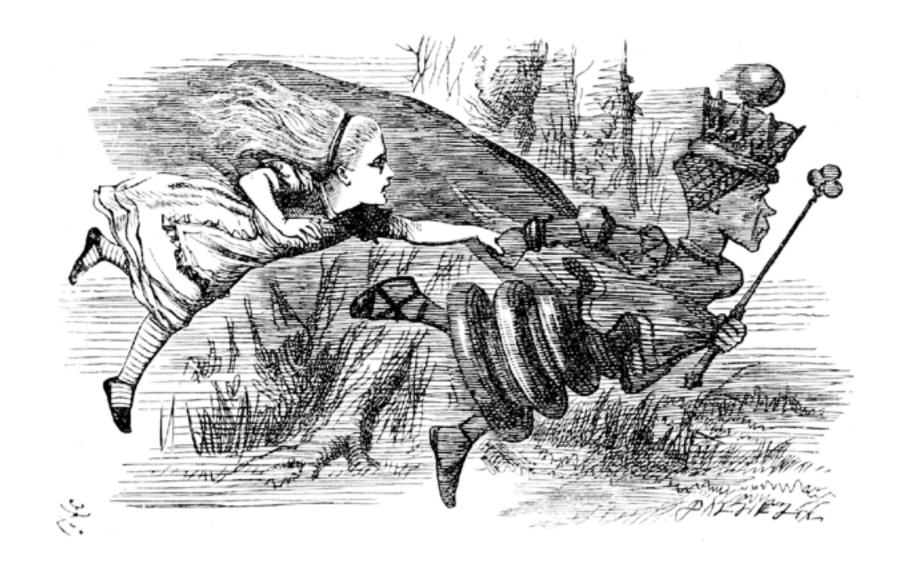


How did we get here?

Software entropy

"As an evolving program is continually changed, its complexity, reflecting deteriorating structure, increases unless work is done to maintain or reduce it."

Meir Manny Lehman



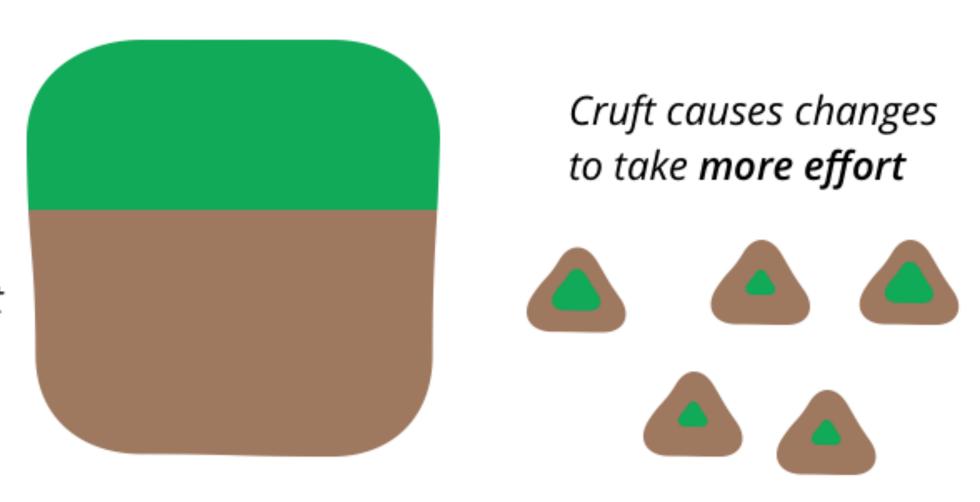
"Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do just to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast!"

Through the Looking Glass

Technical debt

Any software system has a certain amount of essential complexity required to do its job...

... but most systems contain **cruft** that makes it harder to understand.



The technical debt metaphor treats the cruft as a debt, whose interest payments are the extra effort these changes require.

https://martinfowler.com/bliki/TechnicalDebt.html



A better analogy: Pollution

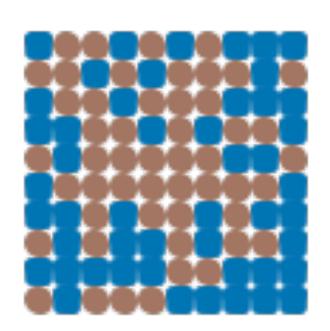


AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution						
Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality			
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.			
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.			
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.			
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.			
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.			
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.			

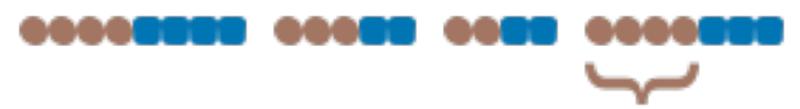
https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics

Internal quality makes it easier to add features

If we compare one system with a lot of cruft...

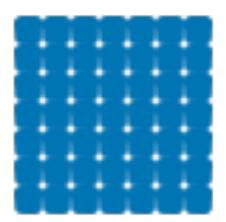


the cruft means new features take longer to build



this extra time and effort is the cost of the cruft, paid with each new feature

...to an equivalent one without

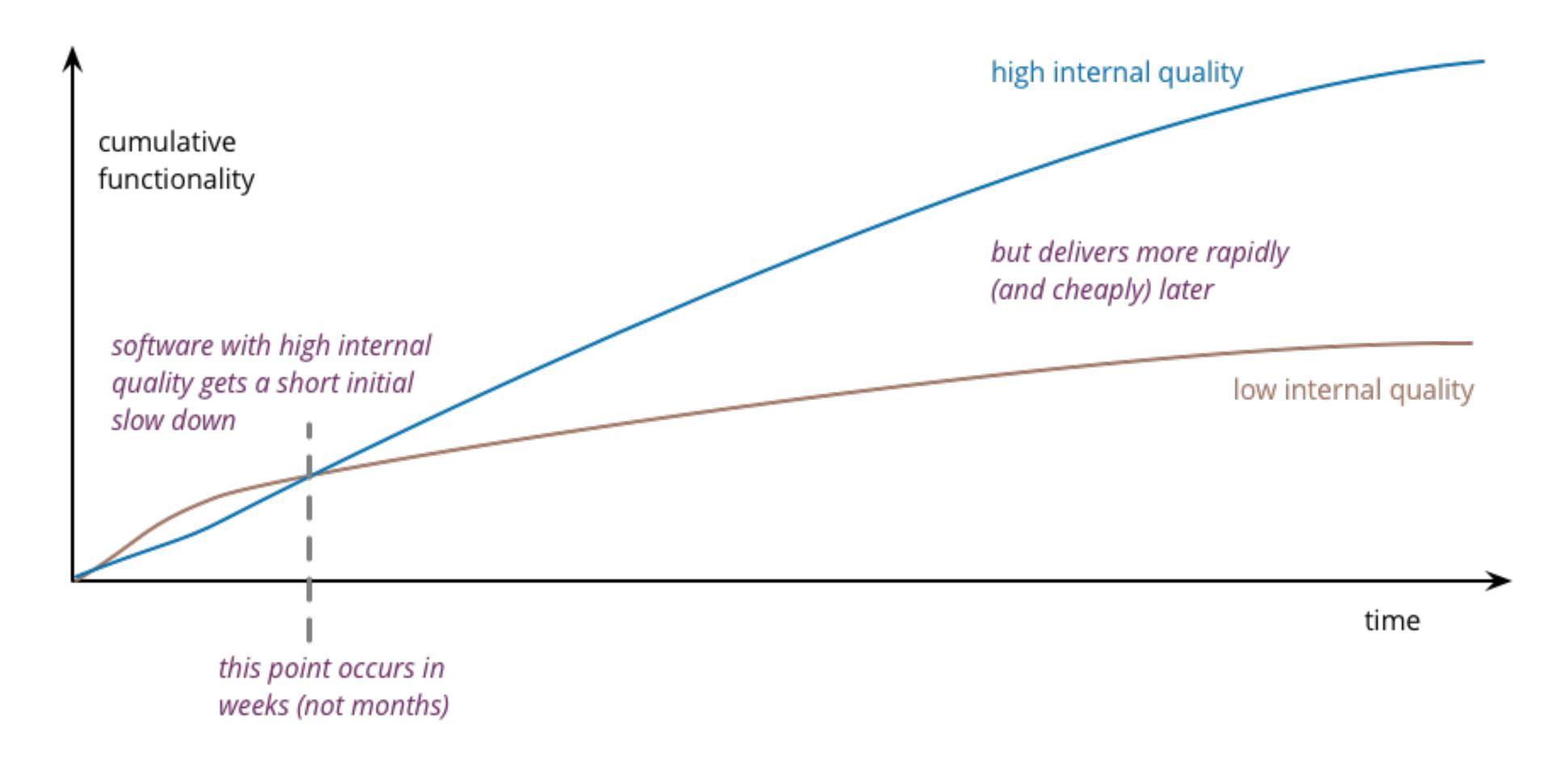




free of cruft, features can be added more quickly



High internal quality is an investment



What causes technical debt?



What causes technical debt?

- Tightly-coupled components
- Poorly-specified requirements
- Business pressure
- Lack of process
- Lack of documentation
- Lack of automated testing
- Lack of knowledge

- Lack of ownership
- Delayed refactoring
- Multiple, long-lived development branches
- •

Not all technical debt is the same

	Reckless	Prudent	
Deliberate	"We don't have time for design"	"We must ship now and deal with consequences (later)"	
Inadvertent	"What's layering?"	"Now we know how we should have done it"	

https://martinfowler.com/bliki/TechnicalDebtQuadrant.html



EVERYONE CREATES TECHNICAL DEBT



Bad: Too much technical debt

- Bad code can be demoralizing
- Conversations with the client become awkward
- Team infighting
- Atrophied skills
- Turnover and attrition

•





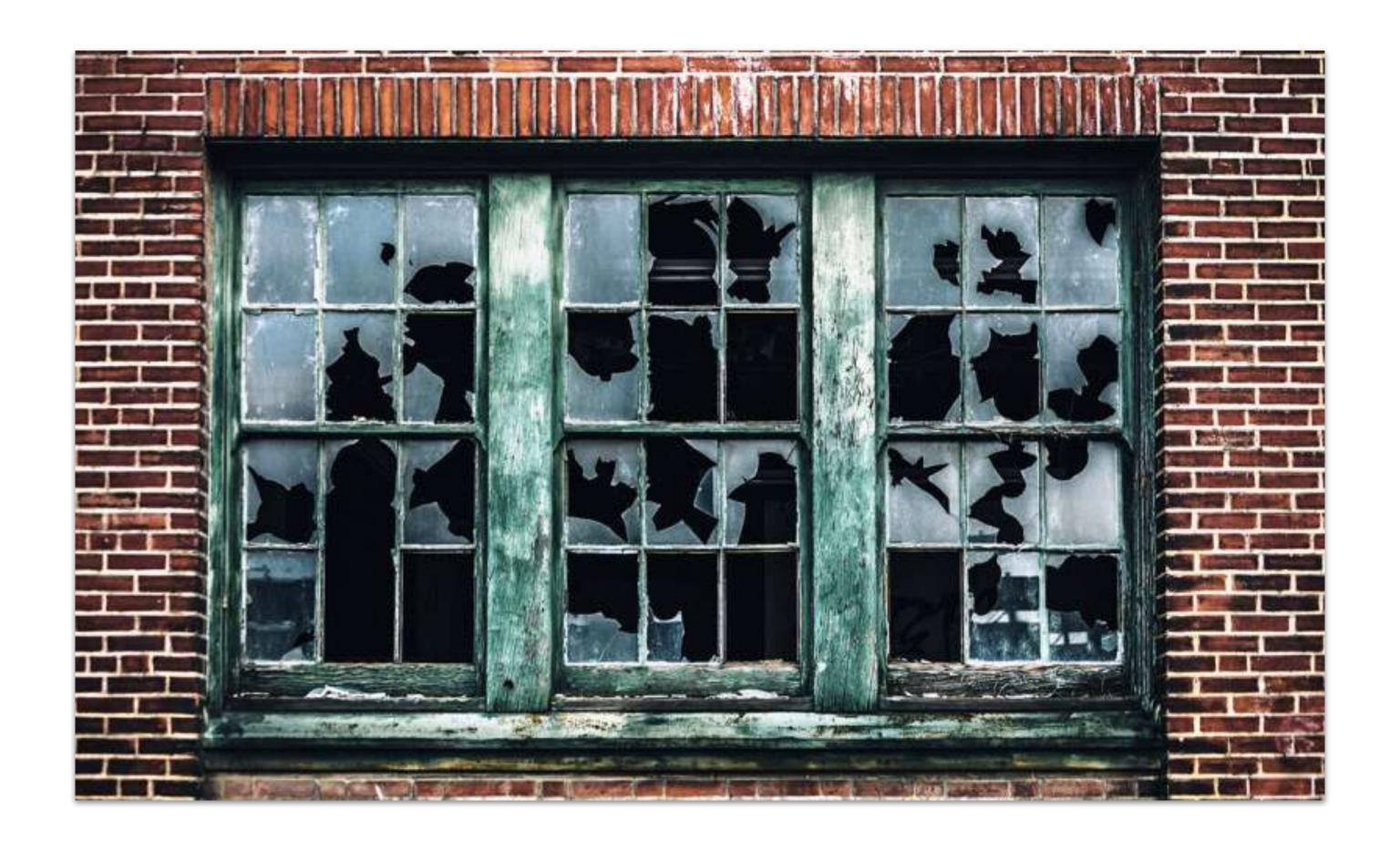






When should we reduce technical debt?

Dealing with technical debt: Fixing broken windows



Alternative: Putting out fires is expensive!



Analogy: Cleaning your dryer



How can we avoid technical debt?

Reflection: Homework 2



Q Search 17-313

Assignments / HW02 Learning the Codebase

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HOMEWORK 2: LEARNING THE CODEBASE

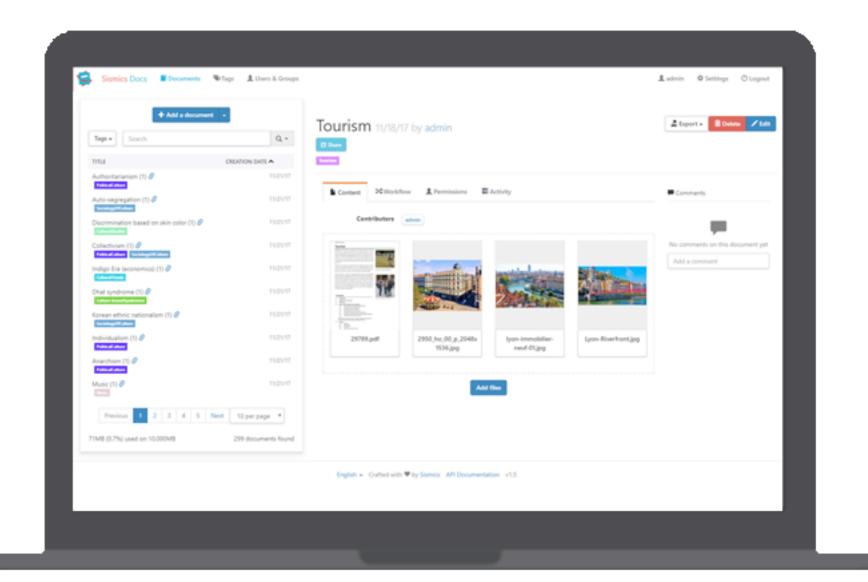
LEARNING GOALS

- Learn about the design and implementation of an existing software project that you will build upon this semester
- Collaborate with your teammates to design and implement a small feature addition or modification to that software project
- Practice version control and development best practices within the context of a group assignment

SPECIFICATION

Now that you have onboarded to 17-313, setup your development environment, and met your team, upper management has tasked you with building a graduate student admissions system over the course of the semester (described below). Rather than creating a new admissions system from scratch, management has decided that you and your team will repurpose and adapt an existing document management system, Teedy. Beyond being a pretty good document management platform, Teedy provides complex features that you expect will be useful, like tagging, workflows, and fine-grained permissions and ACLs (access control lists).

teedy

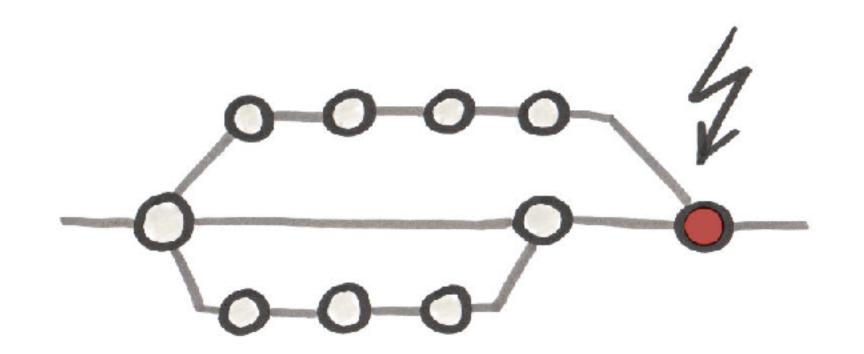




Not having a QA process! Or no-one follows it



- Not having a QA process! Or no-one follows it
- Bad version control practices
 - Everyone commits to the main branch
 - Long-lived feature branches
 - Huge PRs



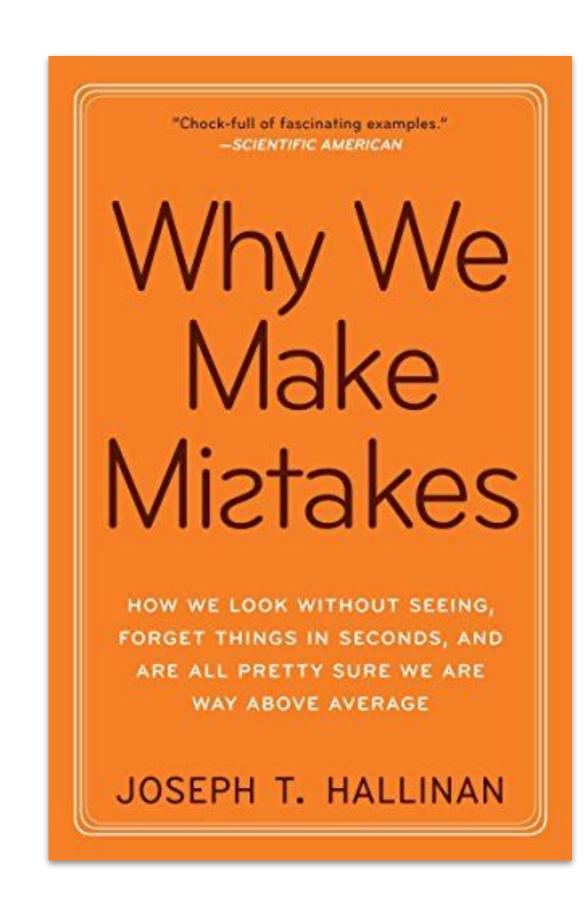
	COMMENT	DATE
Q	CREATED MAIN LOOP & TIMING CONTROL	14 HOURS AGO
þ	ENABLED CONFIG FILE PARSING	9 HOURS AGO
ф	MISC BUGFIXES	5 HOURS AGO
þ	CODE ADDITIONS/EDITS	4 HOURS AGO
Q.	MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
þ	HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
	ARAAAAA	3 HOURS AGO
Ø.	ADKFJ5LKDFJ5DKLFJ	3 HOURS AGO
¢	MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
þ	HAAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.

- Not having a QA process! Or no-one follows it
- Bad version control practices
- Slow and encumbering QA processes
 - changes take forever to get merged
 - time could be better spent on new features



- Not having a QA process! Or no-one follows it
- Bad version control practices
- Slow and encumbering QA processes
- Reliance on repetitive manual labor
 - focused on superficial problems rather than structural ones
 - results may vary (e.g., manual testing)
 - mistakes will happen!



Case Study: Knight Capital

Knightmare: A DevOps Cautionary Tale

🚵 D7 🏲 DevOps 🕔 April 17, 2014 🗮 6 Minutes

I was speaking at a conference last year on the topics of DevOps, Configuration as Code, and Continuous Delivery and used the following story to demonstrate the importance making deployments fully automated and repeatable as part of a DevOps/Continuous Delivery initiative. Since that conference I have been asked by several people to share the story through my blog.

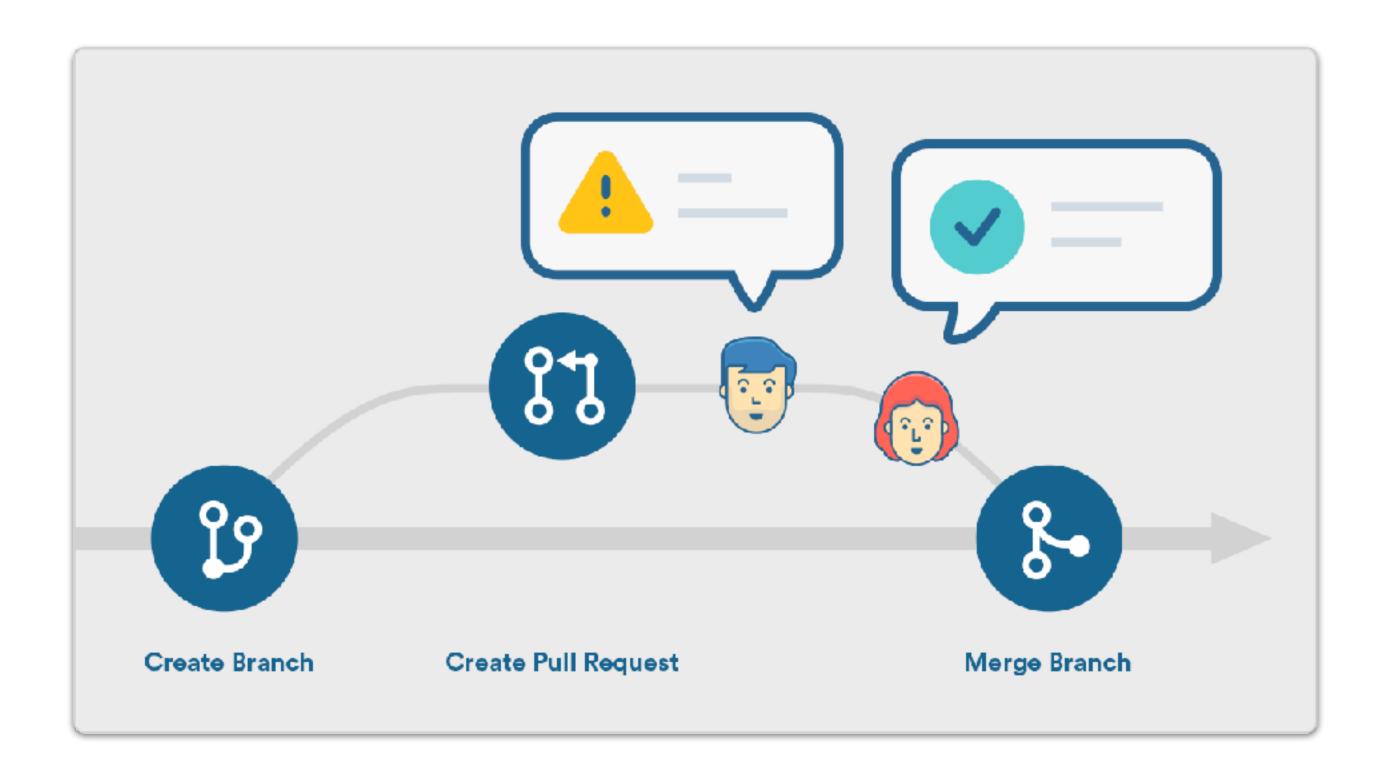


In laymen's terms, Knight Capital Group realized a \$460 million loss in 45-minutes. Remember, Knight only has \$365 million in cash and equivalents. In 45-minutes Knight went from being the largest trader in US equities and a major market maker in the NYSE and NASDAQ to bankrupt.



Good: Trunk-Based Development

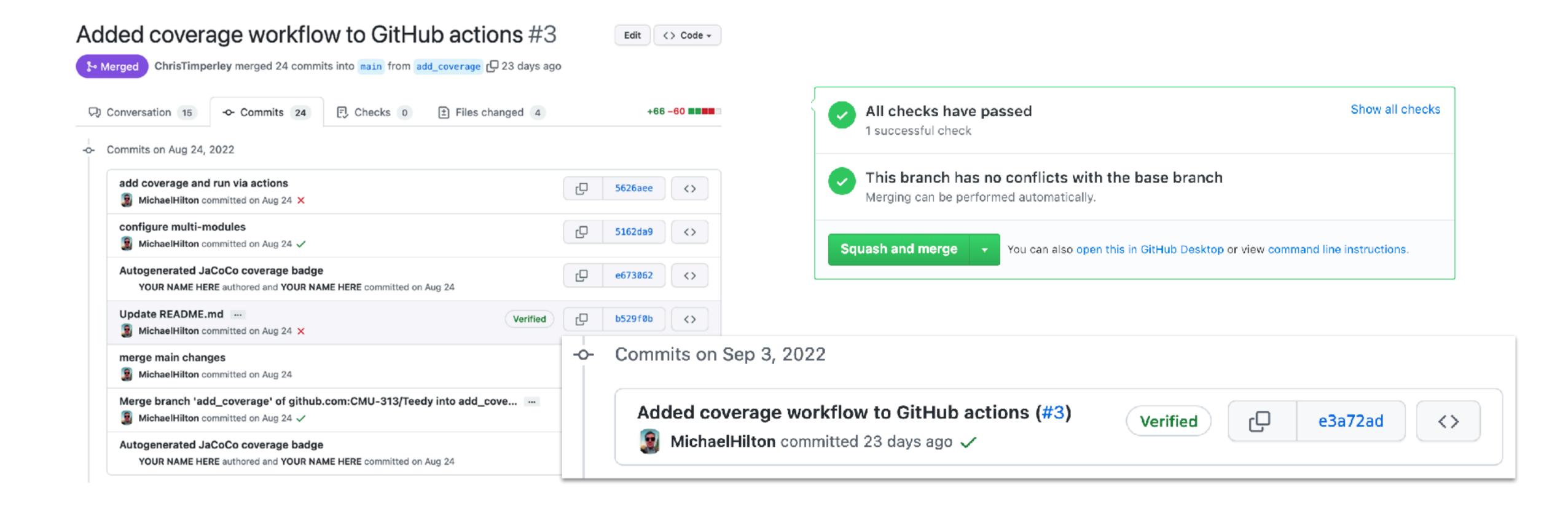
Small changes are easier to develop, review, and integrate





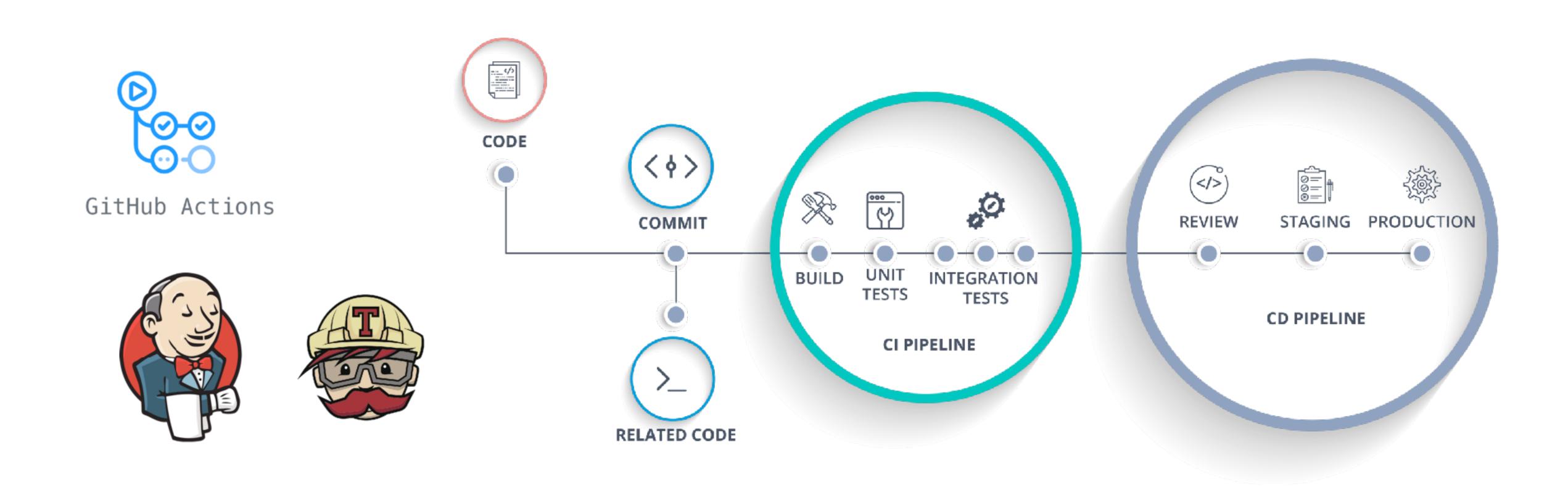
Tip: Squash and Merge

Every commit on main should represent a meaningful change



Good: Continuous Integration and Deployment

Find and fix mistakes as early as possible when they're easier to address



Good: Automate as much as possible!

Humans are expensive; compute time is cheap

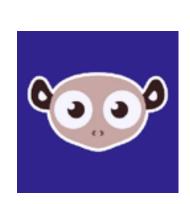






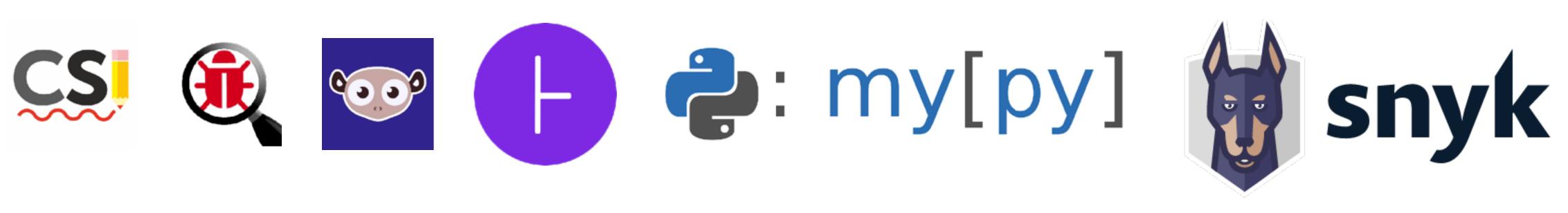






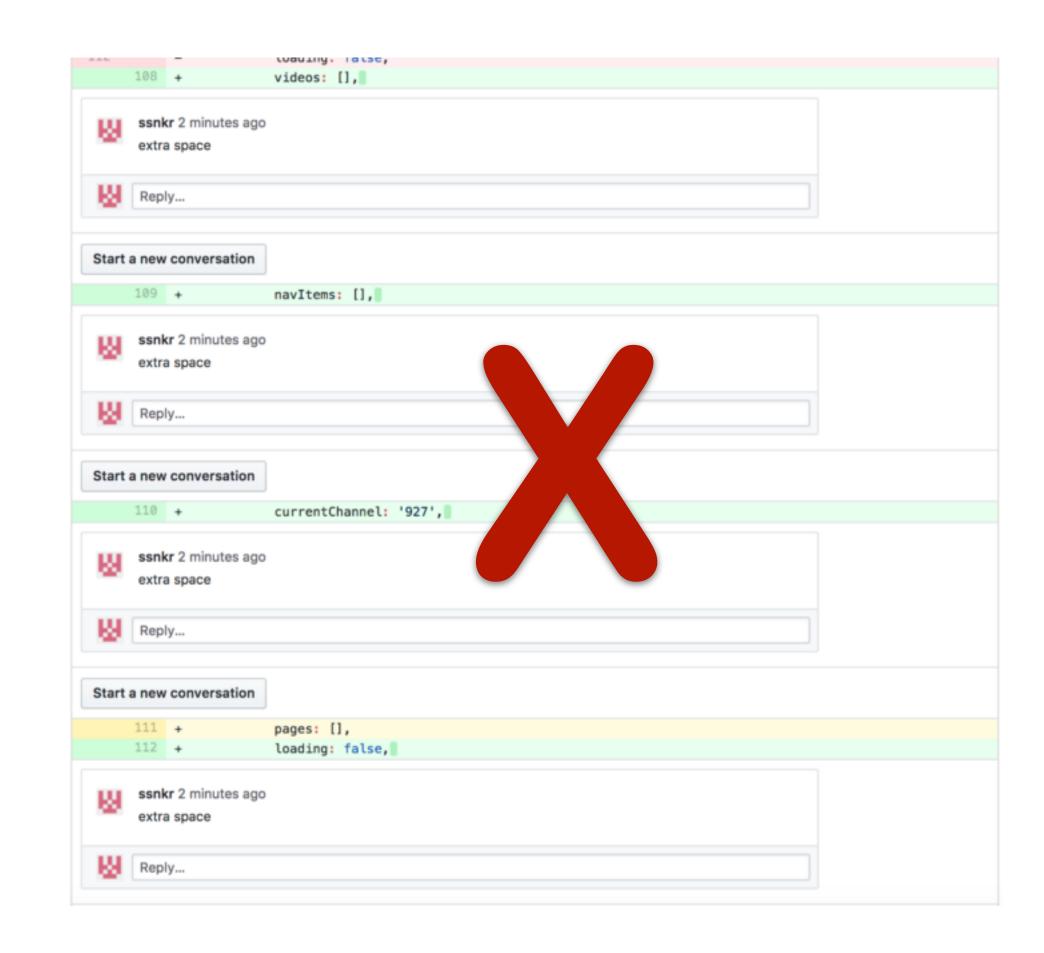






Good: Let humans review the hard stuff!

- Good: Is this code understandable? Is this going to be a problem to maintain? Is this going to constrain us in the future? Is there a more elegant / simpler / more efficient solution?
- Bad: Reviewers shouldn't run the code or tests or make any changes
- Bad: Reviewing superficial changes



Good: Write automated tests

Manual testing is unreliable and unsustainable

Automated Testing

- + Reproducible
- + Some upfront effort
- + Zero marginal effort
- + Runs on every commit
- + Finds regressions!

Manual Testing

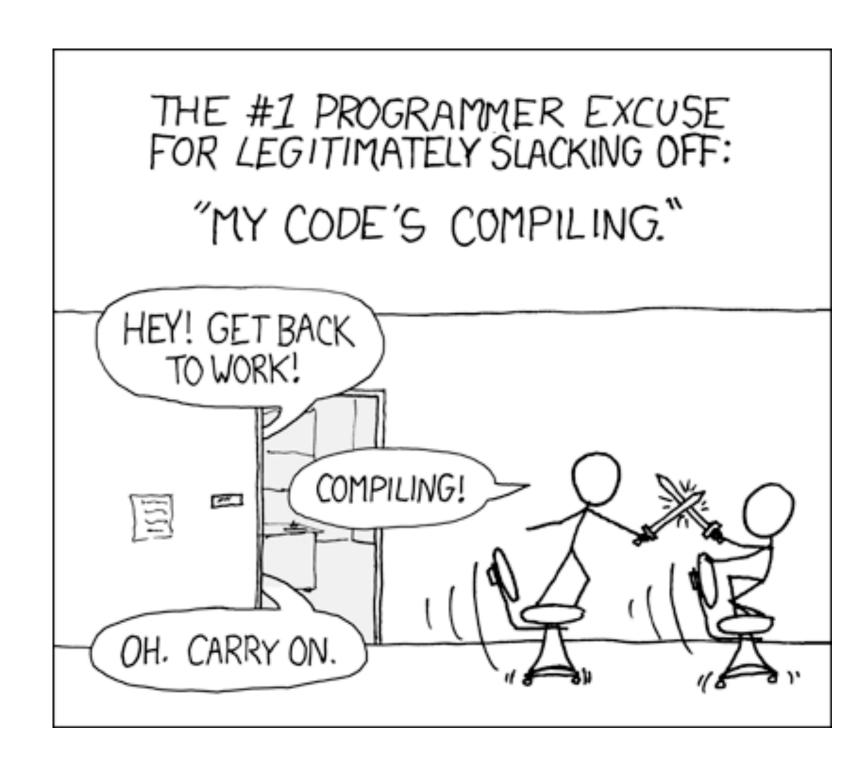
- Unreproducible
- Low upfront effort
- High marginal effort
- Runs when you remember
- Unsustainable





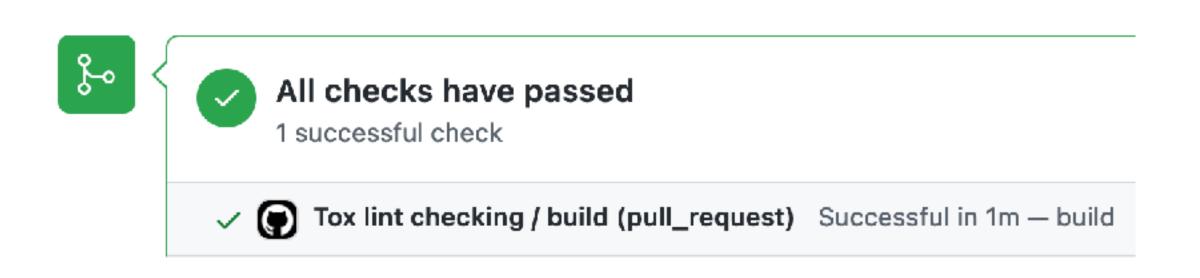
Tips for Effective CI/CD

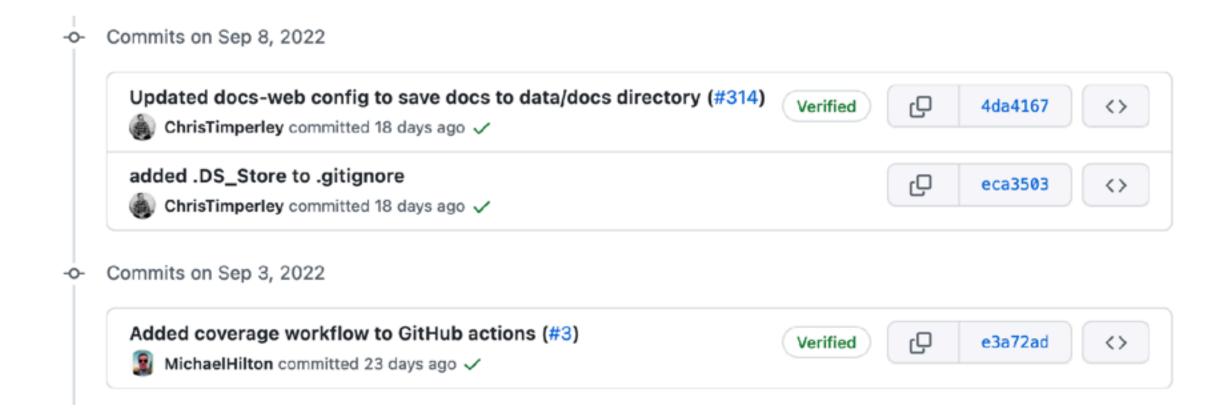
Your CI pipeline should run quickly



Tips for Effective CI/CD

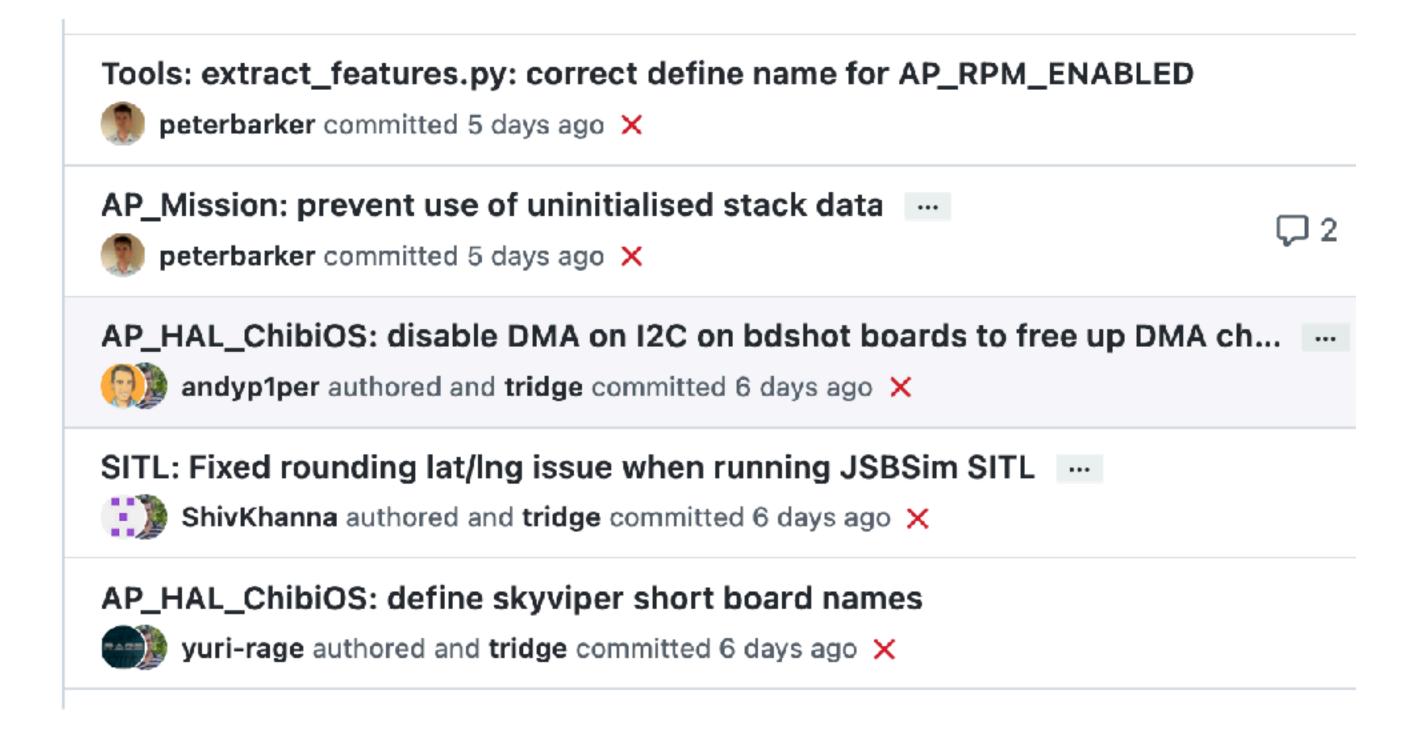
- Your CI pipeline should run quickly
- Your CI pipeline should run on every change
 - Only bother the reviewer once all checks pass





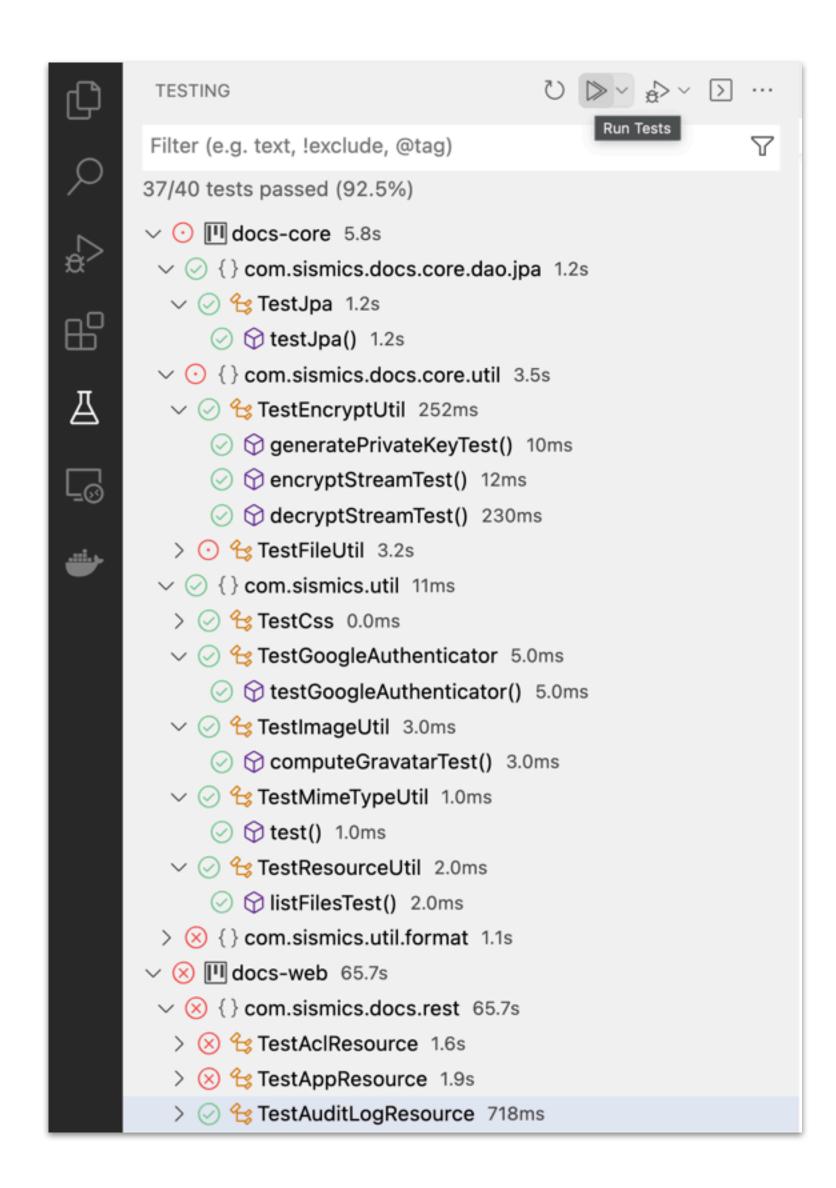
Tips for Effective CI/CD

- Your CI pipeline should run quickly
- Your CI pipeline should run on every change
- Your main branch should always be green
 - Otherwise CI loses its value!



Tips for Effective CI/CD

- Your CI pipeline should run quickly
- Your CI pipeline should run on every change
- Your main branch should always be green
- Your CI shouldn't replace your local environment
 - you don't have to re-run every test



Activity: Let's design a good QA process

- Work in teams of two or three
- Upload to Gradescope

When it all goes wrong...

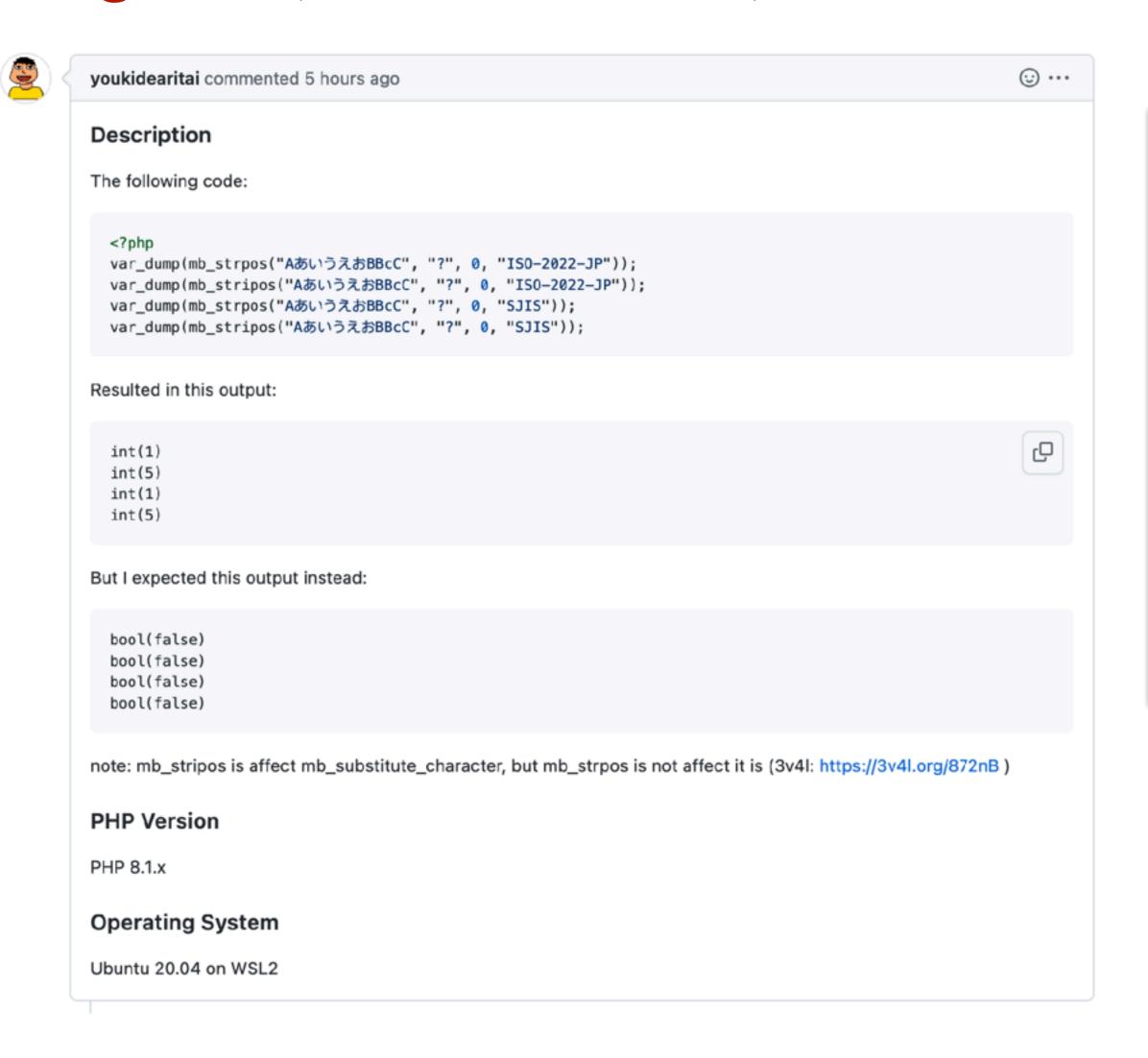


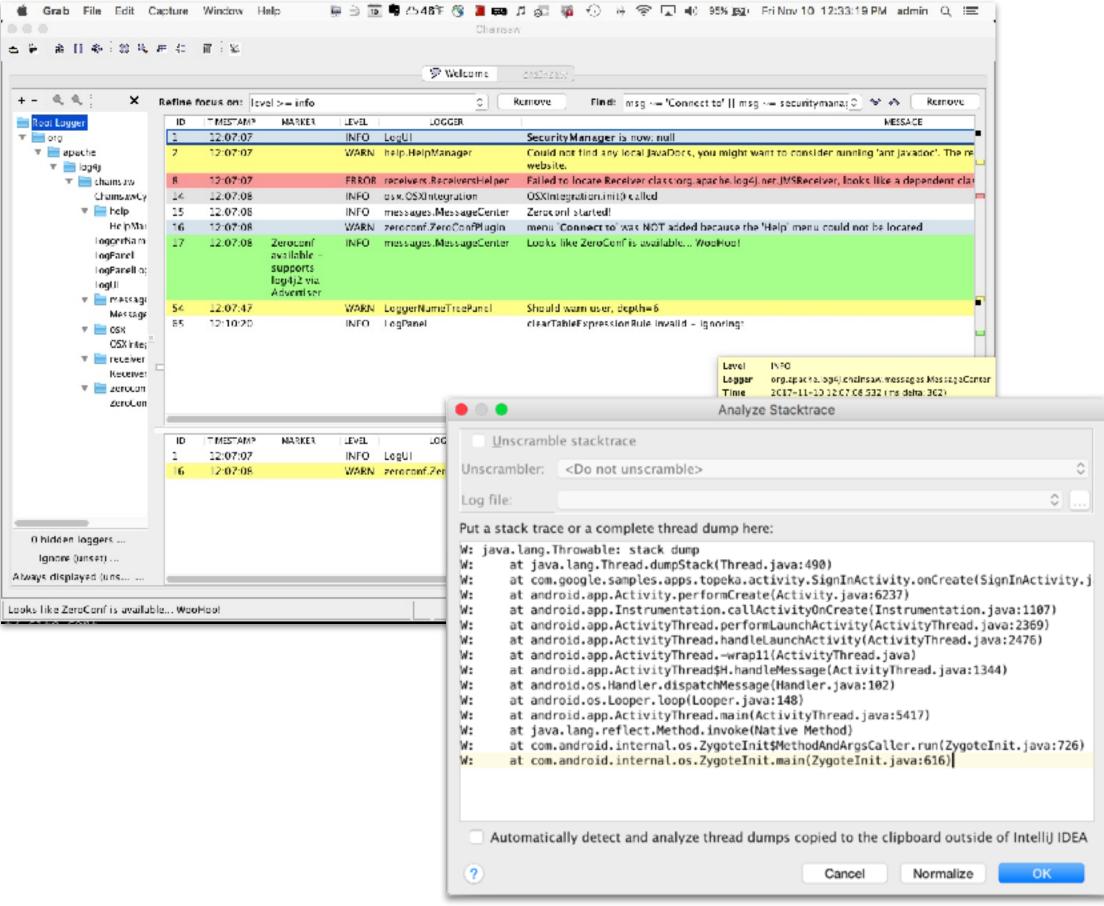
Diagnose the problem with a checklist

- ☐ Have you recompiled the project?
- ☐ Have you pushed/pulled all of the changes?
- Can you reproduce the problem on another machine?
- ☐ Can you find a previous version of the project that worked?
- Does the query sent by the frontend match the backend's expectations?
- Does the database contain your changes?
- □ ...

Collect evidence and report the issue

Log files, stack traces, terminal outputs, examples, screenshots



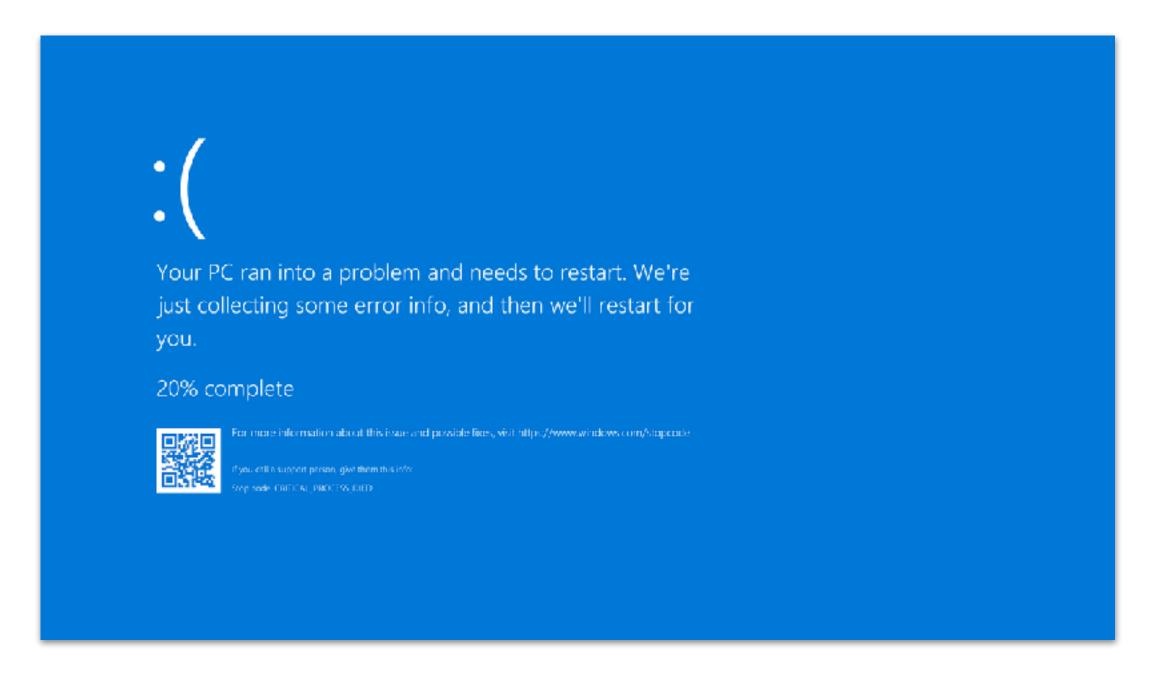


Write a test to reliably reproduce the failure

Now your teammates can help out, too!

```
☐ Viewed •••
 1 + --TEST--
 2 + Bug #75917 SplFileObject::seek broken with CSV flags
 3 + --FILE--
 4 + <?php
 5 + $expected =
          ['john', 'doe', 'john.doe@example.com', '0123456789'],
          ['jane', 'doe', 'jane.doe@example.com'],
 8 + ];
 9 +
    + $tmp = new SplTempFileObject();
11 + foreach ($expected as $row) {
          $tmp->fputcsv($row);
13 + }
14 + $tmp->setFlags(0);
15 + $tmp->seek(23);
16 + var_dump($tmp->current());
17 +
18 + $tmp->setFlags(SplFileObject::READ_CSV |
      SplFileObject::SKIP_EMPTY);
19 + $tmp->seek(23);
20 + var_dump($tmp->current());
21 + ?>
22 + --EXPECT--
23 + bool(false)
24 + bool(false)
```

Problem: What code caused the bug?





Starting Point: Use the Stack Trace

```
// Add a file
 96
                String file1Id = clientUtil.addFileToDocument(FILE_EINSTEIN_ROOSEVELT_LETTER_PNG,
97
javax.ws.rs.InternalServerErrorException: HTTP 500 Internal Error at org.glassfish.jersey.client.Jers... t.. ↑ ↓
                                                                                                              javax.ws.rs.InternalServerErrorException: HTTP 500 Internal Error

∨ ⊙ 
 test

at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.convertToException(JerseyInvocation.java:928)
at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.translate(JerseyInvocation.java:723)
                                                                                                                    javax.ws
at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.lambda$invoke$1(JerseyInvocation.java:643)

∨ ⊙ ♦ test

at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.call(JerseyInvocation.java:665)
                                                                                                                    javax.ws
at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.lambda$runInScope$3(JerseyInvocation.java:659)

∨ ⊙ ☆ test

at org.glassfish.jersey.internal.Errors.process(Errors.java:292)
                                                                                                                    javax.ws
at org.glassfish.jersey.internal.Errors.process(Errors.java:274)
at org.glassfish.jersey.internal.Errors.process(Errors.java:205)

∨ ⊙ ☆ test

at org.glassfish.jersey.process.internal.RequestScope.runInScope(RequestScope.java:390)
                                                                                                                    javax.ws
at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.runInScope(JerseyInvocation.java:659)

∨ ⊙ ♦ test

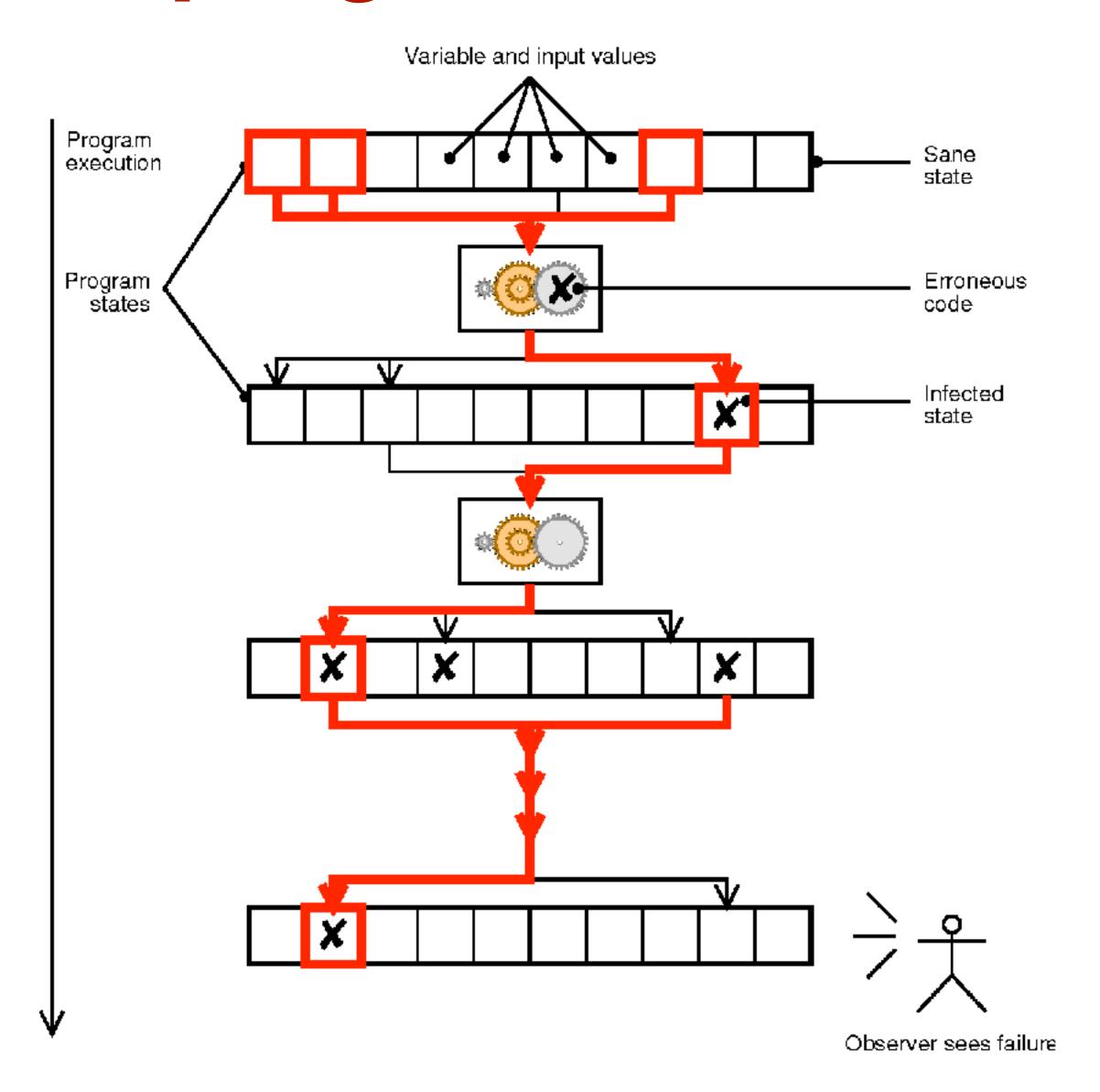
at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation.invoke(JerseyInvocation.java:642)
                                                                                                                    javax.ws
at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation$Builder.method(JerseyInvocation.java:445)

∨ ⊙ ♦ test

at org.glassfish.jersey.client.JerseyInvocation$Builder.put(JerseyInvocation.java:329)
at com.sismics.docs.rest.util.ClientUtil.addFileToDocument(ClientUtil.java:212)
                                                                                                                    javax.ws
at com.sismics.docs.rest.TestDocumentResource.testDocumentResource(TestDocumentResource.java:97)

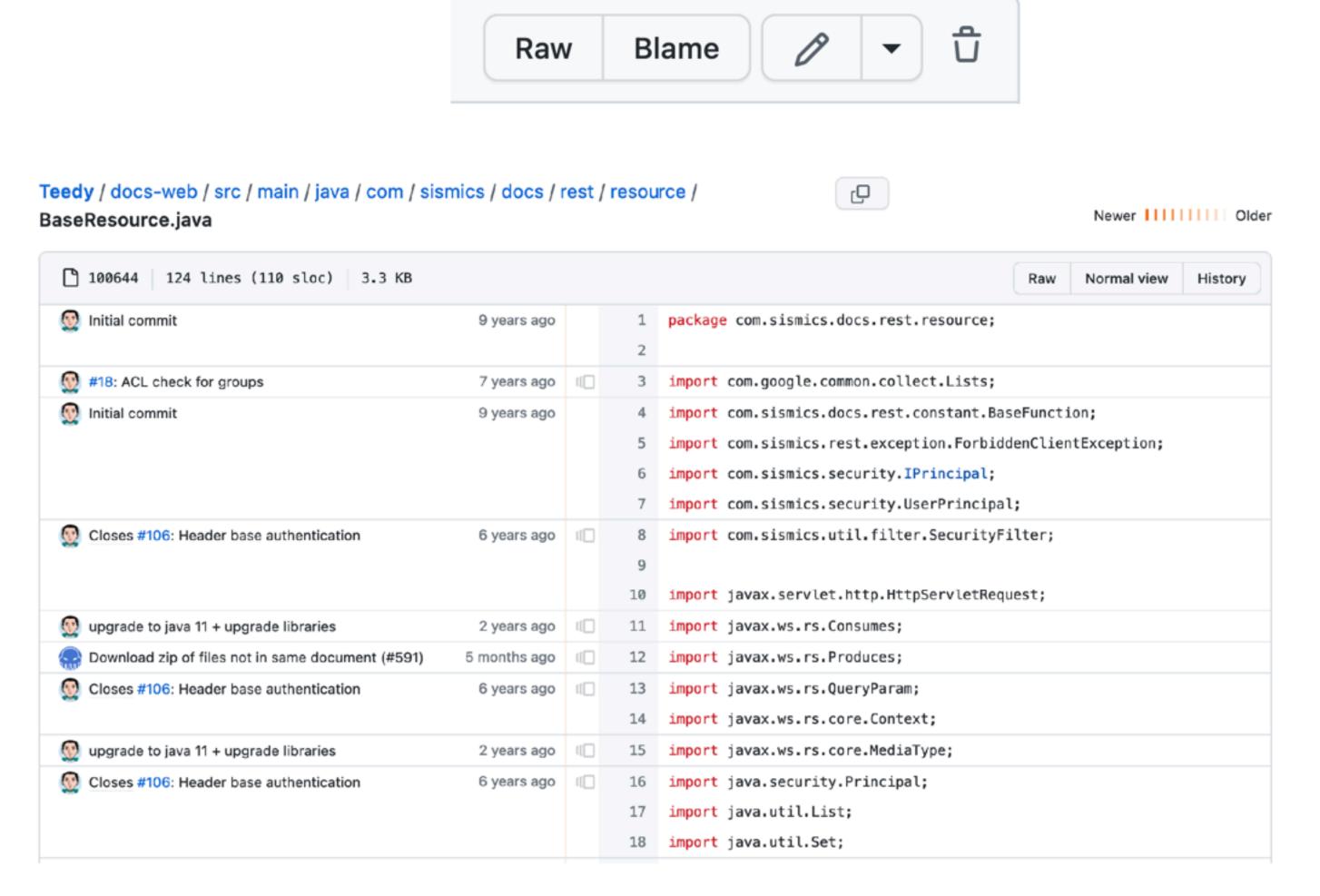
∨ ⊙ ☆ test
```

Defects cause program state to be infected



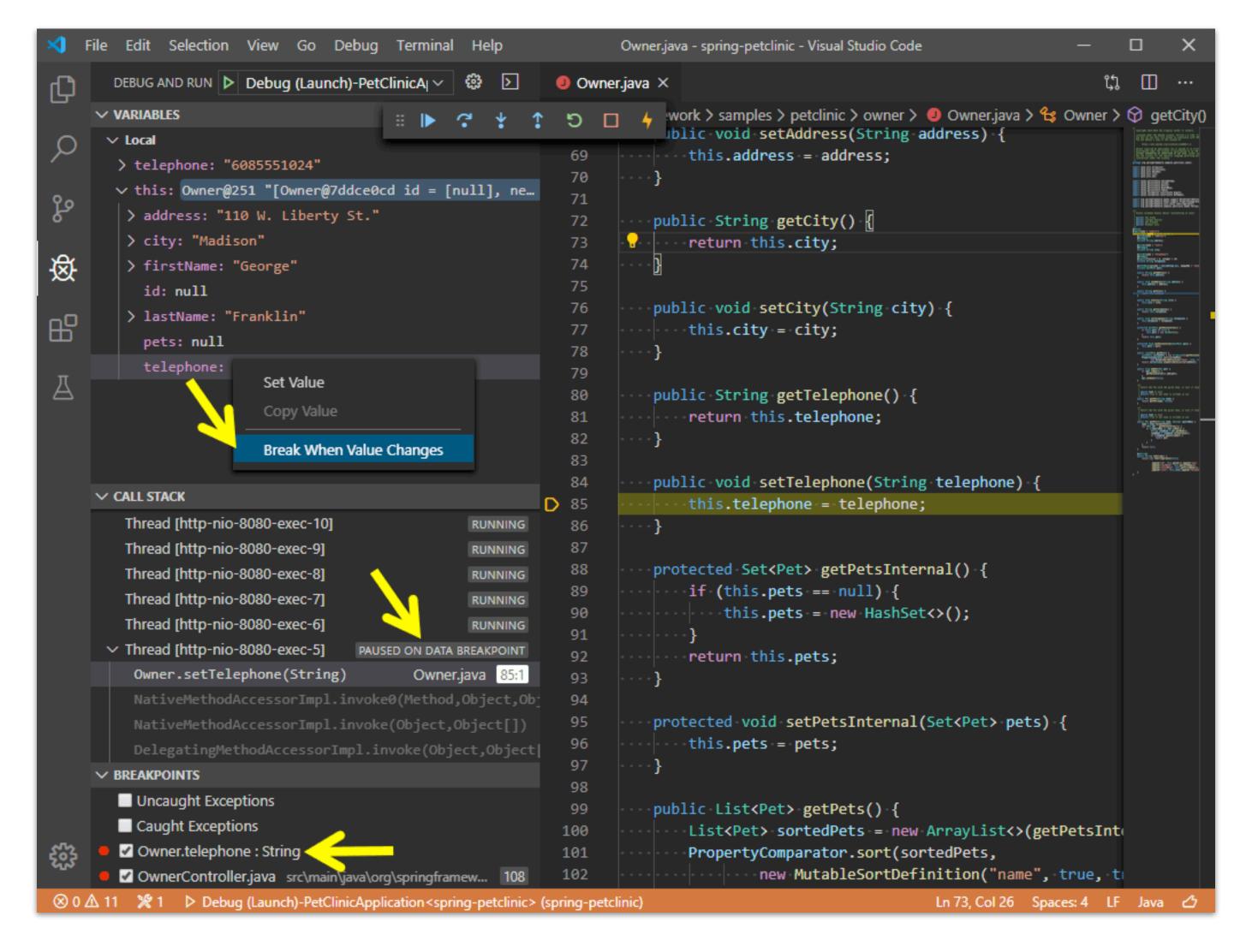
Locate the defect: Git History

Defects tend to be located in recently changed files



ម ma	ain - Teedy / docs-web / src / ma	nin / java / com / sismics / docs / rest / resource /	Go to file	Add file *
🤵 j	endib keep filename in temporary file		× 5e7f060 on N	May 16 🕚 Histo
D A	AcIResource.java	Closes #313: remove administrators from ACL targets sea	irch	3 years ag
<u> </u>	AppResource.java	Closes #632: validate POST /app/config_inbox and update	e documentation	n 5 months ag
<u> </u>	AuditLogResource.java	Closes #257: admin users can see all logs		4 years ag
<u> </u>	BaseResource.java	Download zip of files not in same document (#591)		5 months ag
	CommentResource.java	Refactor documents and files indexing		5 years ag
<u> </u>	DocsMessageBodyWriter.java	Download zip of files not in same document (#591)		5 months ag
<u> </u>	DocumentResource.java	Add doc for search syntax (#634)		5 months ag
C) F	FileResource.java	keep filename in temporary file		4 months ag
	GroupResource.java	Allow the . (dot) and @ (at) character in usernames (#637	7)	5 months ag
<u> </u>	MetadataResource.java	#300: custom metadata fields: UI read/write		3 years ag
<u> </u>	RouteModelResource.java	Closes #252: route model permissions		4 years ag
L) F	RouteResource.java	Fixed sending workflow emails to previous assignee (#422	2)	2 years a
<u> </u>	ShareResource.java	Closes #509: guest users cannot share and unshare		2 years ag
<u></u>	TagResource.java	Closes #379: spaces and colons not allowed in tag name		3 years ag
Т	ThemeResource.java	sismics docs -> teedy		4 years a
<u></u>	JserResource.java	rename		5 months ag
١١	/ocabularyResource.java	#300: custom metadata fields: API admin		3 years ag
Ů v	WebhookResource.java	Closes #243: webhooks UI		4 years ag

Locate the defect: Interactive Debugging



See: https://github.com/CMU-313/Teedy/wiki/Using-the-Debugger-via-VSCode

Locate the defect: Assertions

Reduce the distance between the fault and failure

```
public static int findMax(int v[]) {
  int max = Integer.MIN VALUE;
  // Precondition: v[] is not empty ---
                                                 Detect illegal program states
  assert v.length > 0 : "v[] is empty";
  // Precondition: max <= v[i] for every i</pre>
  for (int i = 0; i < v.length; i++)
    assert max <= v[i] : "Found value < MIN VALUE";</pre>
  // Locate the real maximum value
  for (int i = 0; i < v.length; i++)
    if (v[i] > max)
      max = v[i];
  // Postcondition: max >= v[i] for every i
  for (int i = 0; i < v.length; i++)
    assert max >= v[i] : "Found value > MIN VALUE";
  return max;
```

Write smaller unit tests as failure hypotheses

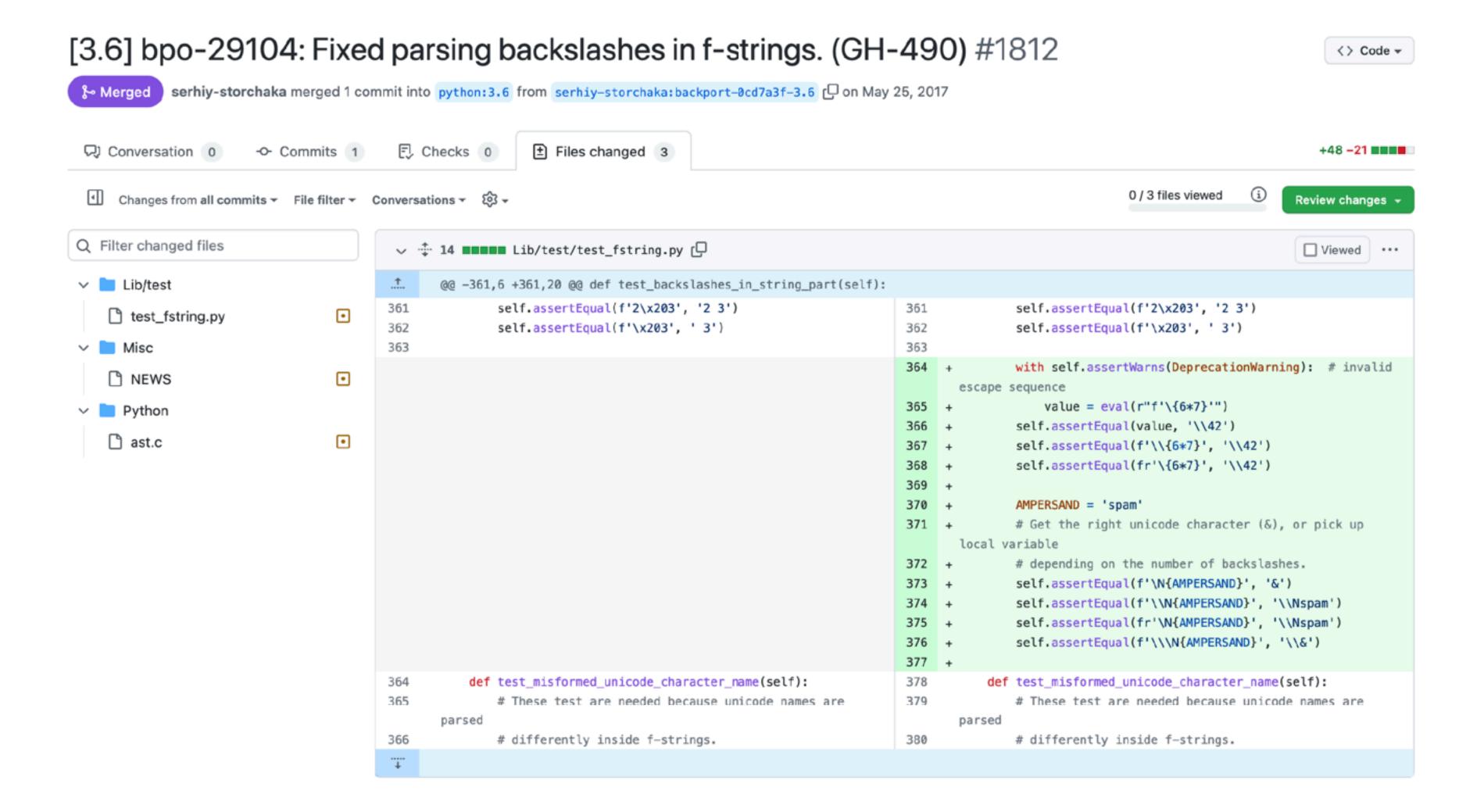
Go from large integration tests to small unit tests

```
Exhaustive test of the user resource.
* @author jtremeaux
*/
public class TestUserResource extends BaseJerseyTest {
    * Test the user resource.
   @Test
   public void testUserResource() {
       // Check anonymous user information
       JsonObject json = target().path(path: "/user").request()
                .acceptLanguage(Locale.US)
                .get(responseType: JsonObject.class);
       Assert.assertTrue(json.getBoolean("is_default_password"));
       // Create alice user
       clientUtil.createUser(username: "alice");
       // Login admin
       String adminToken = clientUtil.login(username: "admin", password: "admin", remember: false);
```

```
/**
 * Test of {@link PdfFormatHandler}
 *
 * @author bgamard
 */
public class TestPdfFormatHandler {
    /**
    * Test related to https://github.com/sismics/docs/issues/373.
    */
    @Test
    public void testIssue373() throws Exception {
        PdfFormatHandler formatHandler = new PdfFormatHandler();
        String content = formatHandler.extractContent(language: "deu", Paths.ge
        Assert.assertTrue(content.contains("Aufrechterhaltung"));
        Assert.assertTrue(content.contains("Grundumsatzmessungen"));
        Assert.assertTrue(content.contains("Grundumsatzmessungen"));
        Assert.assertTrue(content.contains("ermitteln"));
    }
}
```

Write a patch and use your tests to validate

If your tests pass, you've fixed the bug *



Takeaways

- Technical debt is a fact of life
- It's easier to preemptively avoid issues and maintain quality than to accumulate technical debt and address it later
- But you can't avoid every issue! We can use techniques to diagnose, debug, and fix those issues that do occur