DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE



BOF Session: reviewing code with gerrit and gerrithub

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Code reviews

When working in community, reviews are necessary

- Other people points of view is always useful
 - A different eye will see different things
 - The developer of a piece of code is too "inside" the code he just wrote, he can't take the needed distance with it
- QA is not only running tests and more tests, it includes reviews

Reviews are release manager friendly

- The release manage has the responsibility to validate/integrate patches
 - When bunches of patchsets come, the workload is high
 - Bugs of others that you integrated upstream become your bugs...
- Code reviews engage the responsibilities of the reviewers
 - Several reviewers => working is leveraged by stripping ;-)
 - Several points of view are always better than a single one
 - Code Reviews are like Tribal Concil: they are part of a community's life





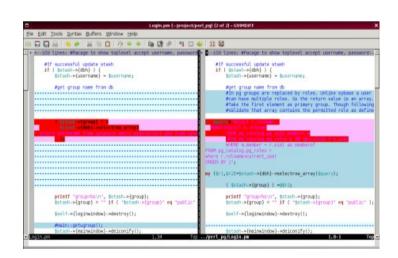
Basic tools

git diff / git status

- A fundamentally local tool : you need other tools to share the content of your review
- Nice if you have no X11, limited otherwise

Vimdiff/gvimdiff

- Comes with vim-enhanced/vim-X11 packages
- Basic setup to be used
 - git mergetool -t vimdiff
- Nicer but remains local
- You still need a way to share reviews and follow changes





Reviews via github.com

Github provides a user-friendly "diff" interface

- Natural to use: NFS-Ganesha's repository is hosted by github.com
- Everyone has a github account, everyone is using github
- Reviews are shared : everyone can see everyone's comments



Drawbacks

- This interface is a fancy git diff
 - It shows one commit, following changes across several commits is tricky
- Rebased code becomes your enemy
 - You push a commit in your "for_review" branch
 - People review it and see a bug
 - You fix the bug, but you won't push a buggy commit, so you rebase the code to squash the initial commits and the related fixes
 - A new commit is born => all comments associated with the first one are lost
 - Trace-ability becomes almost impossible
 - Initial commit becomes orphan : sooner or later, github.com will gc it.

This interface is a "diff" interface, not a review interface



Tools for reviewing code

Several tools exists

- Differential
- Gerrit (forked from Rietveld)
- Kallithea (forked from RhodeCode)
- Review Board
- Rietveld (SVN related, used on Google Cloud Service, an evolution of Mondrian)
- Crucible (proprieratory)

Gerrit has become a de-facto standard

- Large projects review code via Gerrit
 - Some examples: Android, LibreOffice, KitWate (Cmake), OpenStack, Qt, Scilab
 - This a non-exhaustive list
- Why Gerrit is nice
 - Makes it easy to follow changes, by following Changelds, not Committee
 - User interface is not as fancy as github's one, but it is not ugly
 - If you do not like X11 and want a command-line base review, install git-review
 - Well... in fact, try it on your own, and you'll see how cool it can be ;-)





Seting Up Gerrit is NOT cool

Gerrit is a bit tricky to install

- Provided as a jar file : won't fit sysadm's best practices
- You need an authentication service (for example OpenId) to log in
 - If you want to manage authentication on your own, you need to install and deploy an authentication proxy
- Setting up projects and ACLs is complex
 - Gerrit has user access control for almost every feature
 - You spend more time searching for the access control to add than to review

Github.com folks created gerrithub.io



- Gerrithub.io is really acquainted with github.com
 - Sign-In is based on your github credentials
 - Sign-Up is fast: just tell which of your github repository you want to clone
- No difficult setup to do: everything is already done and ready to use



Using GerritHub

Setup to be done in you git repository

- Gerrit is git based, you just need to have gerrit as a remote repository
 - github URL: git@github.com:phdeniel/nfs-ganesha.git
 - gerrithub URL:ssh://phdeniel@review.gerrithub.io:29418/phdeniel/nfs-ganesha
 - Port 29418 is uncool, but you can use https if you do not want to talk with your firewall administrator

Create a review

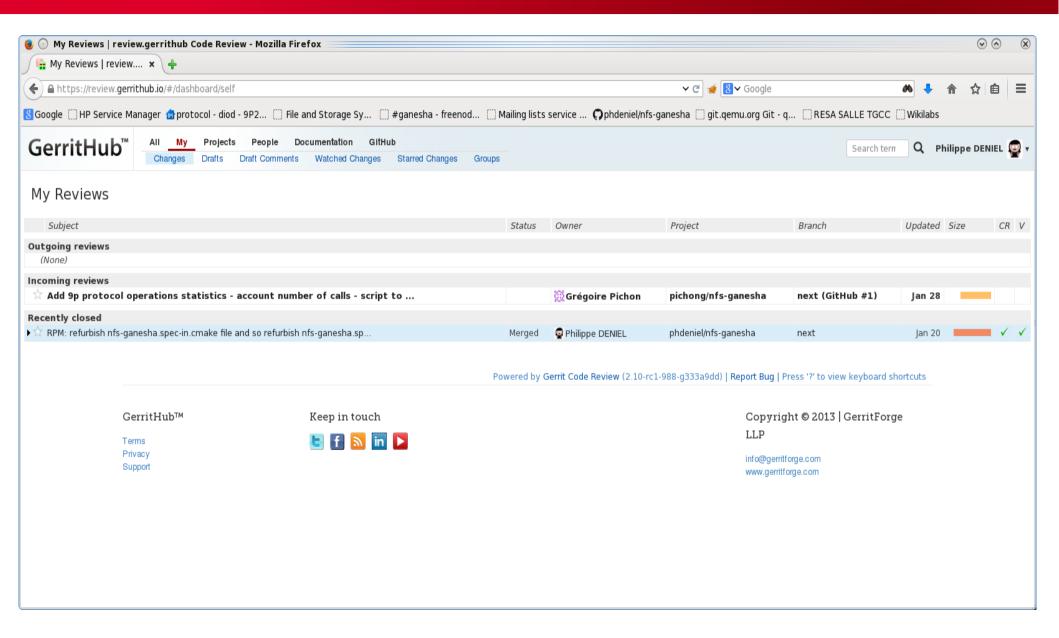
- Push a single commit to gerrit, for 'next' branch: git push gerrithub HEAD:refs/for/next
- If commit-message contains no Changeld, push request is rejected
 - But the error message will tell you which Changeld to add, using git commit -amend and re-push
 - You can have setup a git hook to automatically add the Changeld
 - You can push a complete branch instead of a single commit, but each commit must have a Change Id

Manages changes and versions of a patchset

- Rebase code makes no difficulty as long as the Changeld remains unchanged in the commit message
 - "git rebase -i" is your friend (use "fixup" instead of "squash")

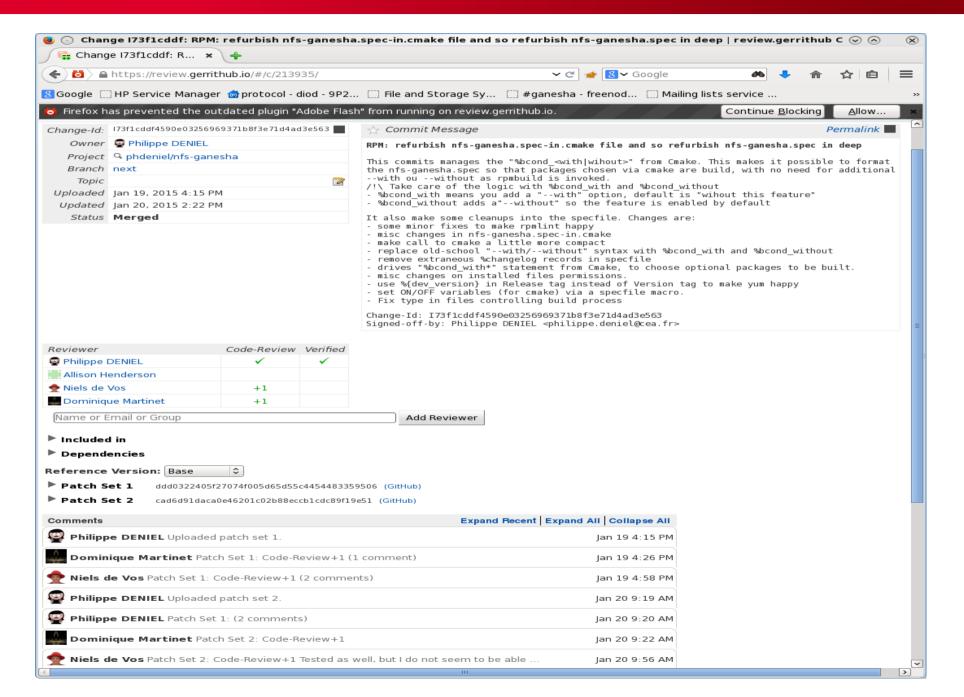


Using GerritHub: real life example (1/4)





Using GerritHub: real life example (2/4)



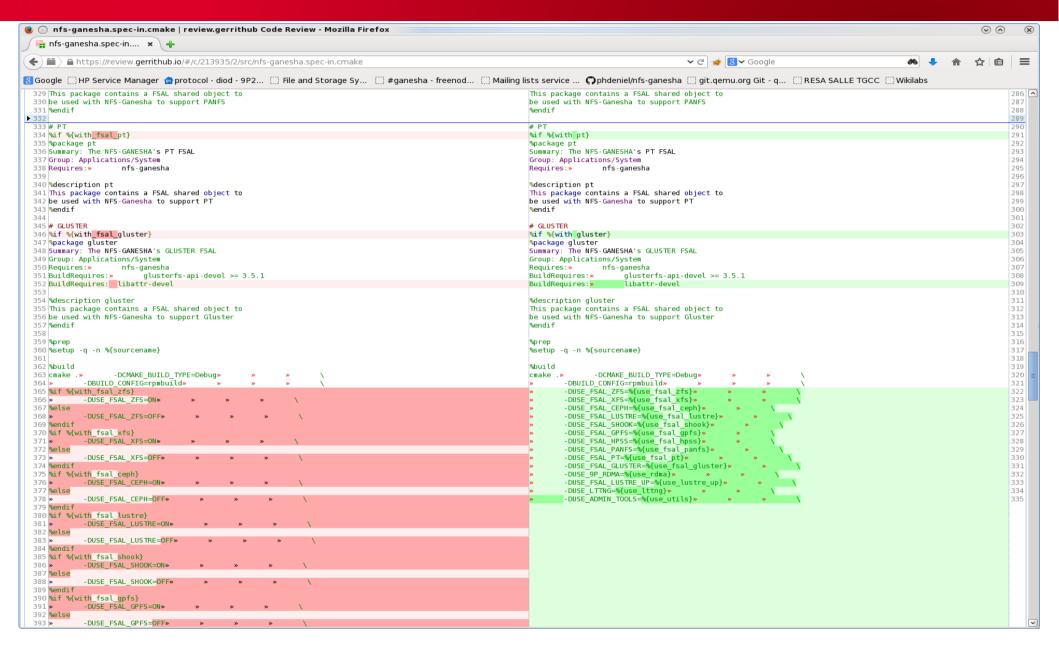


Using GerritHub: real life example (3/4)

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Using GerritHub: real life example (4/4)





From the release manager point of view

Reviewer engages his responsibility when reviewing

Each reviewer must explicitly ack or reject a change

Code Review:						
	+2 Looks good to me, approved					
	+1 Looks good to me, but someone else must approve					
	O No score					
	-1 I would prefer that you didn't submit this					
	2 Do not submit					

Integration is possible when patchset's score is high enough

- Code reviews are not an option, they are mandatory
- In case of emergency, the repository owner can give a "+2" which unlock integration
- Integration upstream is done via the gerrithub interface
 - You get the merged branch by fetch the git repository behind gerrithub





As a conclusion

We need to have code reviews

- NFS-Ganesha is growing regularly
 - A larger community needs rules (e.g. : using checkpatch.pl) to make it work properly
- NFS-Ganesha is the core of community member's business
 - We'll never be too strict
- Later works :
 - It would be cool to have common test best practices
 - It would be even cooler to have common test platform
 - Jenkins ? Ok, but who would host it ?
 - TravisCI ? A interesting track to be followed
 - The good thing with Jenkins is that you can couple it with Gerrit, by making gerrit trigger a job in Jenkins
 - Can Gerrithub do the same ?

Moving reviews to gerrithub would really help

This is a BOF session : we are here to discuss about this





Questions?

