Human aspects of software development

CS-214 - 22 Nov 2023 Clément Pit-Claudel

Quick announcements

Resources for webapps

memory, examples, lib

Debrief for week 10

is up, with webapp tips

Webapp status

Planning and first prototype!

TODO

TDD and collaboration for webapp

Last week:

Distributed version control

Learning objectives:

- 1. Handle divergence between codebases and resolve conflicts
- 2. Describe and apply distributed collaboration schemes

- Single-user git recap
- Distributed Git basics
 - Remotes
 - Fetching
 - Branches
- Managing short-term divergence
 - Patches
 - Cherry-picks
 - Rebases
- Managing long-term divergence
 - Branching
- Handling conflicts
 - 3-way diffs
 - Conflict resolution
- Social aspects of distributed dev

Distributed git demo

At-home topics

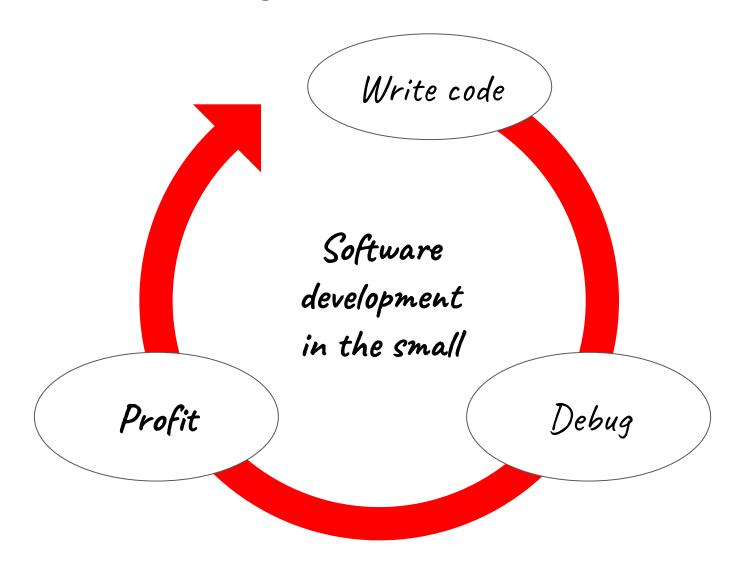
(on your own, see exercises)

- SSH keys
- GPG signatures
- git range-diff
- git send-email
- git rerere

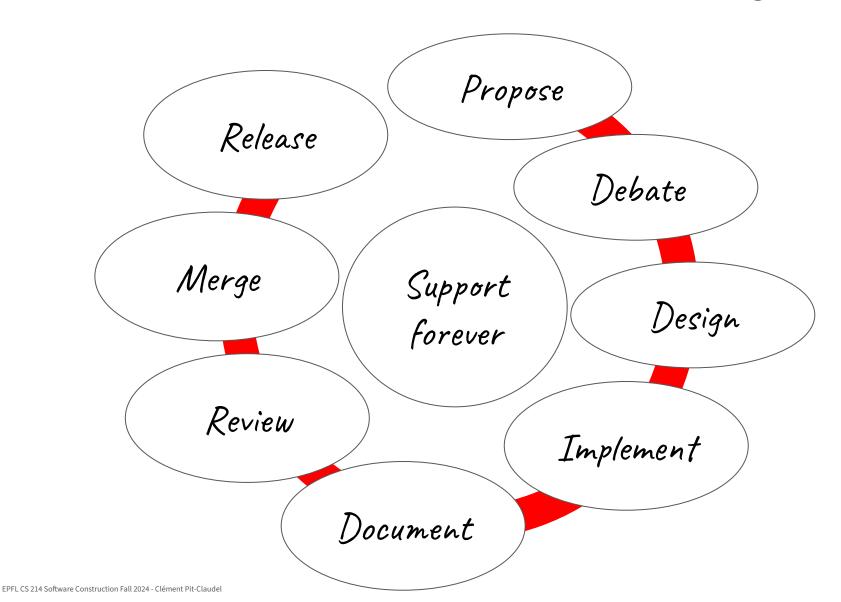
Social aspects of distributed development

- The lifetime of a software feature
- The messy reality of software development
- Fostering community and collaboration
- Tools for distributed development
- Ethics and software

The lifetime of single-user software



The lifetime of a software feature in the large













Sourcehut









plain HTTP

Three dominant workflows

Patches

- git clone
- git branch, commit
- git format-patch
- git send-email
- git am

Who?

 Larger, older projects with complex workflows

Examples

- <u>torvalds/linux</u>
- GCC GNU Project

Public forges

- fork/branch, clone
- branch, commit, push
- Web UI for review
- git rebase
- git merge

Who?

 Most free software, various companies

Examples

- lampepfl/dotty
- microsoft/vscode

Custom forge

- <clone>
- <branch, commit>
- Custom patching
- Custom review

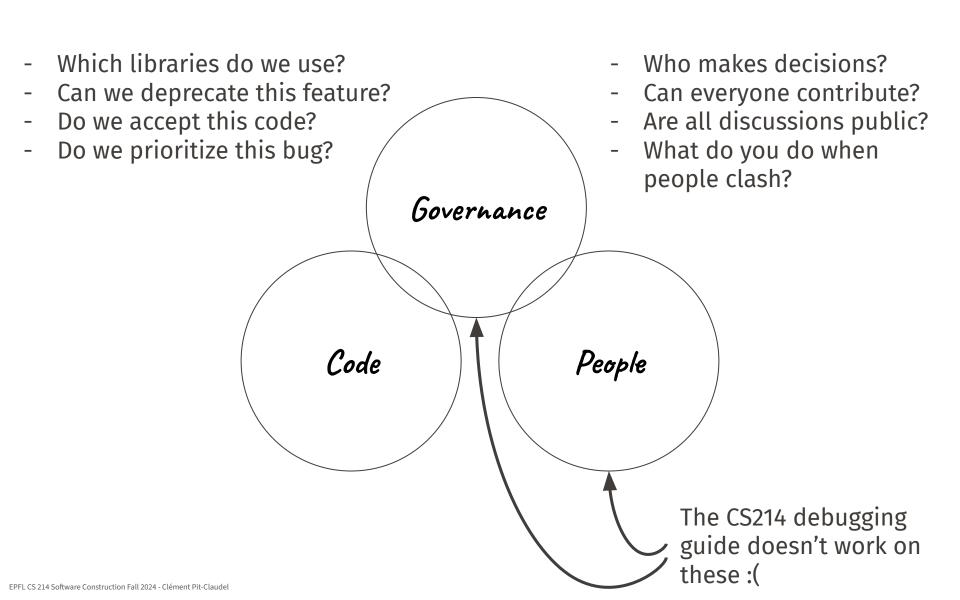
Who?

 Large projects and companies

Examples

- salsa.debian.org
- AWS, <u>Google</u>, ...

3 aspects of distributed software construction



Fostering community and collaboration

Communicating with users

Release notes, version numbers
Bug trackers

Collaborating with developers

Code review
Automated checks

Milestones, task tracking, project planning

Onboarding contributors and maintaining a community

Codes of conduct

Mailing lists, meetups, IRC/chat

Guides for committing and patching

Software ethics

- Environmental impacts (energy consumption, device fabrication)
- Social impacts (access to information, online harassment)
- Economic impact (scams, malware, cryptocurrencies)
- Fairness and equality (software licenses, access to technology)

→ BA5 course: Responsible software! ←

Be a force for good!