

Contemporary Peer Code Review Practices in Research Software

Jeffrey C. Carver
University of Alabama

Can you spot the mistakes?



```
1 // file: IVR.CPP
2 void IVR()
3 {
4     //press 1 for account balance, 2 for last transaction,
5     //3 for last statement, any other for operator
6     play_prompt();
7
8     int key_pressed= get_user_choice();
9     if(key_pressed ==1)
10    {
11        play_account_balance();
12    }
13    else if(key_pressed =2)
14    {
15        play_last_transaction();
16    }
17    else if(key_pressed ==3)
18    {
19        play_last_statement();
20    }
21    else transfer_to_operator();
22 }
```

Assignment operator
instead of comparison

```
1 //file: printer.java
2 if (user.isAuthenticated)
3 {
4     userAccess = checkUserAuthorization(user);
5
6     //if user has access to printer
7     if(user.isAuthenticated && userAccess.printer)
8         printUsageReport ();
9     else
10        emailUsageReport ();
11 }
```

Redundant check

```
1 //file: UserStats.java
2 String[] listOfUsers = getUsersList();
3 //print all the users name
4 for(int i=1;i< listOfUsers.length();i++)
5     System.out.println("User# "+i +": "+listOfUsers[i]);
6
```

Will not print first user

Do you think only novice
developers make those
mistakes?

```
#define CDMA_SUBSCRIPTION_SOURCE_NV 0
#define CDMA_SUBSCRIPTION_SOURCE_RUIM 1
```

80
81
82

David Turner

Sep 13, 2010

the functions below operate on an AModem object, so should be named `amodem_switch_technology()`,
`amodem_set_cdma_XXXX`

[Reply ...](#)

[Reply 'Done'](#)

Jaime A Lopez-Sollano

Sep 23, 2010

Done

[Reply ...](#)

[Reply 'Done'](#)

```
static const char* switchTechnology(AModem modem, AModemTech newtech, int32_t newpreferred);
static int set_cdma_subscription_source( AModem modem, ACdmaSubscriptionSource ss);
static int set_cdma_prl_version( AModem modem, int prlVersion);
```

83
84
85
86

```
if (noMedia) {
```

```
    // In case the file is known and now is under a  
    // .nomedia folder mark as not seen in order to  
    // be removed from files table in the post scan.
```

```
    if (entry != null && noMedia) {
```

478

479

480

481

482

Emilio López

Jan 15, 2012

Isn't '&& noMedia' redundant? noMedia can only be true inside the if block.

Reply ...

Reply 'Done'

David Marques

Jan 16, 2012

Thanks Emilio! My bad :D

Reply ...

Reply 'Done'

```
        entry.mSeenInFileSystem = false;  
    }  
    return null;  
}
```

483

484

485

486

487

#13244

```
02 >>         if ((nbytes=recvfrom(fd,msgbuf,MSGBUFSIZE,0,  
63 >>             >>             (struct sockaddr *) &addr,&  
64 >>                 perror("recvfrom");  
65 >>                 exit(1);  
66 >>             }  
        puts(msgbuf);
```

~~David Haddock~~

Feb 8, 2010

Isn't there a risk of msgbuf not being terminated? Reading all the way to MSGBUFSIZE seems to risk overwriting the implicit init done, or does the kernel always null-terminate the buffer, even if it is larger than MSGBUFSIZE?

I guess the worst case scenario is puts going off on a tangent, so probably not particularly dangerous, but still?

Reply

Done

~~David Haddock~~

Feb 9, 2010

You are absolutely right. I will change it to write() the number of bytes received. I only tested it with the other file (sender.c) which sends "Hello, world" with the null-byte attached. I will send a patch when I get home. Thanks for the review!

```
54 »     »     if ( $this->isPermalink ) {
55 »     »     »     $html .= Linker::link(
56 »     »     »     »     »     »     SpecialPage::getTitleFor( 'ArticleFeedbackv5', $record[0]->p
age_title ),
57 »     »     »     »     »     »     wfMessage( 'articlefeedbackv5-special-goback' )->text());
```

Catrope

Apr 17, 2012

And this unfixes a security bug that was fixed earlier: this must be ->escaped(), not ->text(), because the second param to link() is HTML.

[Reply ...](#)

[Reply 'Done'](#)

Reha Sterbin

Apr 17, 2012

Done

[Reply ...](#)

[Reply 'Done'](#)



You might be an Internet 'solopreneur', a lone wolf who writes, edits, formats, checks and publishes your own content. Or you might work for a ~~company~~ website, either as a content creator or as a ~~production~~ editor, sub-editor or editor - the person in charge of quality control and tasked to edit/proofread work produced by your colleagues.

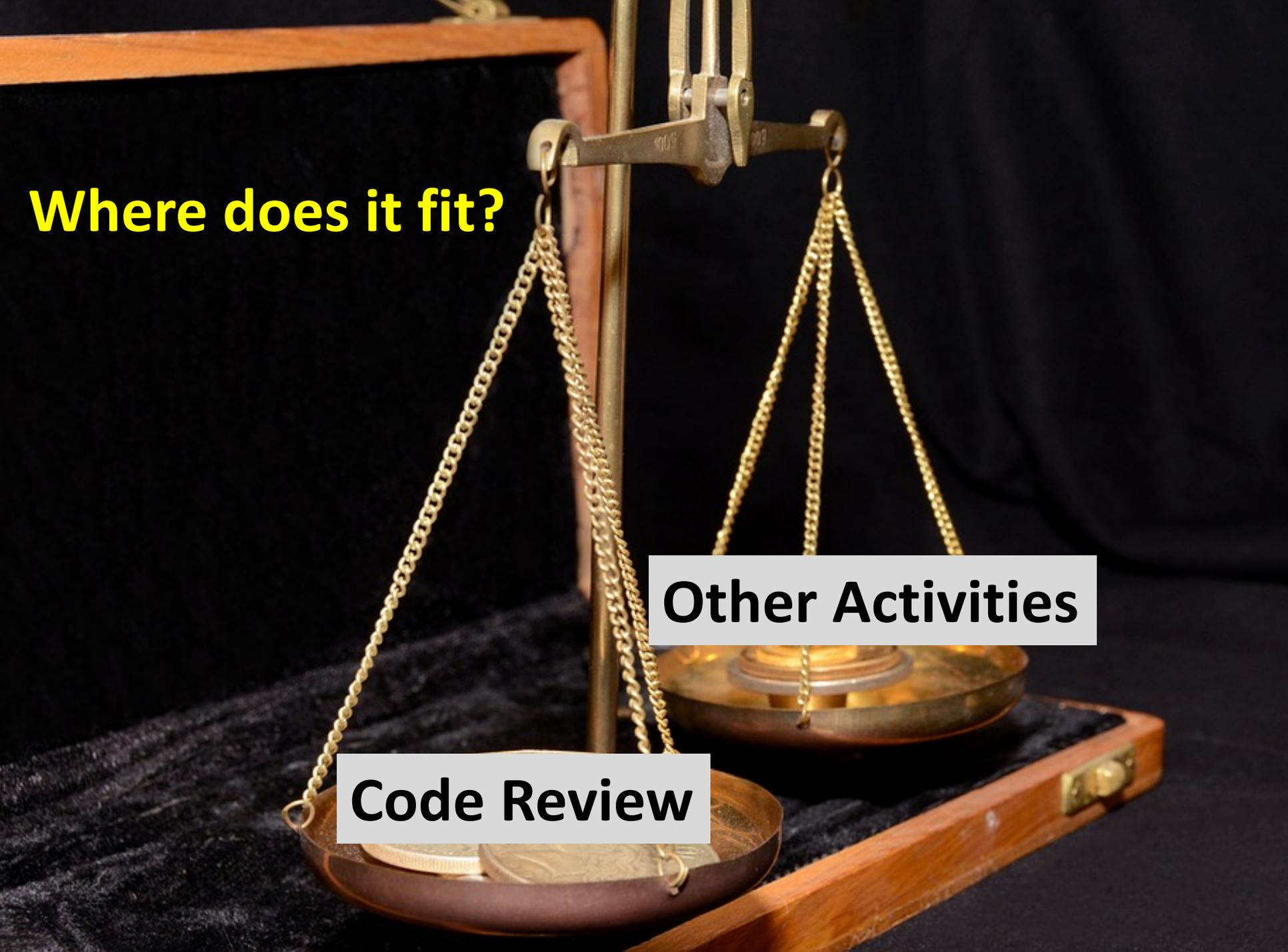
Not you? Maybe you want to self-publish a book on Amazon, check through a student essay or thesis, perhaps error-check a company report? Maybe you're involved in creating a brochure, newsletters, business cards, product packaging or signs? Not you either? What about sending an email, posting a Tweet or updating Facebook? They all involve words. Is everything you've typed recently correct? Are you certain?

It's not always easy to spot errors.

You might not have a proofreading process. Or you might be already be actively proofreading and want to get better at it.

And forgotten If you publish or print words of any kind, you won't want any mistakes to slip through. You want to ensure that what you produce is the best that it can be. This is especially true if you are printing anything. Mistakes on the web can be corrected. You don't have that luxury with print. Print has permanency. Just think how you'd feel if you'd been the sign writer who painted 'SHCOOL' in big white letters on the road when you meant to spell 'SCHOOL'. Or that you'd given the OK to a sign that read 'DRIVE-THRU ENTERANCE'. These are real examples. You'll find more proofreading howlers like these later in this book.

Again, proofreading is an essential part of the publishing process. The larger the font, the more you should check it. The more permanent the publication or installation, the more you should check it. You should check and re-check everything you plan to publish until your eyes ache or until the words start to look incorrect and you have to look them up again just to make sure that you're not going crazy. And if you have time for a re-re-check, so much the better.

A brass balance scale is shown, with a wooden frame and a central vertical post. Two pans are suspended from the post by chains. The left pan is lower and contains several gold coins. The right pan is higher and is empty. The scale is set against a dark, textured background.

Where does it fit?

Other Activities

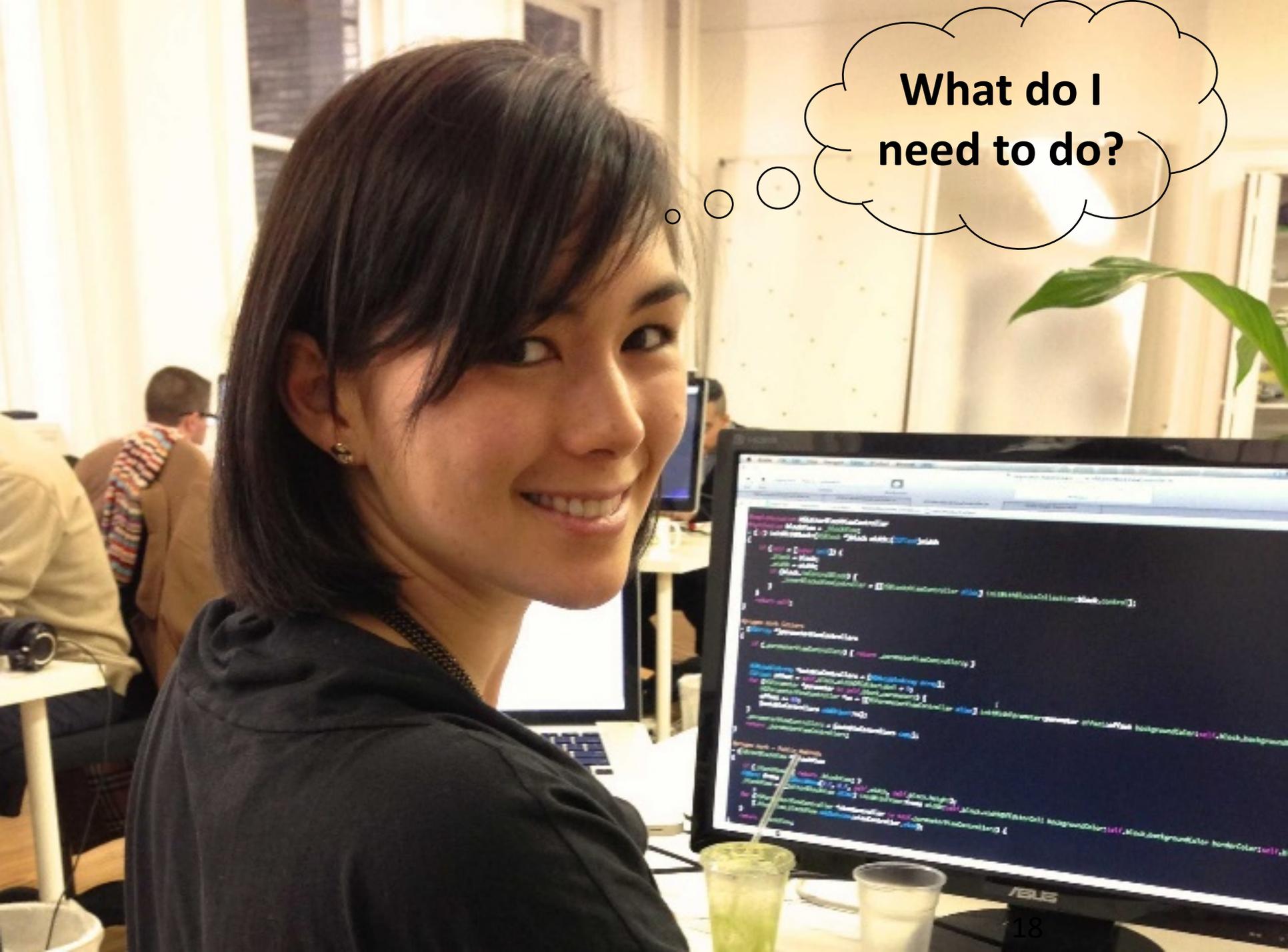
Code Review



Code Review Goals

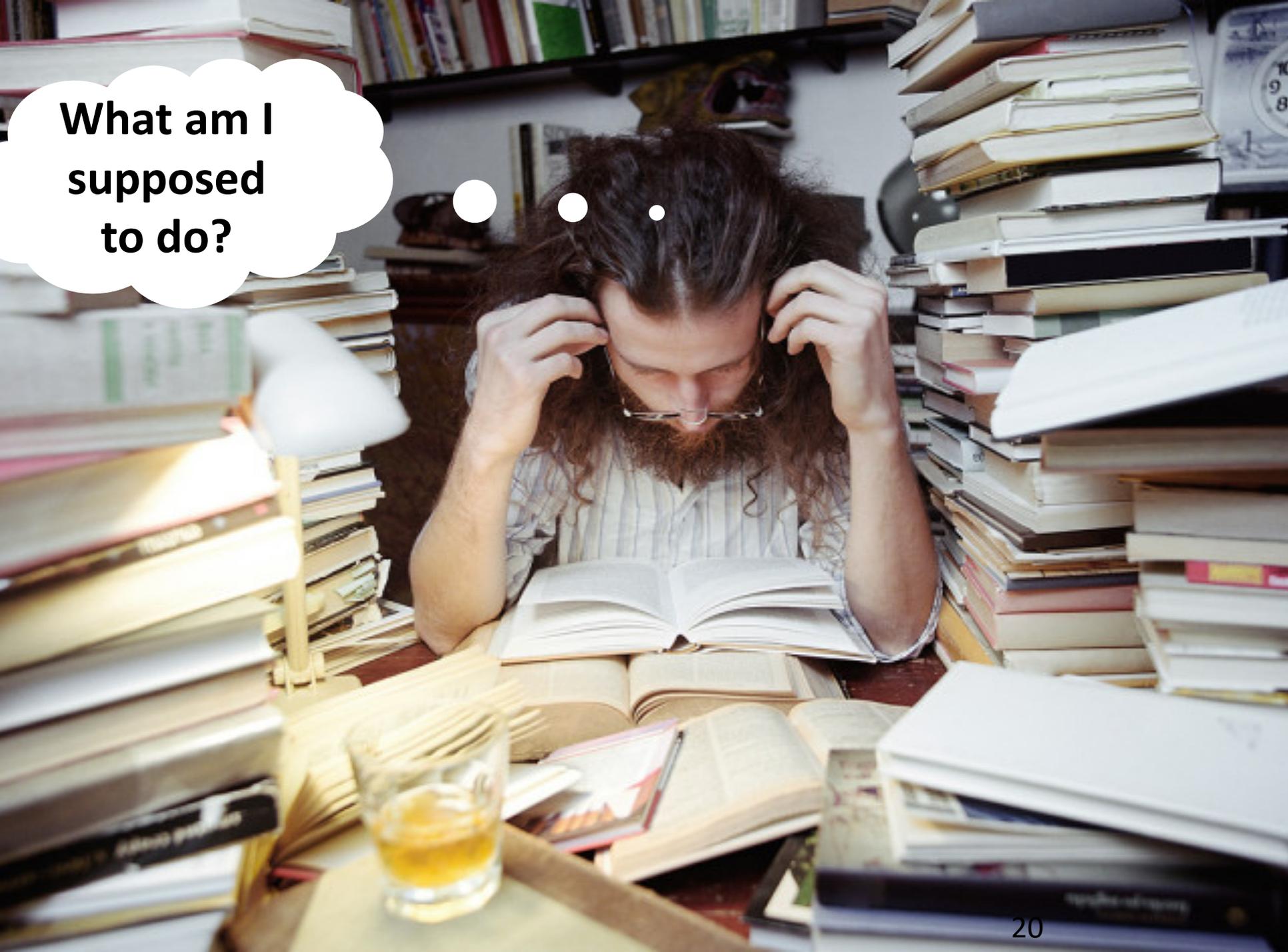


Code Review Practices



**What do I
need to do?**

**What am I
supposed
to do?**



Code Review Techniques

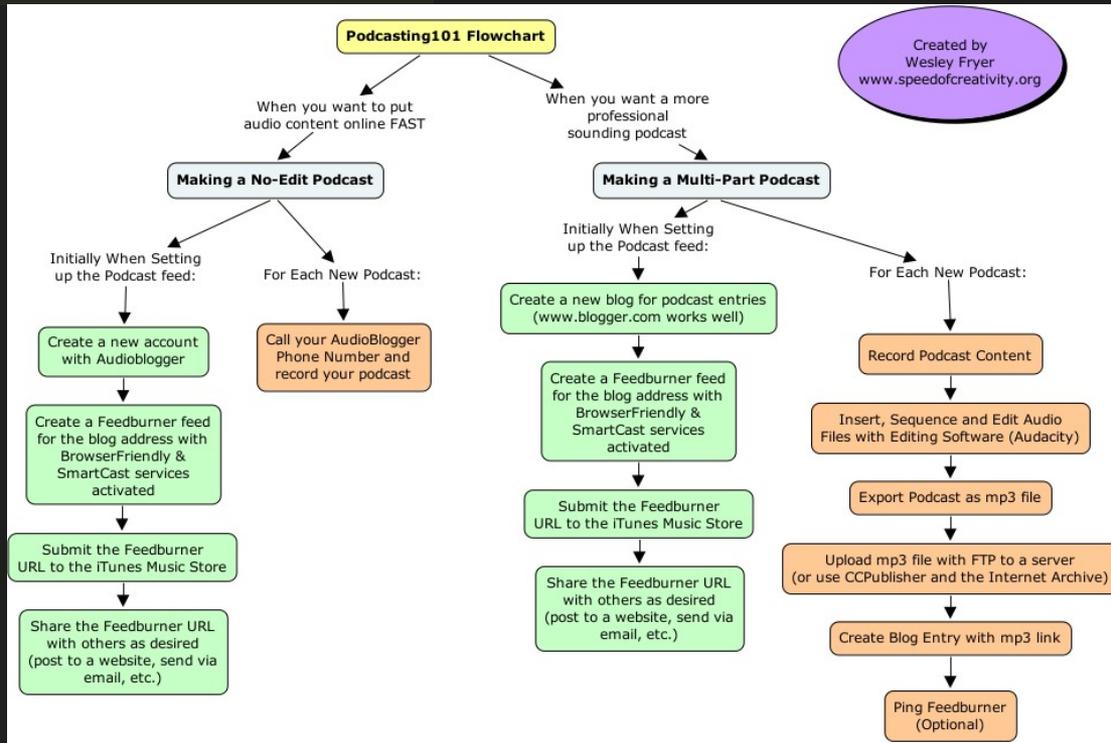
```

43 <body <?php body_
44 <div id="fb-root"></div>
45 <script>(function(d, s, id) {
46   var js, fjs = d.getElementsByTagName(s)[0];
47   if (d.getElementById(s)) return;
48   js = d.createElement(s); js.id = id;
49   js.src = "//connect.facebook.net/en_US/sdk.js#xfbml=1&version=v2.6&appId=28844883429231";
50   fjs.parentNode.insertBefore(js, fjs);
51 })(document, 'script', 'facebook-jssdk');</script>
52 <div id="page" class="site">
53   <a class="skip-link screen-reader-text" href="#content"><?php esc_html_e('Skip to content', 'wordpress'); ?></a>
54
55   <header id="masthead" class="site-header" role="banner">
56     <div class="site-branding">
57       <div class="nav-bln pull-left">
58         <?php if(is_home() && $xpanel['homepage-style'] == 1) { ?>
59         <a href="#" id="openMenu"><i class="fa fa-bars fa-3x"></i></a>
60         <?php } else { ?>
61         <a href="#" id="openMenu2"><i class="fa fa-bars fa-3x"></i></a>
62         <?php } ?>
63       </div>
64       <div class="logo pull-left">
65         <a href="<?php echo esc_url(home_url()) ?>">
66           
67         </a>
68       </div>
69       <div class="search-box hidden-xs hidden-sm pull-left ml-10">
70         <?php get_search_form(); ?>
71       </div>
72       <div class="submit-btn hidden-xs hidden-sm pull-left ml-10">
73         <a href="<?php echo get_page_link($xpanel['submit-link']) ?>" class="header-submit-btn"><i class="fa fa-search"></i></a>
74       </div>
75       <div class="user-info pull-right mr-10">
76         <?php
77         if ( is_user_logged_in() ) {
78           <?php echo esc_html_e('Logged in as: ' . get_current_user() . ' | <a href="#">Log out', 'wordpress');
79         }
80       </div>
81     </div>
82   </div>
83 </body>

```

Code

Algorithms



Code Review Comment Exercise

“You are writing cryptic code”

**“Its hard for me to grasp what is
going on in the code”**

Use I-Messages

**“This is not how I would have solved
the problem”**

**“Why did you use this approach rather
than approach X?”**

Ask questions where possible

“You are sloppy when it comes to writing tests”

“I believe that you should pay more attention to writing tests”

**Criticize the author’s behavior,
not the author**

**“You’re requesting the serve
multiple times, which is inefficient”**

**“This code is requesting the service
multiple times, which is inefficient”**

Talk about the code, not the coder

“I always use fixed timestamps in tests and you should too”

“I would always use fixed timestamps in tests for better reproducibility, but in this simple test, using the current timestamp is also ok”

Accept different solutions

Issues Identified code review



BODEN STATEMENT

The Project Approval
Basic Rules of The Code
An idea for Code Rev
To Not Continue with
The Engineers' Aid
Begin with Spreadsheets
The Rules of Code Rev
Go for Code of 2014

Wifi Password

for Code Rev
Code - [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

Developer

Checklist

- My code compiles
- My code has been tested and has unit tests
- My code includes appropriate comments
- My code is tidy / follows coding standard
- I have documented corner cases
- I have documented workarounds
- ...
-

Reviewer

Checklist

- Comments are understandable and appropriate
- Comments are neither too many or too few
- Exceptions are appropriately handled
- Repetitive code has been factored out
- Frameworks have been used appropriately
- Functionality fits the design/architecture
- Code is testable
- Code compiles

Code Review

BEST
PRACTiCE



Research Code Review

WMS

Our Results



Typical Code Review Workflow



Requests
Review



Writes

Reviews

Merge



PAGE	111	SHEP	APPLE	DOS		PAGE
3573					WBOOT	
3574	3755	ADF137	LDA	IBBUFP+1		; GET START OF DOS
3575	3758	8DE337	STA	BONDOS		; SAVE IT
3576	3758	3B	SEC			
3577	375C	ADE737	LDA	ADOSLD+1		; CALCULATE
3578	375F	EDE337	SBC	BONDOS		
3579	3762	8DE037	STA	NDPDS		; NO DOS PAGES
3580	3765	8DE237	STA	ESDSEC		
3581						
3582	3768	A900	LDA	#0		
3583	376A	8DEC37	STA	IBTRK		; TRACK=0
3584	376D	8DED37	STA	IBSECT		; SECTOR=0
3585	3770	8DF037	STA	IBBUFP		
3586						
3587	3773	ADE737	LDA	ADOSLD+1		; GET BOOT START ADR
3588	3776	8DF137	STA	IBBUFP+1		; TO BUFP
3589	3779	8DFE36	STA	GRSPQ		; TO GARBAGE RECORD
3590						
3591	377C	A90A	LDA	#10		; NO OF BOOT PAGES
3592	377E	8DE137	STA	BRCNT		; TO BOOT I/O COUNTER
3593	3781	0A	ABLA			; AND
3594	3782	0A	ASLA			; TO
3595	3783	0A	ASLA			; GARBAGE RECORD
3596	3784	8DFF36	STA	GRPOC		
3597						
3598	3787	A902	LDA	#IBCHTS		; SET WRITE
3599	3789	8DF437	STA	IBCHD		
3600						
3601	378C	209F37	JSR	BOOTIO		; GO WRITE BOOT SECTORS
3602						
3603	378F	ADE337	LDA	BONDOS		; SET START OF DOS
3604	3792	8DF137	STA	IBBUFP+1		
3605						
3606	3795	ADE037	LDA	NDPDS		
3607	3798	8DE137	STA	BRCNT		
3608	379B	209F37	JSR	BOOTIO		; GO WRITE DOS
3609						
3610	379E	60	RTS			; DONE
3611						

Abandon



Mailing List Code Review

From [REDACTED]
Subject [patch] Fix cross-user symlink race condition vulnerability
Date Wed, 31 Oct 2012 04:46:47 GMT

There is a race condition vulnerability in httpd 2.2.23 (also present in previous releases) that allows a malicious user to serve arbitrary files from nearly anywhere on a server that isn't protected by strict os level permissions. In a shared hosting environment, this is a big vulnerability.

If you would like more information on the exploit itself, please let me know. I have a proof of concept that is able to hit the exploit with 100% success.

This is my first patch submitted to Apache, so I'm sorry if I've missed something. I'm aware that this doesn't meet some of the code standards that are in place (e.g, it doesn't work at all on Windows), but I wanted to put it out there anyway.

The patch that fixes the vulnerability is attached. Thank you in advance for the feedback.

--

[REDACTED]
Senior System Administrator
[REDACTED]

Mime

- Unnamed multipart/mixed (inline, None, 0 bytes)
 - [Unnamed text/plain](#) (inline, 7-Bit, 857 bytes)
 - [httpd-2.2.23-symlink-protection.patch](#) (text/x-patch) (attachment, 7-Bit, 8324 bytes)

[View raw message](#)

Pull Requests

Fix a small bug in a project in GitHub Pull Requests

```
#git clone https://github.com/project/code ; cd code
```

```
#vi some.c
```

```
#git commit -a -m 'Fix the frobinator'
```

```
#go to web UI
```

```
#click fork
```

```
#git remote add me https://github.com/$USER/code
```

```
#git push me master
```

```
#go to web UI
```

```
#create pull request
```

Fix a small bug in a project in Gerrithub

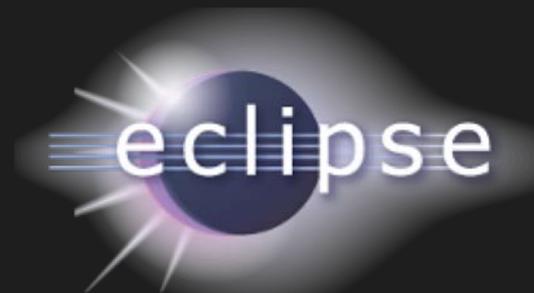
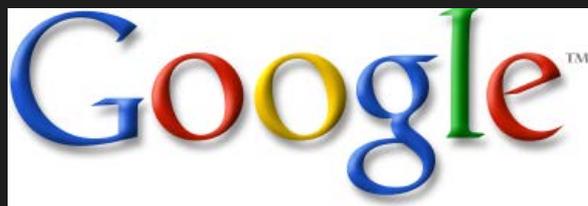
```
#git clone https://gerrit.googlsources.com/gerrit ; cd gerrit
```

```
#vi .buckconfig
```

```
#git commit -a -m 'Add new target alias for doc index'
```

```
#git push origin HEAD:refs/for/master
```

Contemporary Code Reviews



Code Review Tools

Code Review Tools



Gerrit: <https://code.google.com/p/gerrit/>



Review Board: <https://www.reviewboard.org/>



Phabricator: <https://phabricator.org/>



Crucible:
<https://www.atlassian.com/software/crucible>

References for further reading

- *Code Complete*, by Steve McConnell
- <https://www.codeproject.com/articles/524235/codeplusreviewplusguidelines>
- <https://blog.philippbauer.de/code-review-guidelines>
- <https://github.com/joho/awesome-code-review>
- <https://www.planetgeek.ch/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Clean-Code-V2.1.pdf>

Collaborate?



@SE4Science 

Jeffrey Carver
carver@cs.ua.edu



<http://BSSw.io>

Photo Credits

- <http://incolors.club/collectionfdwn-female-computer-programmer.htm>
- <http://tech.trivago.com/img/posts/code-review/code-review-3.jpg>
- <http://www.protectitip.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Software-Code.jpg>
- http://www.computerhistory.org/atcm/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/marked_up_listing-542x404.jpg
- <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53798babe4b0fca9449cf693/t/53f78774e4b0ce4d05e4152f/1408730997720/>
- <https://residentialwastesystems.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/dumpsters-trumbull-ct.jpg>
- <http://www.hipaasecurenow.com/index.php/beckers-hipaa-compliance-8-best-practices/>
- [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Collaboration_\(9601759166\).jpg#metadata](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Collaboration_(9601759166).jpg#metadata)
- <http://entertainment.time.com/2012/05/09/confessions-of-another-book-reviewer/>