



GitLab as an Alternative Development Platform for Github.com

LinuxCon Europe 2014

October 13, 2014



Ralf Lang
Linux Consultant / Developer
B1 Systems GmbH
lang@b1-systems.de

Introducing B1 Systems

- founded in 2004
- operating both nationally and internationally
- more than 60 employees; low employee turnover
- Provider for IBM, SUSE, Oracle & HP
- vendor-independent (hardware and software)
- Focus:
 - Consulting
 - Support
 - Development
 - Training
 - Operations
 - Solutions

Areas of Expertise

- Virtualization (XEN, KVM & RHEV)
- Systems management (Spacewalk, Red Hat Satellite, SUSE Manager)
- Configuration management (Puppet & Chef)
- Monitoring (Nagios & Icinga)
- IaaS Cloud (OpenStack & SUSE Cloud)
- High availability (Pacemaker)
- Shared Storage (GPFS, OCFS2, DRBD & CEPH)
- File Sharing (ownCloud)
- Packaging (Open Build Service)
- Providing on-site systems administration and/or development

Partners



GitLab – An Open Source Software to Collaborate on Code



Why Managed Version Control?

- easy management of privileges
- inline feedback options
- enforce reviews
- spend time coding, not managing tools and users

Why Should I run my own VCS?

- firm control over source code access
- no external parties involved
- dedicated resources
- easily integrates with custom tools and reports
- keep sensitive information in-house

What is GitLab?

- GitLab is an Open source software to collaborate on code.
- GitLab is based on Git, the most widely adopted version control system for software development.
- GitLab helps to ensure software quality by providing a feature-rich review system.
- GitLab simplifies distributed working on projects with a centralized server.

Some GitLab Features

- code review
- bug tracking
- personal and private branches
- management of numerous Git repositories
- 25,000 users on a single server
- highly available active/active cluster possible
- code snippets
- access control
- issue tracking
- Web hooks
- Wiki

GitLab is Collaborative

- unlimited number of public and private repositories
- unlimited number of public and private collaborators
- integrates with *LDAP*
- integrates with external ticket systems e.a. *Redmine*
- Omnibus package supports configuring an external database (*PostgreSQL* or *MySQL*)
- works with *JIRA* for issue tracking
- displays merge request status for builds on *Jenkins CI* (only Enterprise Edition)

Who Else Uses GitLab?

- More than 100,000 organizations, amongst others:
 - AT&T
 - Bell
 - CERN
 - Fraunhofer
 - Interpol
 - NASA
 - Red Hat

Who Works on GitLab?

- since September 2011
- an active community with hundreds of contributors
- managed by GitLab.com
- Enterprise support by GitLab B.V.

Traditional Git Workflow

- 1 Clone the repository.
- 2 Create a branch.
- 3 Modify source code.
- 4 Check in.
- 5 Create a patch or push changes to upstream.

Disadvantages & Drawbacks

- Write access:
Every committer needs write access on projects.
⇒ intended workflows could be omitted
- Format patch:
Every committer submits his patches and has to wait for the maintaining of a reviewer.
⇒ still a labor-intensive and error-prone process

The Gitlab Workflow

- 1 Fork repository into own name space.
- 2 Full access to own forked copy.
- 3 Edit online in browser or in local checkouts.
- 4 Create Merge Request.
- 5 Reviewer comments on diffs on the platform.
- 6 Automated process for pulling forks back into the mainstream repository.

- ⇒ no need to grant or revoke access
- ⇒ no hassle with long threads of patch e-mails
- ⇒ enforces review paradigms
- ⇒ little setup costs for additional team members

Internal Issue/Review System

- APIs for external ticketing
 - access Redmine tickets through commit messages in Git
 - or use internal ticketing
- API for Gitlab CI
 - continuous Integration: Automated builds and test suite runs on commit
 - improved software quality
 - use dead code detectors or code coverage tools

Access Control

- GitLab provides an access control for user and groups based on permission levels.
- Users' abilities depend on their access level on a particular project or group.
- If a user is both in a project group and in the project itself the highest permission level is used.
- The GitLab administrator receives all permissions.

GitLab Continuous Integration

- integrates with the GitLab installation to run tests for projects
- login with GitLab account
- Simply add projects with one click
- on-premises software: can be installed on arbitrary (Linux) server(s)

The GitLab Dashboard – Project Overview

My Projects

All projects you have access to are listed here. Public projects are not included here unless you are a member

All	32	development / b1timetool
Personal	0	Last activity: about 5 hours ago
Joined	32	development / b1training
Owned	0	B1 Training Tool
		Last activity: 6 days ago
		development / B1 Open Build Service
		Schneemann - OUR open build service related stuff.
development	32	Last activity: about 1 month ago

The GitLab Dashboard – Commits

development / rasp-video

Search in this project

Files **Commits** Network Graphs Issues 0 Merge Requests 0

master

Commits Compare Branches 1 Tags 0 Stats

📅 25 Jul, 2014
2 commits

[339412c8b](#) **add ffmpeg patch for completeness** [Browse Code »](#)
 Stefan Seyfried 2 months ago

[4ad8d74db](#) **stream-receiver.sh: add newly created -ftgs option** [Browse Code »](#)
 Stefan Seyfried 2 months ago

📅 10 Jun, 2014
1 commit

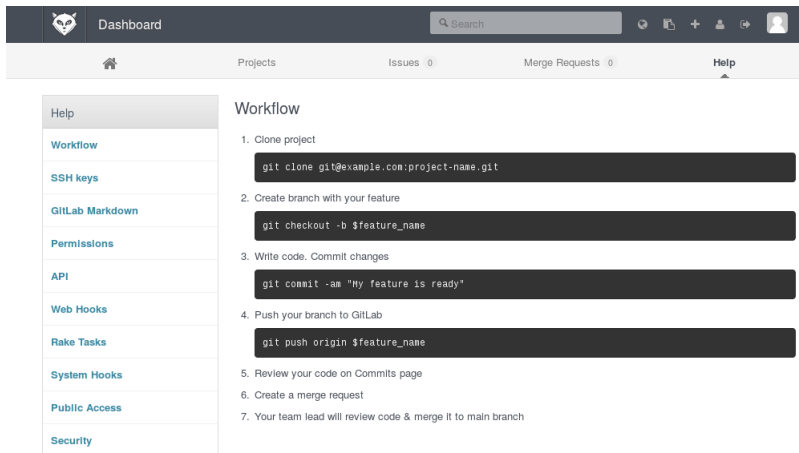
[7c165546b](#) **add hacked hello_video version, built as hello_video2.bin** [Browse Code »](#)
 Stefan Seyfried 4 months ago

📅 08 Jun, 2014
2 commits

[cda6812dc](#) **raspi: add Makefile for easy build (cross and native)** [Browse Code »](#)
 Stefan Seyfried 4 months ago

[fe90555db](#) **import ilclient and hello_video from raspi userland** [Browse Code »](#)
 Stefan Seyfried 4 months ago

The GitLab Dashboard – Workflow



The screenshot shows the GitLab Dashboard interface. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the GitLab logo, the word "Dashboard", a search bar, and several utility icons. Below this is a light-colored secondary navigation bar with links for "Home", "Projects", "Issues 0", "Merge Requests 0", and "Help". On the left side, there is a vertical sidebar menu with the following items: "Help", "Workflow", "SSH keys", "GitLab Markdown", "Permissions", "API", "Web Hooks", "Rake Tasks", "System Hooks", "Public Access", and "Security". The main content area is titled "Workflow" and contains a numbered list of seven steps, each with a corresponding terminal command in a dark box:

1. Clone project

```
git clone git@example.com:project-name.git
```
2. Create branch with your feature

```
git checkout -b $feature_name
```
3. Write code. Commit changes

```
git commit -am "My feature is ready"
```
4. Push your branch to GitLab

```
git push origin $feature_name
```
5. Review your code on Commits page
6. Create a merge request
7. Your team lead will review code & merge it to main branch

The GitLab Dashboard – New Project

New Project

Project name is [Customize repository name?](#)

Repository name .git

[Import existing repository?](#)

Description (optional)

Public project Make project visible to everyone

The GitLab Dashboard – Projects

The screenshot shows the GitLab interface for a project. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the GitLab logo, the project name 'development / raspi-video', and a search bar. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for 'Files', 'Commits', 'Network', 'Graphs', 'Issues 0', and 'Merge Requests 0'. A third bar shows the repository URL 'git@git.intern.b1-systems.de:development/raspi-video.git' with a 'private' lock icon and buttons for 'Fork', 'Download', and a dropdown menu. The main content area is split into two columns. The left column contains a list of recent activity: 'Stefan Seyfried pushed new branch master at development / raspi-video' (2 months ago), 'Stefan Seyfried joined project at development / raspi-video' (3 months ago), and 'Karsten Keil joined project at development / raspi-video' (3 months ago). The right column displays project statistics for 'raspi-video': 'Repo size is 0.79 MB', 'Created at Jul 04, 2014', 'Owned by development Group', '22 commits', '1 branch', and '0 tags'.

The GitLab Dashboard – Project Files

The screenshot shows the GitLab interface for a project named 'development / raspi-video'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search box and icons for home, files, commits, network, graphs, issues, and merge requests. Below this, a breadcrumb trail shows the current location: '4ad8d74dbf...' > 'raspi-video'. The main content area displays a list of files and directories with columns for Name, Last Update, Last Commit, and a history link. The files listed include 'raspi', '.gitignore', 'Makefile', 'README', 'source.c', 'stream-receiver.sh', 'ts-extract-video.c', 'udp-client.c', and 'udp-server.cc'. Each entry shows the commit hash, the author's name (Stefan Seyfried), and the commit message. Below the list, there is a section for the 'README' file, which contains the text: 'The different tools in this directory:'.

Name	Last Update	Last Commit	Commit Message	History
raspi	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	add hacked hello_video version, built as hello_video2.bin	history
.gitignore	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	add udp-server for testing	
Makefile	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	explicitly link against librt	
README	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	add README file with basic usage instructions	
source.c	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	source: add simple error simulation	
stream-receiver.sh	2 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	stream-receiver.sh: add newly created -ftrs option	
ts-extract-video.c	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	ts-extract-video: add debug messages	
udp-client.c	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	add 'udp-client', a trivial UDP stream receiver	
udp-server.cc	4 months ago	4ad8d74dbf7	add udp-server for testing	

README

The different tools in this directory:

More Information on GitLab ...

- GitLab.com:
`GitLab.com`
- GitLab Continuous Integration (CI):
`https://about.gitlab.com/gitlab-ci/`
- Official GitLab Documentation:
`http://doc.gitlab.com/ce/`



Thank you for your attention!

For further information, please contact:
info@b1-systems.de or +49 (0)8457 - 931096