Peer Code Reviews

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“in a culture of optimism good honest criticism seems to be dying out”

Tim Brown
Overview

• Storytime!

• Types of reviewers and types of reviews

• Structuring the review process

• Providing excellent feedback
Storytime!
Be intentional about your reviews.
Not all **reviews** are the same.

- Design crit
- Technical architecture review
- Automated self-check (coding standards; test suites)
- Ticket-based peer code review
- Quality Assurance / User Acceptance Testing
Not all **reviewers** are the same.

- Disinterested Reviewer
- Peer Reviewer
- Automated Gatekeeper
- Consensus Shepherd
- Benevolent Dictator
Peer reviews are for everyone.

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<th>Junior Coder</th>
<th>Senior Coder</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Reviewer</strong></td>
<td>• find bugs</td>
<td>• learn to read good code</td>
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<td>• compliance with coding standards</td>
<td>• suggest simplifications</td>
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<td>• exposure</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Reviewer</strong></td>
<td>• suggest new techniques</td>
<td>• improve architecture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• improve architecture</td>
<td>• cross-functional team</td>
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<td>(exposure)</td>
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Use templates and checklists.
Use templates to structure the process.

LaunchPad - http://lb.cm/tmpltt-launchpad

Drupal - http://lb.cm/tmpltt-drupal

Symfony - http://lb.cm/tmpltt-symfony
Use Checklists to Ensure You’re Meeting Standards

http://drupal.org/core-gates
Internal Checklists

http://gitforteams.com/resources/review-process.html
Provide excellent feedback.
Good Feedback is Usable

• Limit it to the scope of the work.
• Make it actionable.
• Make it specific.
• Do it as soon as possible.
• Acknowledge effort and give thanks.
Bad Feedback is Destructive
Summary

• Implementing code reviews at work can initially cause more tension.

• Code reviews will improve the skills of everyone on the team — communication and coding.

• Consider the types of review, and work towards implementing the right feedback at the right time.

• Co-create checklists for the review process.

• Provide excellent, actionable feedback.
Peer Code Review Resources

http://lb.cm/ala-code-reviews

http://lb.cm/review-process

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