



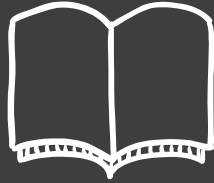
Koalas, Branches & Pull Requests

A Tester's Guide to Pull Request Reviews

Andrea Jensen

Nordic Testing Days | June 2026

Hey, I'm Andrea!



Mail: Loveletterfromatester@gmail.com

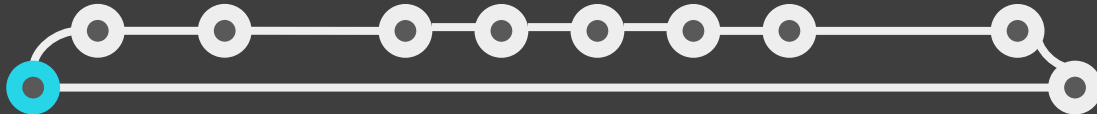
LinkedIn: [andrea-jensen](#)

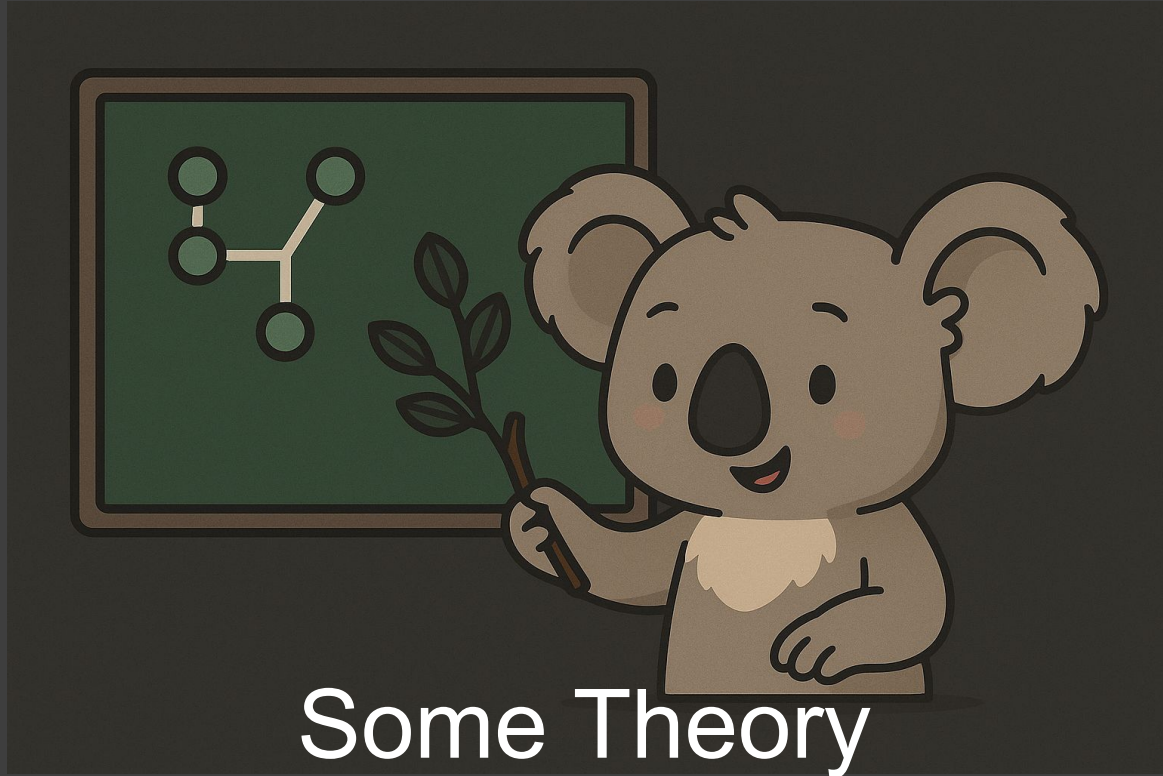
Bluesky: [@agentaj.bsky.social](#)

[#tea](#)
[#testing](#)
[#tolkien](#)
[#traveling](#)
[#testingstories](#)

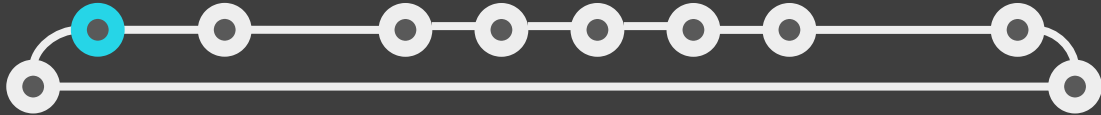


- Some Theory
- Review Approach from a Tester's Point of View
- The Benefit of a PR Review
- How to get Started



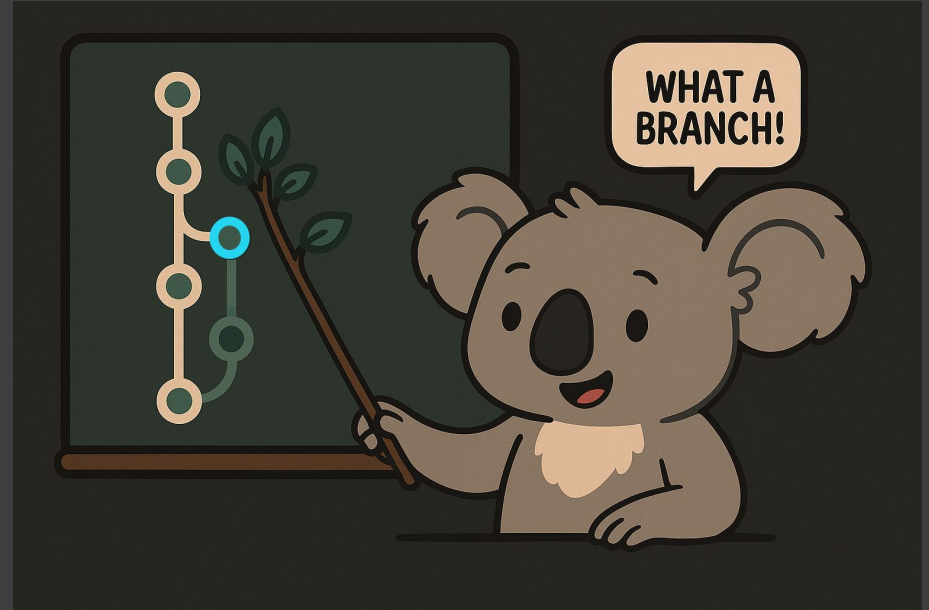


Some Theory



Pull Request*

- Code
- Changes
- Review
- Branch
- Merges
- Social
- Collaborative



**or Merge Request in Gitlab*

@AgentAJ

Update README.md #246969

New issue

Open bapplicationysmo... wants to merge 1 commit into microsoft:main from bapplicationysmobile:patch-1

Commits 1 Checks 2 Files changed 1 +3 -73

bapplicationysmobile commented yesterday

Thank you for submitting your Pull Request. Please follow these guidelines:

- Read our Pull Request guidelines: <https://github.com/microsoft/vscode/wiki/How-to-Contribute#pull-requests>
- Associate the Pull Request with an existing issue.
- Make sure your code is updated with the latest changes from the `main` branch.
- Include a description of the proposed changes and details on how to test them.

Reviewers

bndifreke1

At least 1 approving review is required to merge this pull request.

Assignees

mjbvz

Labels

None yet

Projects

None yet

Milestone

No milestone

Development

Successfully merging this pull request may close these issues.

None yet

3 participants

Update README.md Verified 55f319c

bndifreke1 reviewed yesterday View reviewed changes

```

README.md
bndifreke1 yesterday
dict1 = {'a': 1, 'b': 2}
dict2 = {'b': 3, 'c': 4}

merged_dict = {key: value for d in (dict1, dict2) for key, value in d.items()}
print(merged_dict) # Output: {'a': 1, 'b': 3, 'c': 4}

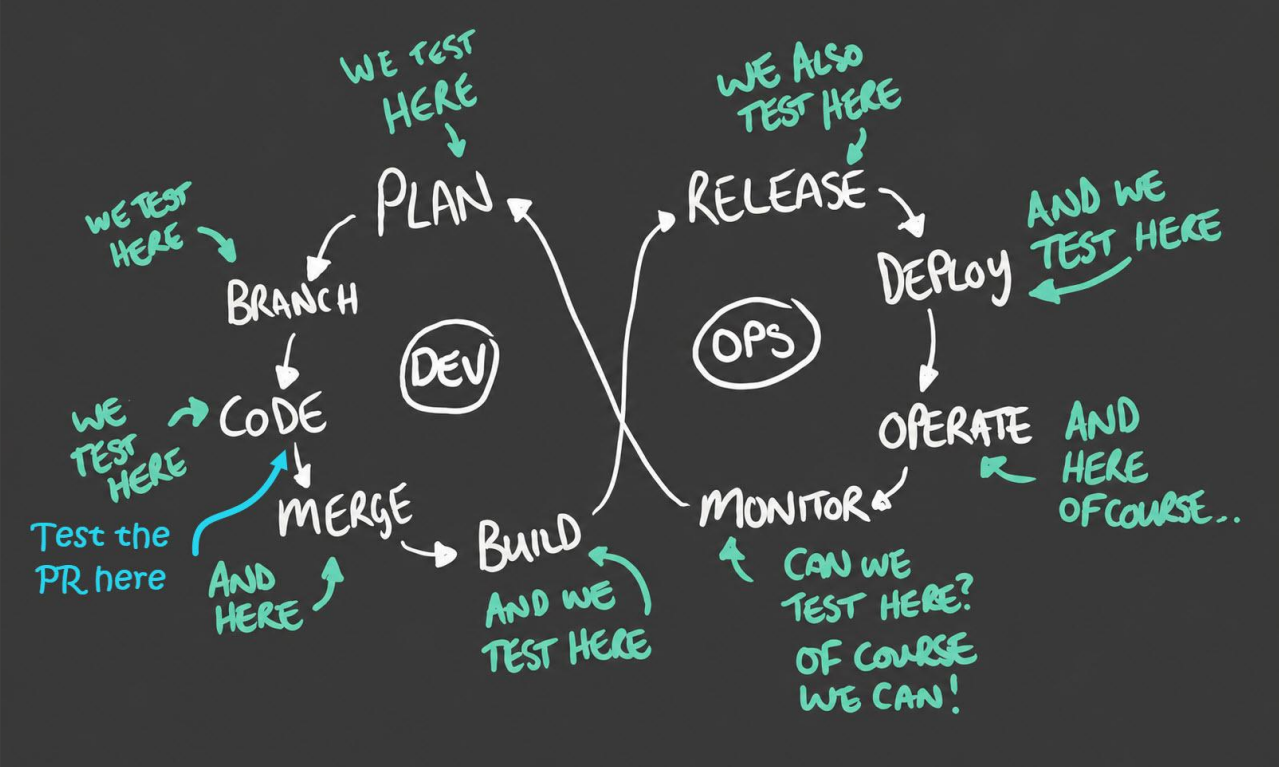
dict1 = {'a': 1, 'b': 2}
dict2 = {'b': 3, 'c': 4}

print(dict(m...
```

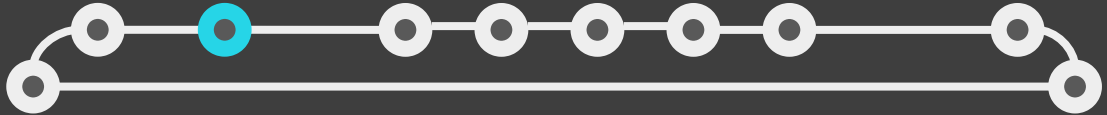
Version Control

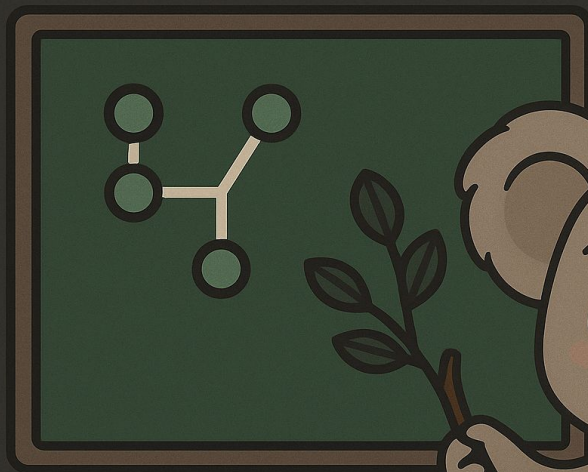
- GitHub
- GitLab
- Bitbucket
- Azure DevOps Repos
- Subversion



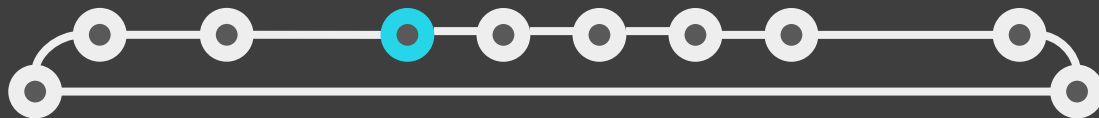


Credits: Dan Ashby



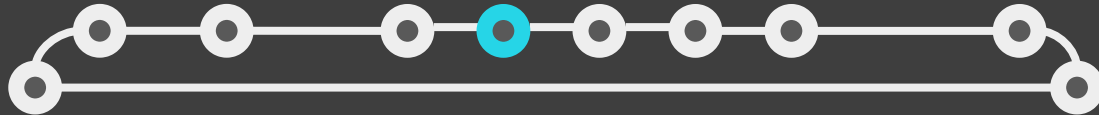
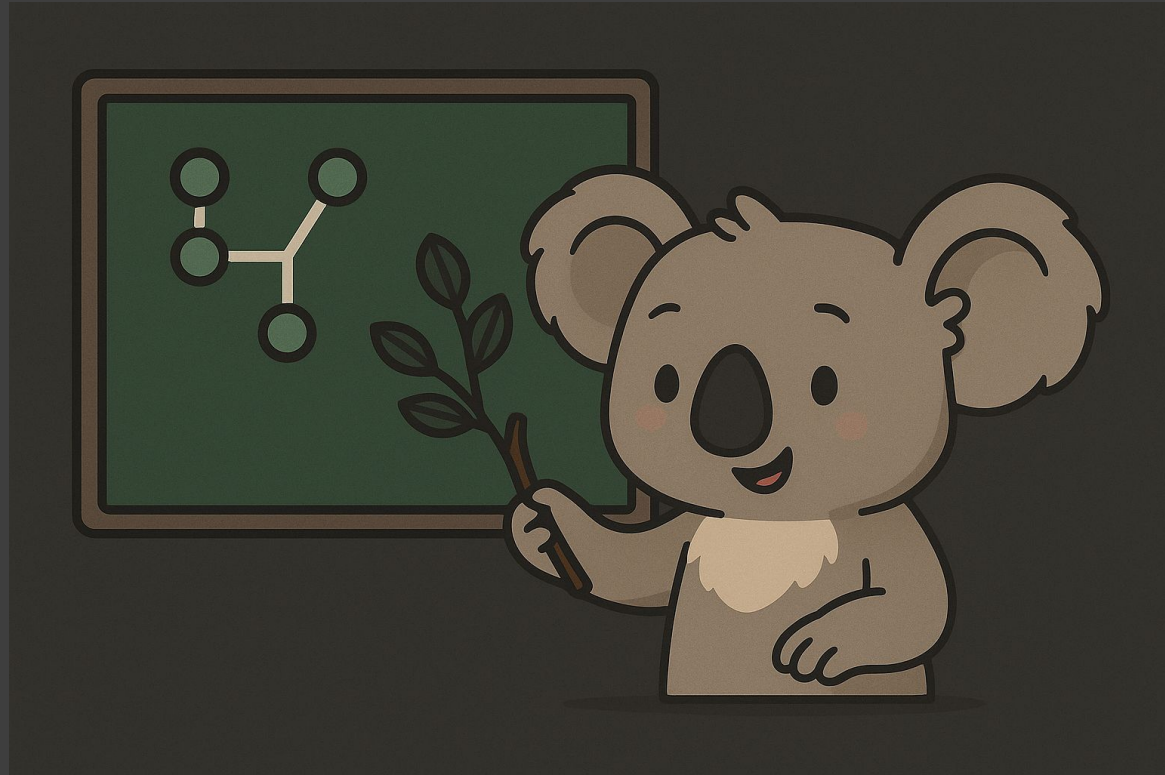


The *My* Review Approach



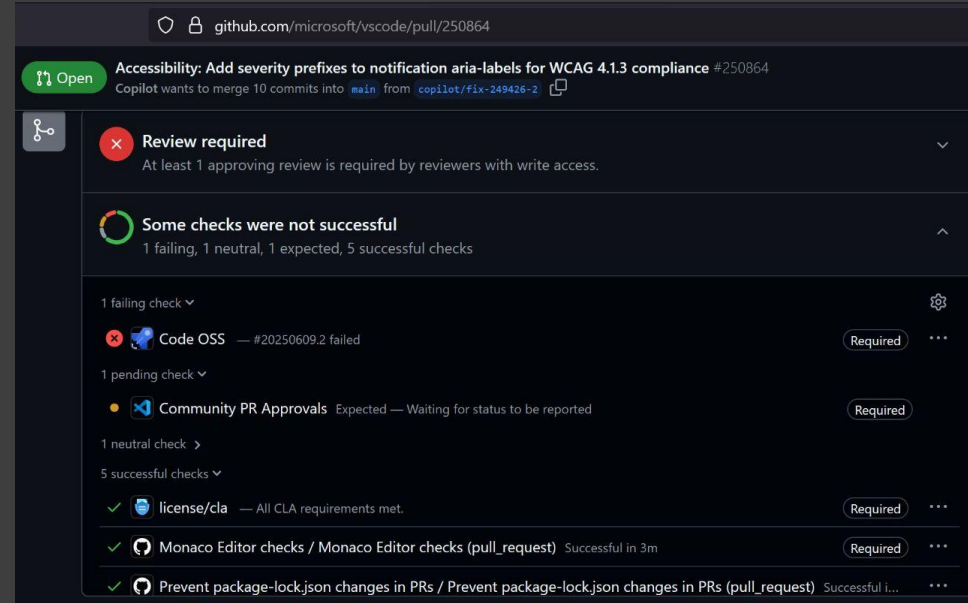
Review Approach

- Policy & Guidelines
-
-
-



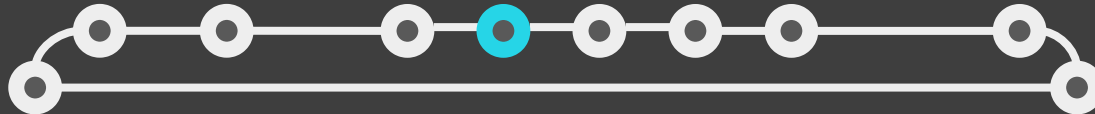
Policies & Guidelines

- How is the status?
- Are the guidelines applied?
 - Naming convention
 - Correct branching
- What status have the checks?
 - Unit test execution
 - Code analysers
 - Security scans
- Reviews
 - Status
 - Approval chain

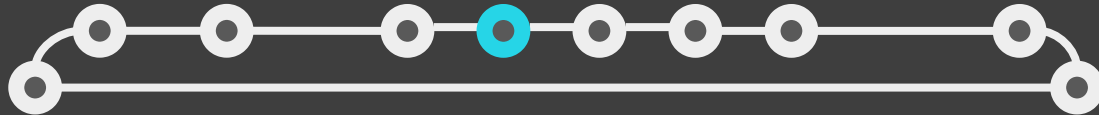
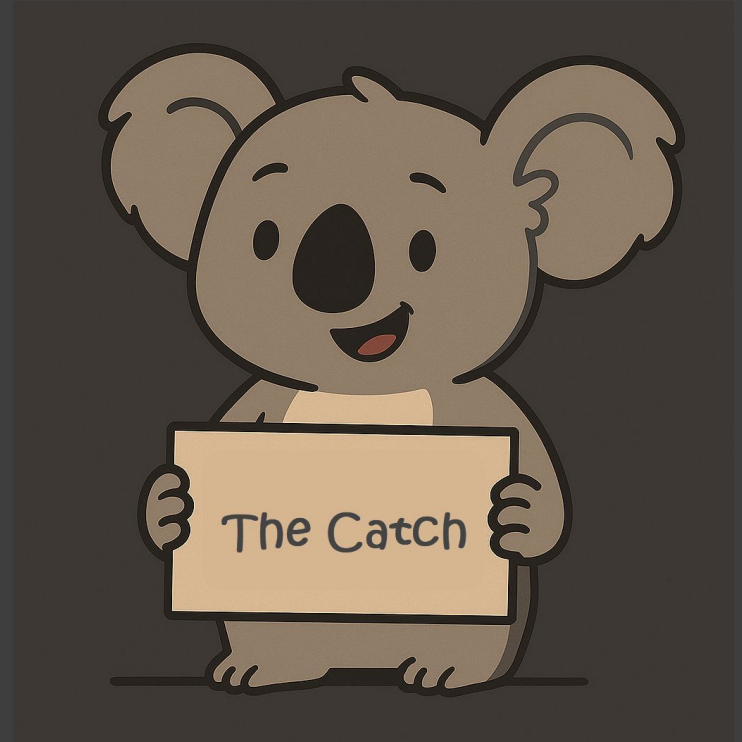


The screenshot shows a GitHub pull request page for the repository `github.com/microsoft/vscode` with pull request number `250864`. The page displays several checks and their status:

- Review required**: At least 1 approving review is required by reviewers with write access.
- Some checks were not successful**: 1 failing, 1 neutral, 1 expected, 5 successful checks.
- 1 failing check**:
 - Code OSS**: #20250609.2 failed. Status: Required.
- 1 pending check**:
 - Community PR Approvals**: Expected — Waiting for status to be reported. Status: Required.
- 1 neutral check**:
 - license/cla**: All CLA requirements met. Status: Required.
- 5 successful checks**:
 - Monaco Editor checks / Monaco Editor checks (pull_request)**: Successful in 3m. Status: Required.
 - Prevent package-lock.json changes in PRs / Prevent package-lock.json changes in PRs (pull_request)**: Successful in... Status: Required.

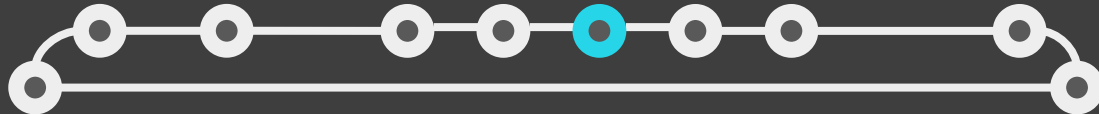
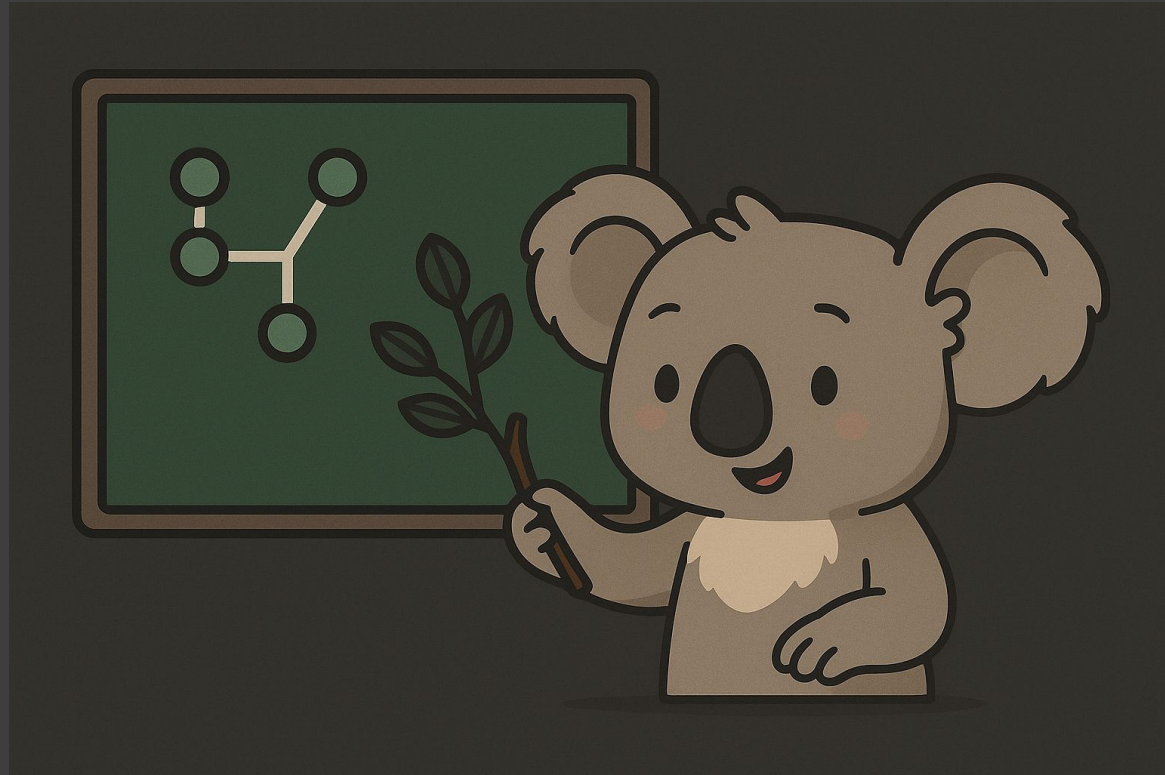


"Testing the process,
testing happens
everywhere!"



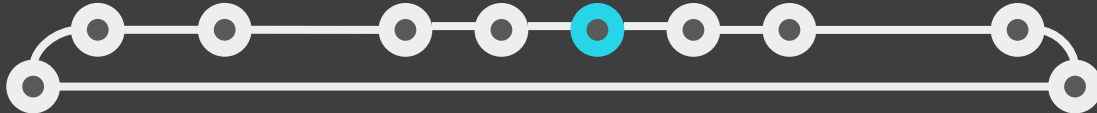
Review Approach

- Policy & Guidelines
- Documentation
-
-



Documentation

- What is the scope?
- What is the intended outcome of the change?
- References to issues, tickets?
- Clarity and Completeness



Documentation - The Good

 Open d-mahard wants to merge 1 commit into `microsoft:main` from `d-mahard:fix/placeholderforeground` 

 Conversation 0  Commits 1  Checks 2  Files changed 2

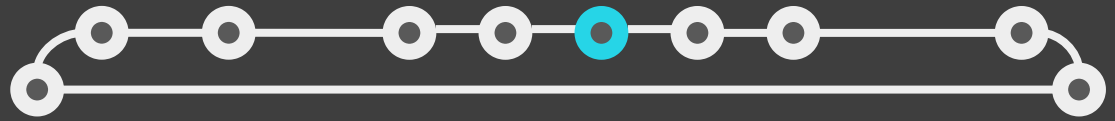


d-mahard commented 2 days ago

Contributor 

fix [#230056](#). See bug description for how to test.

Root cause is `--vscode-editor-placeholder-foreground: var(--vscode-editorGhostText-foreground);`.
This forces the placeholder foreground to be the color of ghost text. Since this is on the CSS level, setting would not be respected.
The addition of `export const placeholderForeground` is not strictly necessary. Just in case the color is used as default for another color in the future.



Documentation - The Bad

microsoft / **vscode** Public

Notifications

Fork 32.6k

Star 173k

<> Code Issues 5k+ Pull requests 551 Actions Projects 1 Wiki Security 19 Insights

Copilot 1.100 recovery fixes #249521

New issue

Open bpassero wants to merge 5 commits into [release/1.100](#) from [ben/flexible-rhinoceros](#)

Conversation 0

Commits 5

Checks 33

Files changed 4

+22 -10



bpa commented 3 days ago

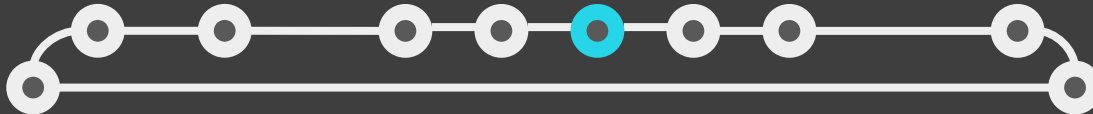
Member

No description provided.

Reviewers

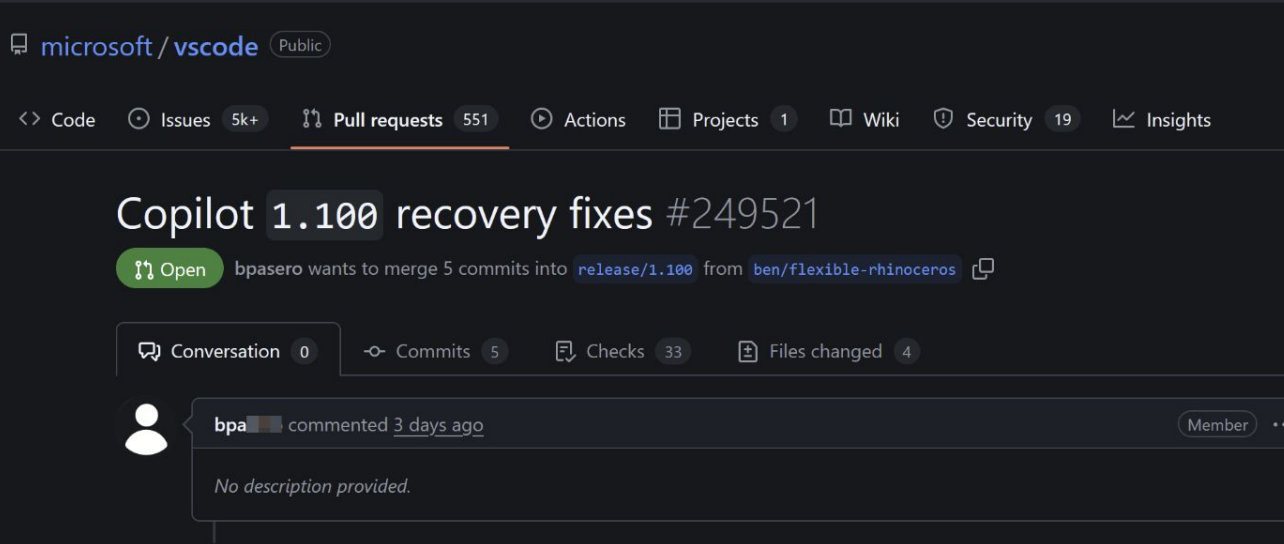
No reviews

Assignees



@AgentAJ

Documentation - The Bad



microsoft / **vscode** Public

<> Code Issues 5k+ Pull requests 551 Actions Projects 1 Wiki Security 19 Insights

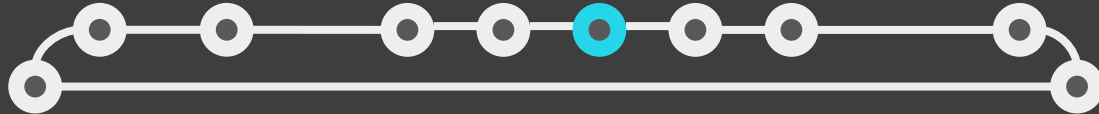
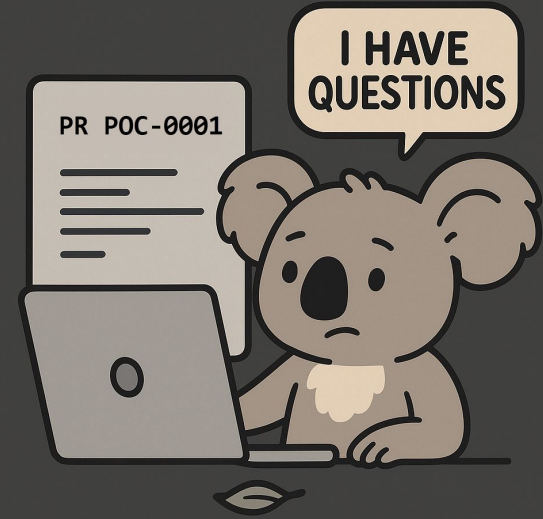
Copilot 1.100 recovery fixes #249521

Open bpassero wants to merge 5 commits into [release/1.100](#) from [ben/flexible-rhinoceros](#)

Conversation 0 Commits 5 Checks 33 Files changed 4

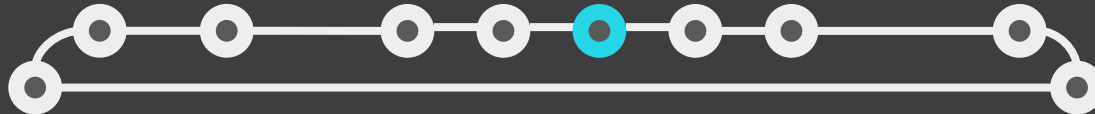
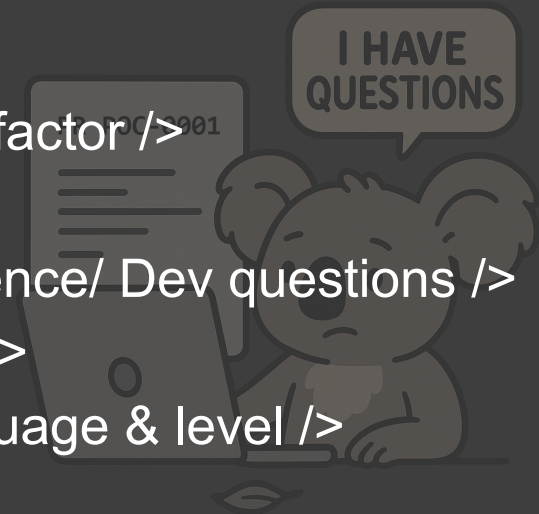
bpa commented 3 days ago Member

No description provided.



Documentation - Prompting for Help

- **Context** < scene/ PR no/ Ticket no/ bug, feature, refactor />
- **Role** < act as [...] / no code jargon/ skills [...] />
- **Action** < analyze changes, scope, risks/ cite evidence/ Dev questions />
- **Format** < list/ use heading & bullets/ first...then... />
- **Tone** < explain like I'm [...] / use "uncertain" / language & level />



Documentation

A screenshot of a Copilot interface. The top bar shows the Copilot logo and a search icon. Below the bar are two icons: a document and a share icon. The main content area displays the following text:

High-Level Overview of the Purpose of the Pull Request

This pull request aims to enhance the dashboard functionality by adding new columns and improving data representation. It involves updating the codebase to include new metrics and refining configurations to align with the updated API endpoints.

Impact and Potential Risks of File Changes

The changes impact both the front-end and back-end components of the application. Front-end modifications include updates to the dashboard to display new columns, while back-end changes address API endpoint adjustments and data-fetching logic. Potential risks include increased compute time due to additional database queries and potential bugs if the updated configurations are not thoroughly tested across environments.

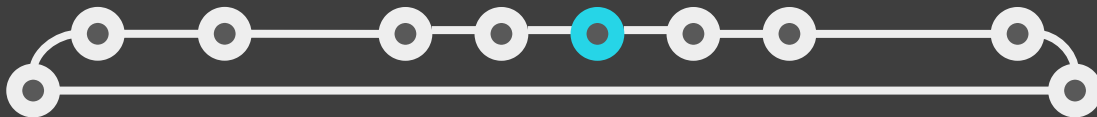
Overview of Conversations in the Pull Request

The conversations primarily focus on code quality and best practices. Reviewers provided feedback on optimizing database queries, ensuring reusable functions, and improving test coverage for newly added lines. Discussions also highlight concerns about unnecessary operations and maintaining clarity in function responsibilities.

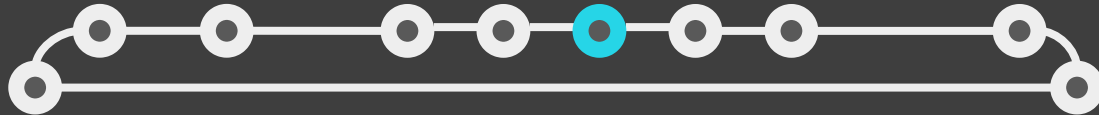
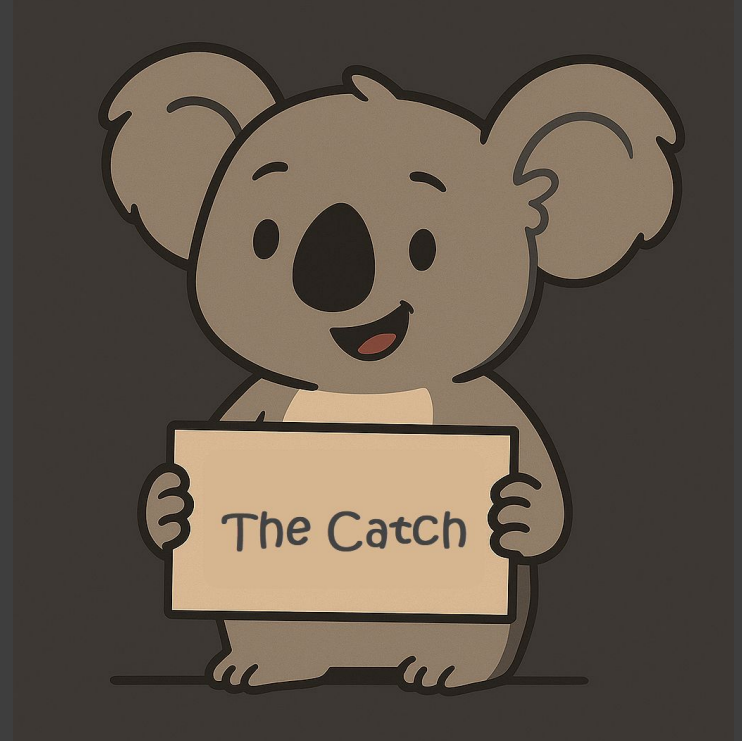
Approval Status

The pull request has received an approval after addressing earlier feedback and changes requested by reviewers.

At the bottom of the text are several small icons: a thumbs up, a thumbs down, a document, a refresh, and a dropdown arrow.

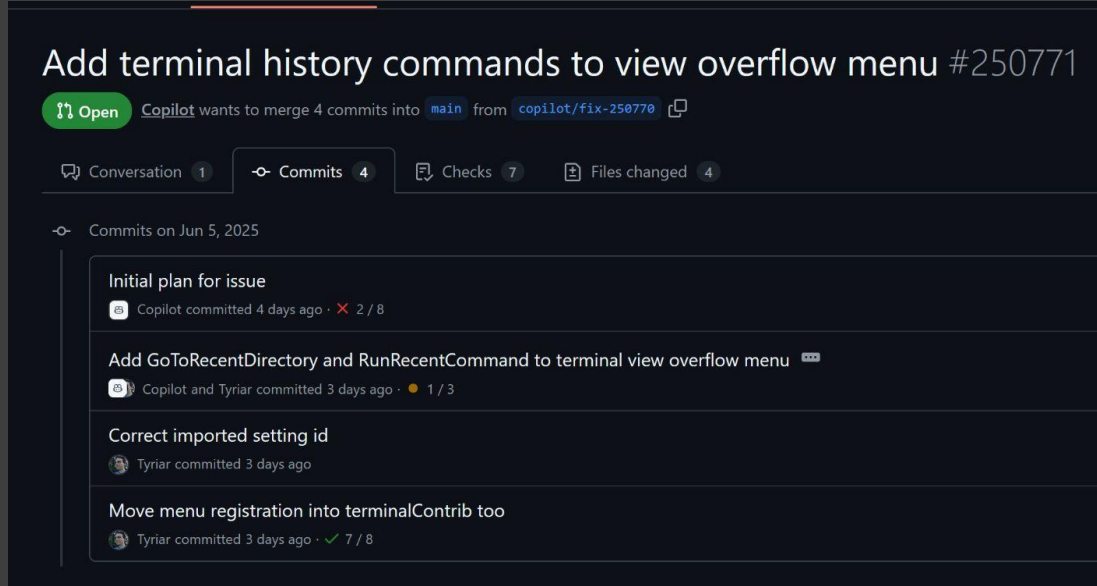


"Asking questions
reveals unknown
knowledge"



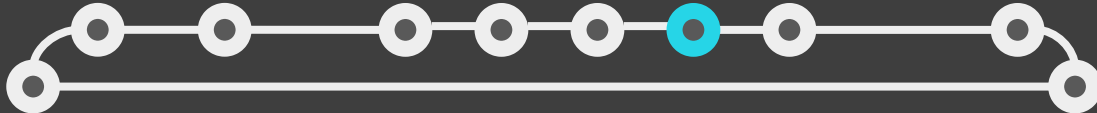
Comments & Commits

- Dev Review Feedback
- Commit Timeline
- Commit Messages Insights

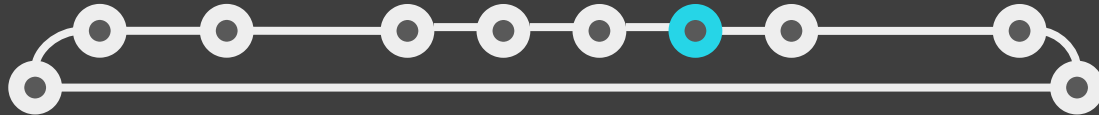


The screenshot displays a GitHub pull request for issue #250771, titled "Add terminal history commands to view overflow menu". The pull request is currently open and shows that Copilot wants to merge 4 commits into the main branch from the copilot/fix-250770 branch. The interface includes navigation tabs for Conversation (1), Commits (4), Checks (7), and Files changed (4). Below these tabs, the commit history for June 5, 2025, is shown:

- Initial plan for issue**: Copilot committed 4 days ago. Status: 2 / 8 (marked with a red X).
- Add GoToRecentDirectory and RunRecentCommand to terminal view overflow menu**: Copilot and Tyriar committed 3 days ago. Status: 1 / 3.
- Correct imported setting id**: Tyriar committed 3 days ago.
- Move menu registration into terminalContrib too**: Tyriar committed 3 days ago. Status: 7 / 8 (marked with a green checkmark).

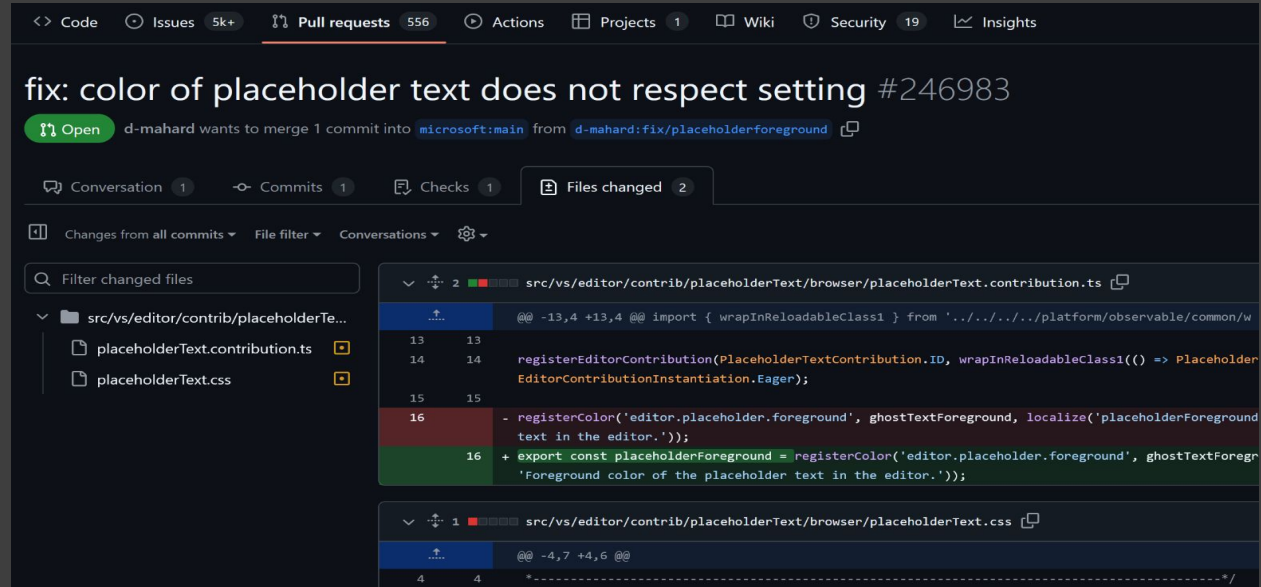


“Checking
the promises”

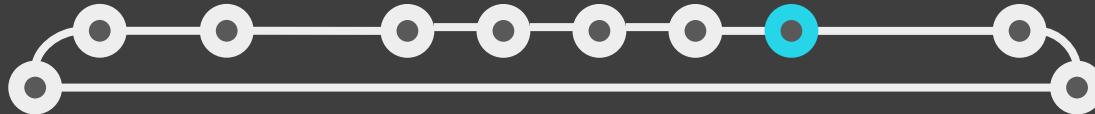


Files & Code

- Typos
- Dependencies
- Changed Files
- Documentation
- Unit Test
- AI Review



The screenshot shows a GitHub pull request titled "fix: color of placeholder text does not respect setting #246983". The pull request is from user "d-mahard" and targets the "microsoft:main" branch. It shows 2 files changed: "placeholderText.contribution.ts" and "placeholderText.css". The diff for "placeholderText.contribution.ts" shows a change on line 16, where a line of code is removed and a new line is added. The removed line is: `registerColor('editor.placeholder.foreground', ghostTextForeground, localize('placeholderForeground text in the editor.'));`. The added line is: `export const placeholderForeground = registerColor('editor.placeholder.foreground', ghostTextForeground, 'Foreground color of the placeholder text in the editor.');`. The diff for "placeholderText.css" shows a change on line 4, where a line of code is removed and a new line is added. The removed line is: `*-----*/`. The added line is: `*-----*/`.



Files & Code - Update Dependencies

APP-1234 Installer Upgrade #9999

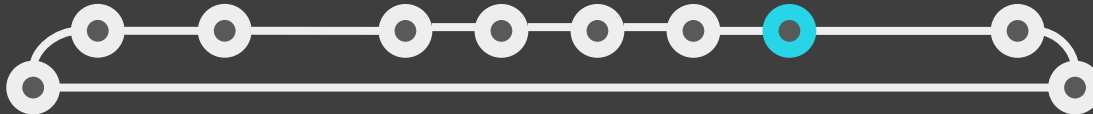
Checks pending Code Preview

Open wants to merge 30 commits into develop from

Conversation 31 Commits 30 Checks 17 Files changed 30 +1,116 -3,764 222

All commits 0 / 30 viewed Submit review

```
<PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.83" />
<PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.84-PullRequest0093.12" />
```

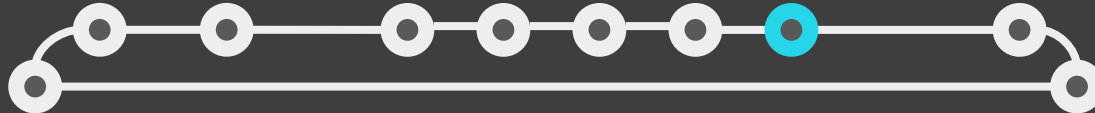


Files & Code - Update Dependencies

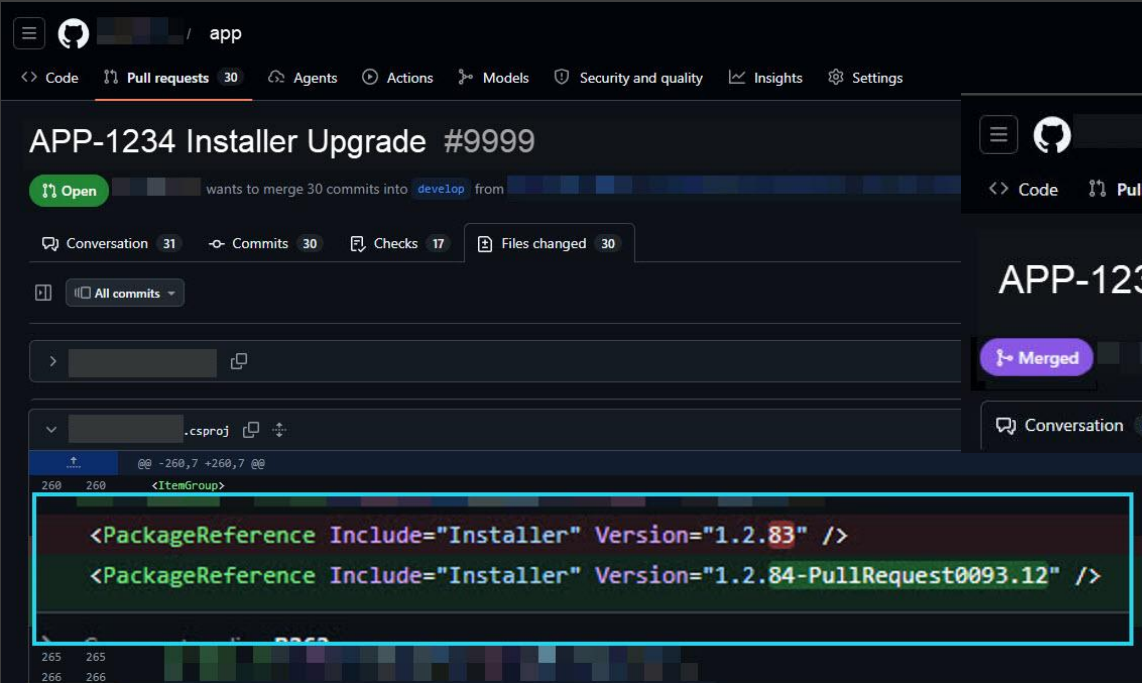
GitHub interface for repository 'app'. The main heading is 'APP-1234 Installer Upgrade #9999'. A green 'Open' button is visible. Below the heading, there are statistics: Conversation 31, Commits 30, Checks 17, and Files changed 30. A dropdown menu shows 'All commits'. The code editor displays XML code for a package reference, with the following lines highlighted in a red box:

```
<PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.83" />
<PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.84-PullRequest0093.12" />
```

GitHub interface for repository 'app-installer'. The main heading is 'APP-1234 Installer Upgrade for App #93'. A green 'Open' button is visible. Below the heading, there are statistics: Conversation 2, Commits 11, Checks 7, and Files changed 12.



Files & Code - Update Dependencies



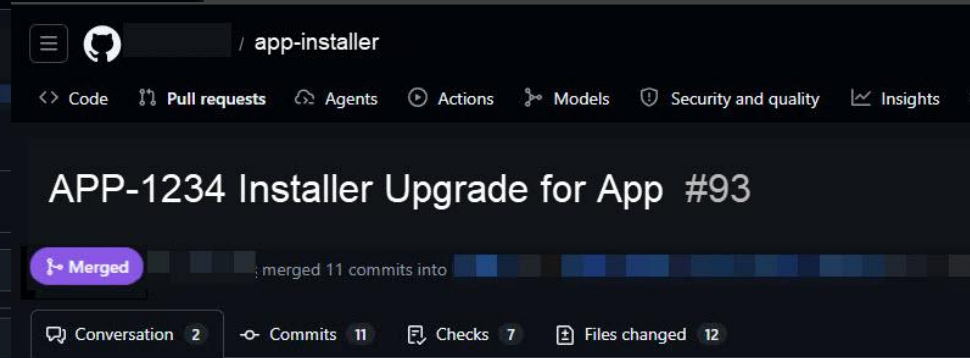
APP-1234 Installer Upgrade #9999

Open wants to merge 30 commits into develop from

Conversation 31 Commits 30 Checks 17 Files changed 30

All commits

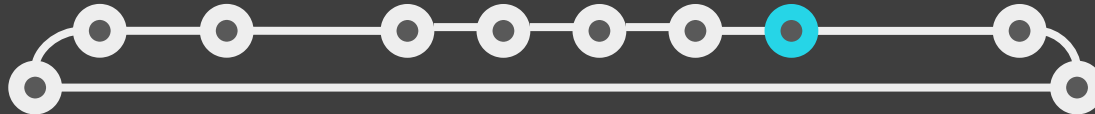
```
<ItemGroup>
  <PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.83" />
  <PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.84-PullRequest0093.12" />
</ItemGroup>
```



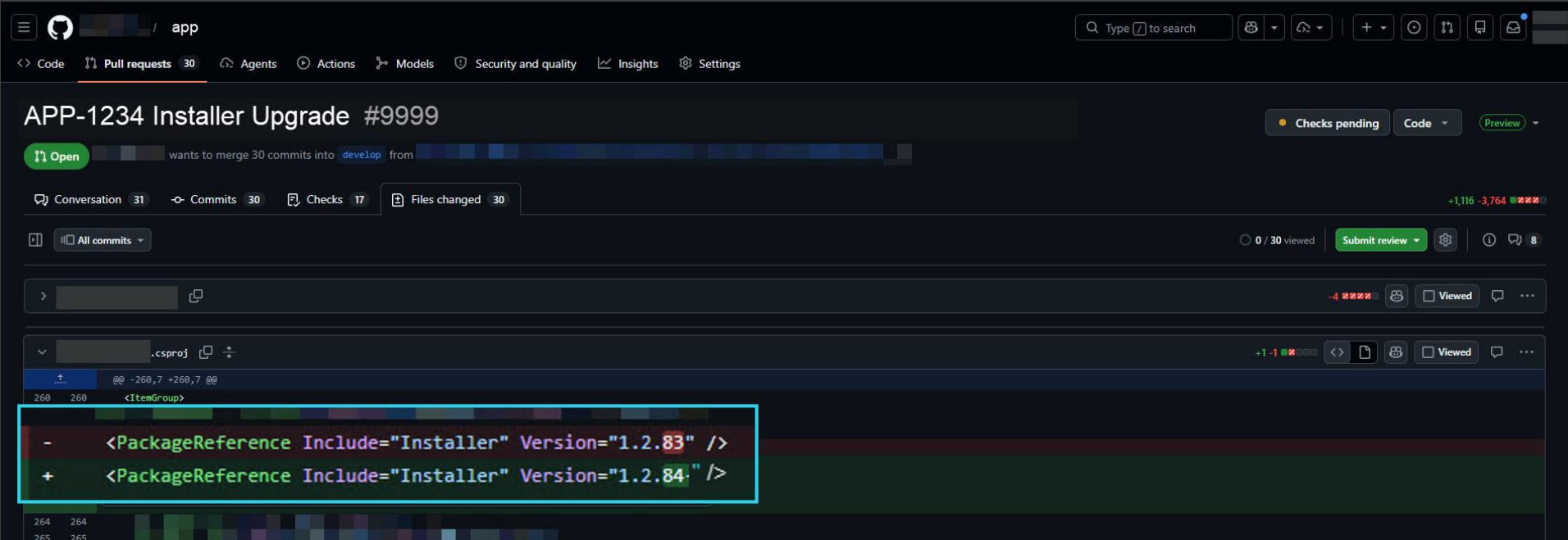
APP-1234 Installer Upgrade for App #93

Merged merged 11 commits into

Conversation 2 Commits 11 Checks 7 Files changed 12

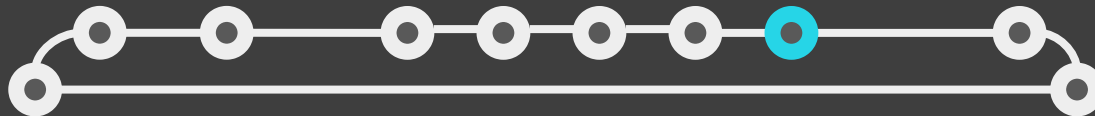


Files & Code - Update Dependencies



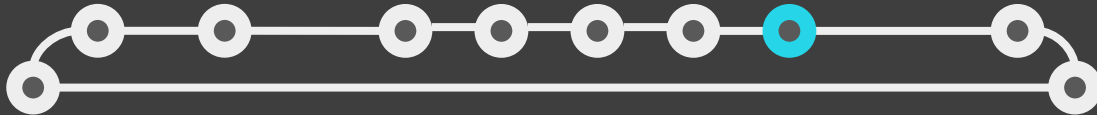
The screenshot displays a GitHub pull request for a project named 'app'. The pull request title is 'APP-1234 Installer Upgrade #9999'. It shows 30 commits to be merged into the 'develop' branch. The interface includes navigation tabs for Code, Pull requests (30), Agents, Actions, Models, Security and quality, Insights, and Settings. A search bar is located in the top right. The pull request status shows 'Checks pending', 'Code', and 'Preview' options. Below the title, there are statistics for Conversation (31), Commits (30), Checks (17), and Files changed (30). A diff view of a file named '.csproj' is shown, with a specific change highlighted in a red box. The change involves updating the version of the 'Installer' package from '1.2.83' to '1.2.84'.

```
260 260 <ItemGroup>  
- <PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.83" />  
+ <PackageReference Include="Installer" Version="1.2.84" />
```



Files & Code - Number of Changes

The screenshot displays a GitHub pull request interface. At the top, navigation tabs include 'Code', 'Pull requests', 'Actions', 'Security', and 'Insights'. The main content area shows a commit titled 'interface adjusted #' with the message 'Merge 76 commits into main from hotfix/'. Below the commit message, there are statistics: '76' (commits), '6' (Checks), and '678' (Files changed). A 'Review changes' button is visible on the right side. The interface is dark-themed.



Files & Code - Unrelated Changes

Updated the manuals

#

Edit

<> Code

Conversation 0

Commits 1

Checks 8

Files changed 6

+0 -0

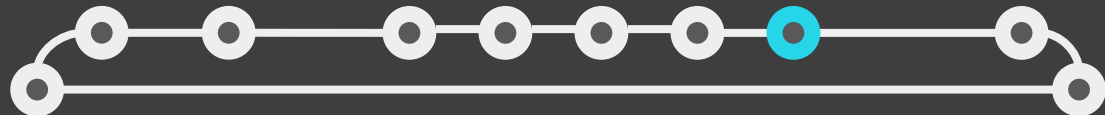
ExternalFiles/Manuals

[Redacted folder]

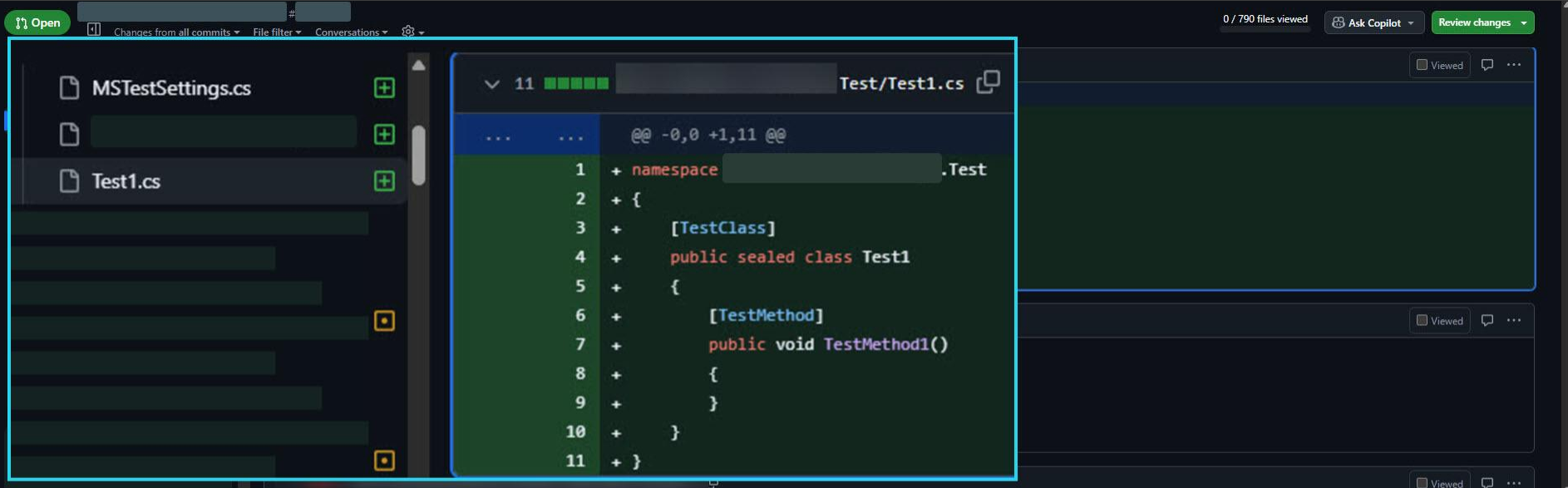
[Redacted].pdf

Editor

Editor/Actions

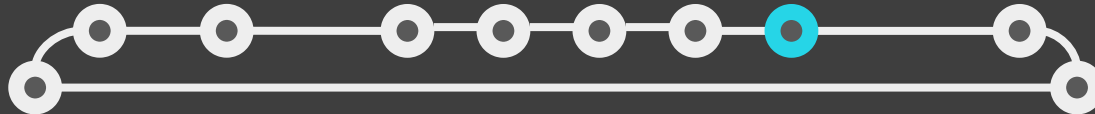


Files & Code - Unit Tests

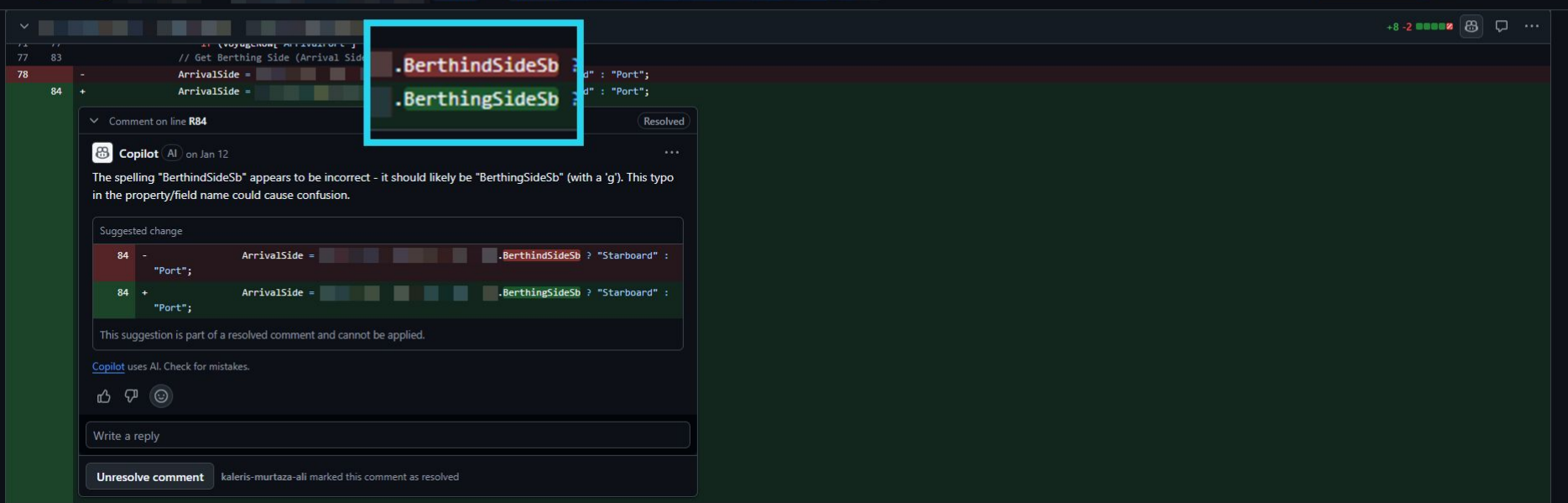


The screenshot displays a code editor interface. On the left, a file explorer shows a project structure with files: `MSTestSettings.cs`, a redacted file, and `Test1.cs`. The main editor window shows the code for `Test/Test1.cs`. The code is as follows:

```
... .. @@ -0,0 +1,11 @@
1 + namespace [redacted].Test
2 + {
3 +     [TestClass]
4 +     public sealed class Test1
5 +     {
6 +         [TestMethod]
7 +         public void TestMethod1()
8 +         {
9 +         }
10 +     }
11 + }
```



Files & Code - Code Review by AI



The screenshot shows a code editor with a comment on line R84. The code snippet is:

```
77 // Get Berthing Side (Arrival Side)
78 ArrivalSide = .BerthindSideSb ; "Port";
84 ArrivalSide = .BerthingSideSb ; "Port";
```

The comment from Copilot AI on Jan 12 reads:

The spelling "BerthindSideSb" appears to be incorrect - it should likely be "BerthingSideSb" (with a 'g'). This typo in the property/field name could cause confusion.

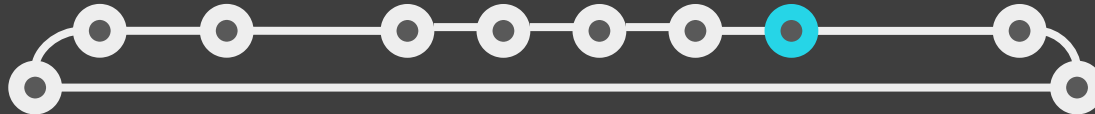
Suggested change:

```
84 - ArrivalSide = .BerthindSideSb ? "Starboard" ;
84 + ArrivalSide = .BerthingSideSb ? "Starboard" ;
```

This suggestion is part of a resolved comment and cannot be applied.

Copilot uses AI. Check for mistakes.

Unresolve comment kaleris-murtaza-ali marked this comment as resolved



Files & Code - Code Review by AI

The screenshot displays a code editor interface with a comment from Copilot. The comment, dated Jan 12, states: "The spelling 'BerthindSideSb' appears to be incorrect - it should likely be 'BerthingSideSb' (with a 'g'). This typo in the property/field name could cause confusion." Below the comment, a suggested change is shown as a diff. The diff indicates a change on line 84, where the property name is updated from `.BerthindSideSb` to `.BerthingSideSb` in the `ArrivalSide` property. The comment is marked as "Resolved".

```
77 // Get Berthing Side (Arrival Side)
78 - ArrivalSide = .BerthindSideSb : "Port";
84 + ArrivalSide = .BerthingSideSb : "Port";
```

Suggested change

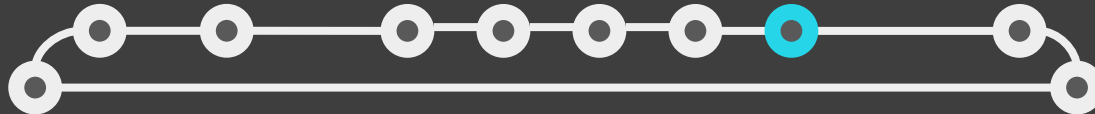
```
84 - ArrivalSide = .BerthindSideSb ? "Starboard" : "Port";
84 + ArrivalSide = .BerthingSideSb ? "Starboard" : "Port";
```

This suggestion is part of a resolved comment and cannot be applied.

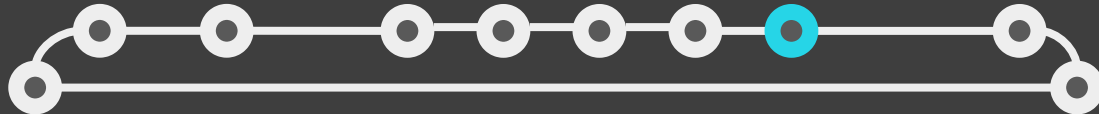
Copilot uses AI. Check for mistakes.

Write a reply

Unresolve comment kaleris-murtaza-ali marked this comment as resolved

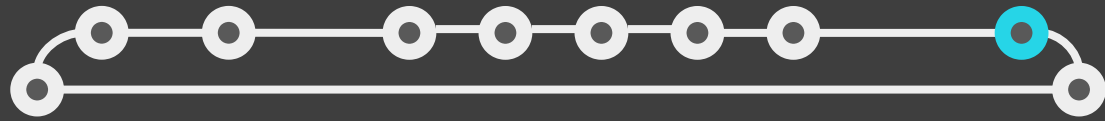


- Keeping the versions clean
- Protecting the production system
- Testing the forgotten LoC
- Advocating for testing & code quality
- Avoiding incomplete changes





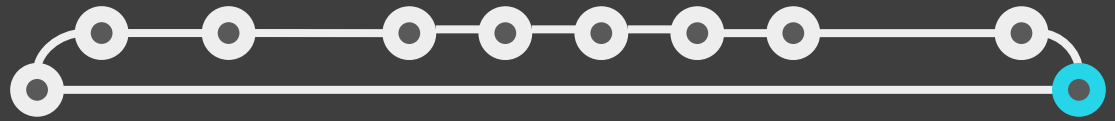
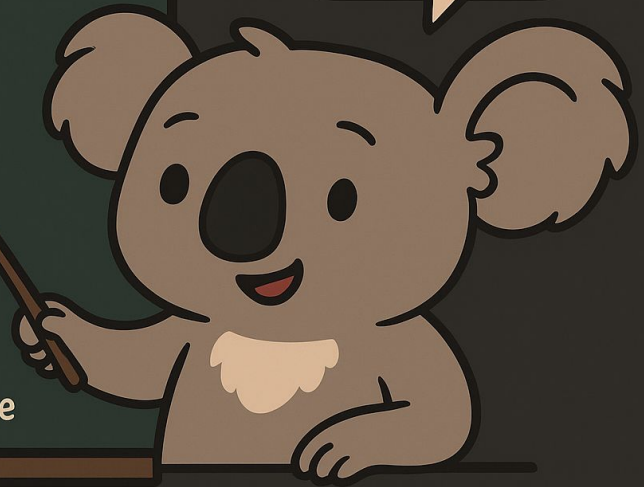
To wrap it up



How to get started

1. Get access to the source control system
2. Find someone to walk you through
3. Try it yourself
4. Start asking more questions and keep on learning
5. Stay calm and take one branch at a time

HOW TO
GET STARTED



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