Google's CI Practices

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What is CI?

- CI is Continuous Integration
- The practice of integrating all developers' working copies to a shared mainline several times a day.
- Allows teams to detect problems early
- With CI, possible to more frequently cut release candidates.
 - Why? Every commit is a release!
 - No more QA/Staging environment



History

- Grady Booch first proposed CI in his 1991
 - No integrating several times a day
 - Did not make it a part of build process for an entire application
- With advancement, automation of building applications became important
 - For version control
 - For cleaner code

Industry Norms

- Jenkins
 - Job control
 - Master node
 - Builds are built on slave node(s)
 - Build trigger on commit
 - Unit tests must pass for commit to be accepted
 - More rigorous test suites may be run as part of a nightly regression test
 - Robot framework
 - Build at a certain time like a cron job



Jenkins



Google's CI Practice

- Stores billions of lines of code in a single repository
- Been this way for 16 years
- Repository has 1 billion files, 35 million commits, thousands of developers
- 86 TB of data
- Approximately 40,000 commits to codebase daily



Advantages

- Unified version one source of truth
- Extensive code sharing and reuse
- Simplified dependency management
- Atomic changes
- Large-scale refactoring
- Collaboration across teams
- Flexible team boundaries and code ownership
- Code visibility

Concerns

- Have to create and scale tools for development and execution
- Code discovery
- Notifications
 - Firehose (unsolved so developers turn off notifications)
- Too many unit tests.
 - Bazel. The build tool can be asked "what depends on this code" in a way that scales.
 - Run only unit tests that are connected.
- Security
- Unreasonable for developer to have entire repo on their machine
 - Perforce (proprietary) uses a virtual file system

Questions?