Development process and user contributions

MITK Users Meeting 2015 Marco Nolden, Sascha Zelzer



A Life Without Cancer

Challenges



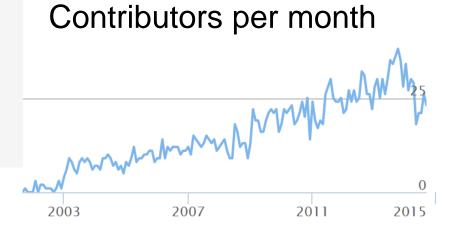
- Research software is usually written by students and scientists who have differing knowledge about and interest in software engineering
- Funding for pure software engineering activities is limited
- Conflicting goals, like innovation, reliability and safety, interface stability etc.

Open repository policy



In a Nutshell, MITK...

- ... has had 27,997 commits made by 153 contributors representing 613,614 lines of code
- ... is mostly written in C++ with an average number of source code comments
- ... has a well established, mature codebase maintained by a very large development team with stable Y-O-Y commits
- ... took an estimated 165 years of effort (COCOMO model) starting with its first commit in September, 1997 ending with its most recent commit 4 days ago



Source: Open HUB, https://www.openhub.net/p/mitk

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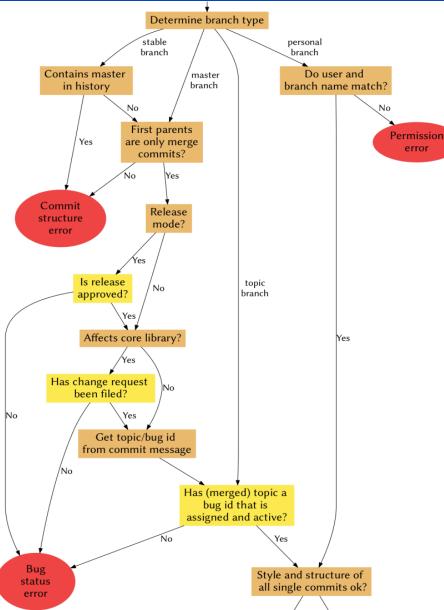
MITK: Development process overview



- File issues for all bugs and features: Bugzilla on http://bugs.mitk.org
- Enforced branchy workflow
 traceability of all changes
- Continuous integration with locking
- Part of the team has established a QM system for medical device development according to ISO 13485







Organizational specifics



- Compulsory bug squashing for all students
- New PhD students start with an introductory project
 - Often refactoring or cleanup of some topic
 - Goal: software improvement and knowledge transfer
- Yearly Hackfests & technical retreats

Release specifics

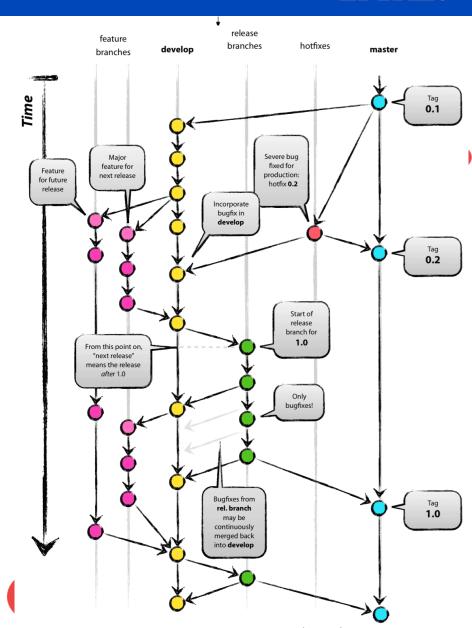


- No "real" release branch -> special release phase (goal: 3 weeks)
- Master gets locked, developers have to apply for merge permission
- Special bug squashing: installer testing and fixing
- Rotating roles of responsibility
- Release manager: overall bug management
- Testing manager: validation checklist management
- Promoter: documentation, release notes, wikipedia etc.

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- Basically CTest/CDash
- Enforced branchy workflow
- Custom hooks
 - Bug status: core modification,
 - release phase etc.
 - Branching structure
 - CDash status
 - Update of tickets
- CDash extension: mark builds as critical (continous)



Regulatory aspects



- First MITK-related QM work 2005
- Yearly ISO 13485 audits till 2013
- Cooperation with industry partners (CHILI and Mint Medical)
- Liver surgery planning and CoreApp viewer as applications
- Processes designed to be QM compatible (traceability etc.)
- Internal QM work is currently on hold, organizational structure will be reworked
- Several FDA/CE cleared products use MITK



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Development process outlook



- More distributed contributors
- Improve external involvement
- Modernize tools:
 - Code Review
 - CI
 - Integration of source code and ticket system

