How Not to Review a Patch

Joshua Tolley
End Point Corporation
eggyknap

May 22, 2009
What’s Patch Review?
What’s Patch Review?

- Test new features
- Maintain consistent code
- Advance the project
Sounds neat. Can I help?
Can I help?

No.
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
  - Or at least some of it
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
  - Or at least some of it
  - Only C experts will be admitted
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
  - Or at least some of it
  - Only C experts will be admitted
- No one wants your help anyway
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
  - Or at least some of it
  - Only C experts will be admitted
- No one wants your help anyway
  - PostgreSQL people haven’t ever heard of you before
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
  - Or at least some of it
  - Only C experts will be admitted
- No one wants your help anyway
  - PostgreSQL people haven’t ever heard of you before
  - They don’t like newcomers
Why Can’t I Help?

- It takes too much time
  - Most PostgreSQL contributors are independently wealthy, and work in PostgreSQL all day
- You have to understand all the code
  - Or at least some of it
  - Only C experts will be admitted
- No one wants your help anyway
  - PostgreSQL people haven’t ever heard of you before
  - They don’t like newcomers
  - (they’re really mean)
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Ok, you’ve volunteered
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Ok, you’ve volunteered
  - Your name is on the wiki
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Ok, you’ve volunteered
  - Your name is on the wiki
  - You’ve answered an email on -hackers
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Just disappear
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

▶ Just disappear
  ▶ Josh Berkus will love you
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Just disappear
  - Josh Berkus will love you
  - ... he’ll send you emails every week
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Just disappear
  - Josh Berkus will love you
  - ... he’ll send you emails every week
- Better, tell -hackers, ”I got it to compile”
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Just disappear
  - Josh Berkus will love you
  - ... he’ll send you emails every week
- Better, tell -hackers, ”I got it to compile”
  - ...and then disappear
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Just disappear
  - Josh Berkus will love you
  - ... he’ll send you emails every week
- Better, tell -hackers, ”I got it to compile”
  - ...and then disappear
- Or just quit worrying
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?

- Just disappear
  - Josh Berkus will love you
  - ... he’ll send you emails every week
- Better, tell -hackers, ”I got it to compile”
  - ...and then disappear
- Or just quit worrying
  - If you can’t review the code, your input isn’t valued anyway

If you can’t review the code, your input isn’t valued anyway.

Better, tell -hackers, ”I got it to compile” and then disappear.

Or just quit worrying.

If you can’t review the code, your input isn’t valued anyway.
Everything you have just been told is false
The Truth

- PostgreSQL wants your help
The Truth

- PostgreSQL wants your help
- ... even if you’re not a programmer
The Truth

- PostgreSQL wants your help
- ... even if you’re not a programmer
- ... even if you’ve never contributed before
PostgreSQL wants your help

... even if you’re not a programmer

... even if you’ve never contributed before

... even if you’re not sure what you’re doing
Here’s How
How to Help

- Read -hackers
How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
- Apply it
How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
- Apply it
- Test anything you can think of
How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
- Apply it
- Test anything you can think of
  - Even if you think it’s st00pid
How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
- Apply it
- Test anything you can think of
  - Even if you think it’s st00pid
- Publish your results
How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
- Apply it
- Test anything you can think of
  - Even if you think it’s st00pid
- Publish your results
- Answer questions
How Not to Review a Patch

Joshua Tolley
End Point Corporation
eggyknap

What’s Patch Review?
Can I help?
Why Can’t I Help?
What if I’ve Already Started Helping?
The Truth
Here’s How

How to Help

- Read -hackers
- Find a patch
- Apply it
- Test anything you can think of
  - Even if you think it’s st00pid
- Publish your results
- Answer questions
- Rinse, repeat
KTHXBYE