

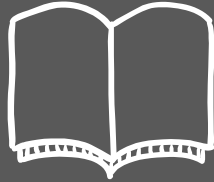
Beyond Code

A Tester's Approach to Pull Request Reviews

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BCS SIGiST Summer Conference 2025

Hi, I'm Andrea!



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LinkedIn: [andrea-jensen](#)

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

PULL REQUEST REVIEW



What a
Branch!!

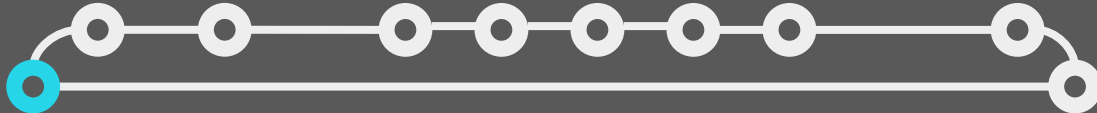


My Calm

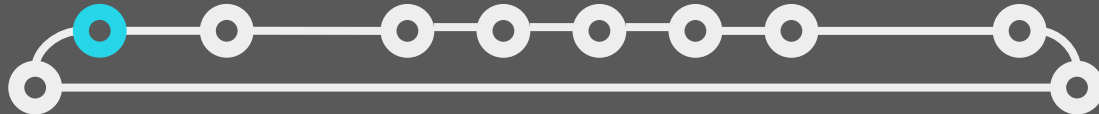
- Pull Request Definition
- Pull Request Elements
- Review Approach from a Tester's Point of View

The Chaos

- No Code Reading Introduction
- No Code Review Substitute
- A Guarantee for the Absence of Bugs [there is never one]



Let's start with a Definition



Pull Request*

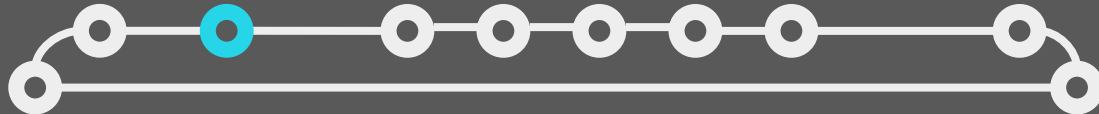
- Code
- Changes
- Review
- Branch
- Merges
- In a social & collaborative atmosphere



*or Merge Request in Gitlab

@AgentAJ

Pull Request Elements



← ↻ <https://github.com/microsoft/vscode/pull/246969>

Product ▾ Solutions ▾ Resources ▾ Open Source ▾ Enterprise ▾ Pricing

[microsoft / vscode](#) Public Notifications Fork 31.7k Star 170k

< Code Issues **543** Pull requests **543** Actions Projects 1 Wild Security 18 Insights

Update README.md #246969

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

Conversation 3 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.

Update README.md Verified • 55f319c

bndifreke1 reviewed yesterday View reviewed changes

bndifreke1 left a comment

```
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}from collections import ChainMap

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

merged = ChainMap(dict2, dict1)
print(dict(merged)) # Output: {'a': 1, 'b': 3, 'c': 4}
```

Reviewers

bndifreke1

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

Assignees

mjbvz

Labels

None yet

Projects

None yet

Milestone

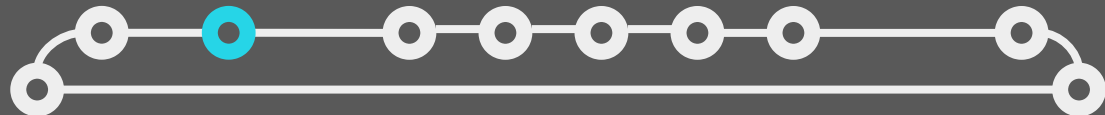
No milestone

Development

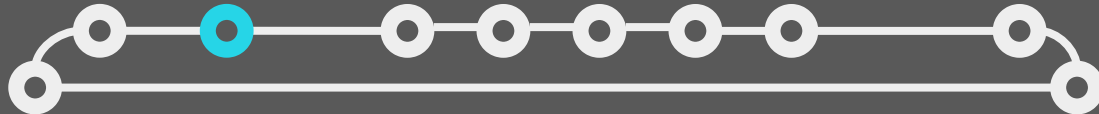
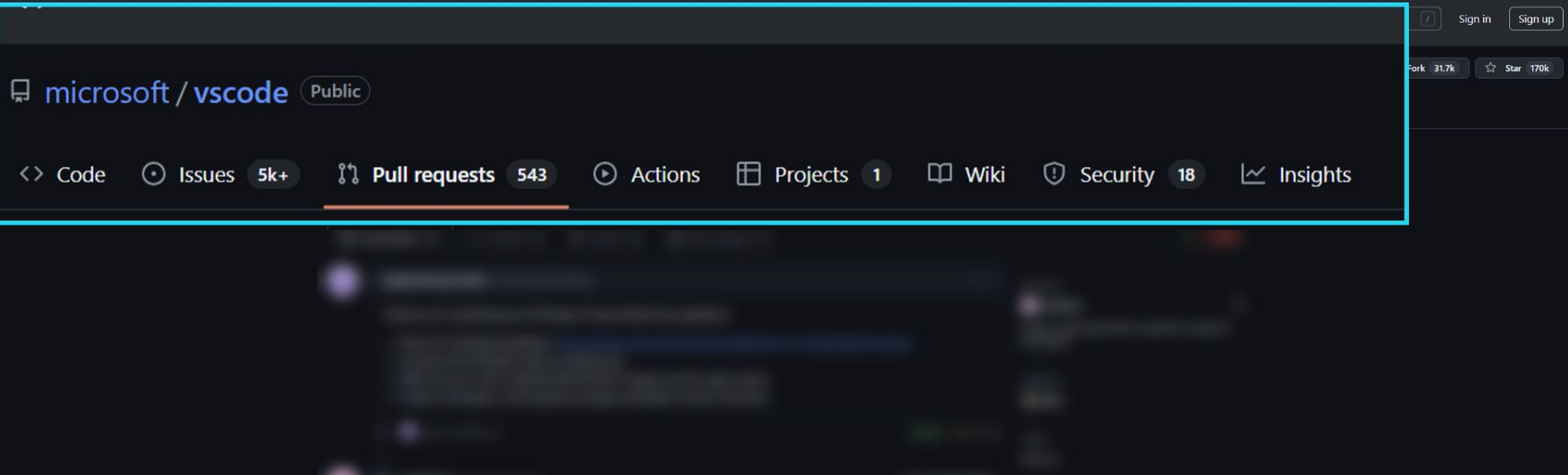
Successfully merging this pull request may close these issues.

None yet

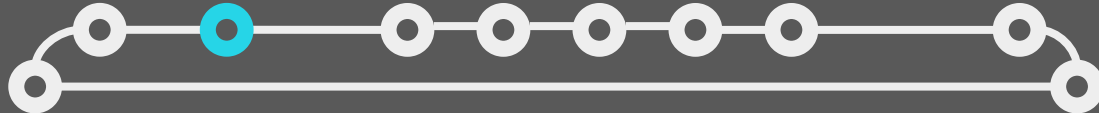
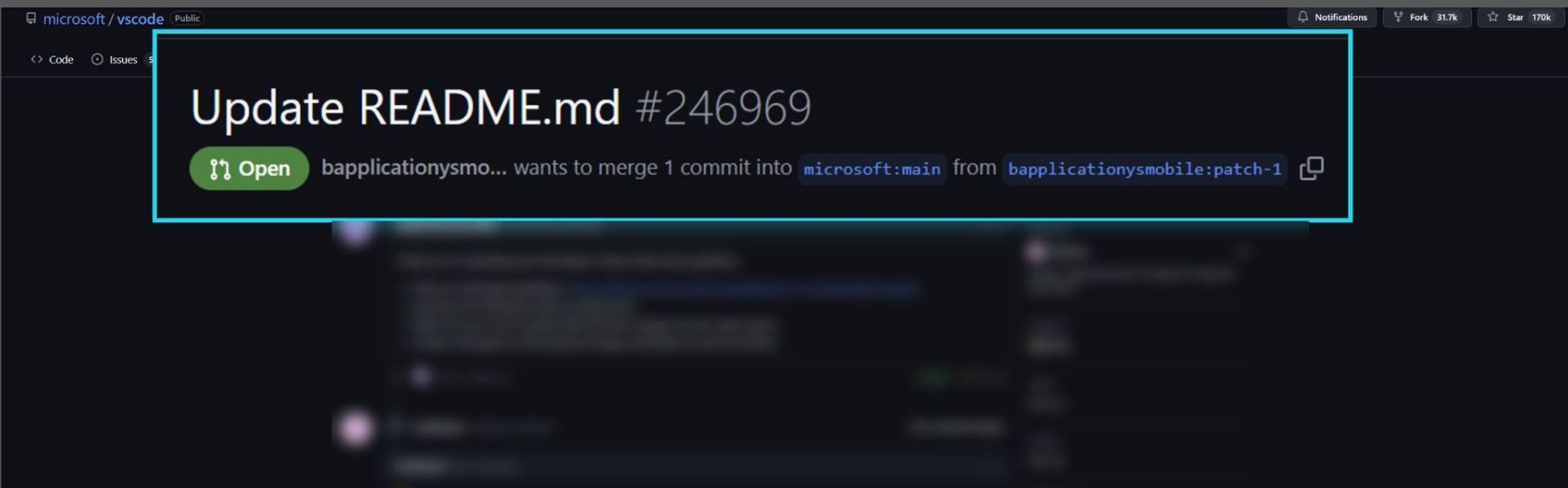
3 participants



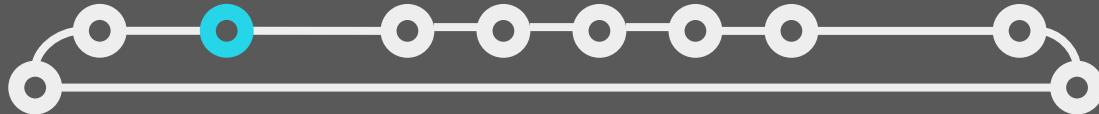
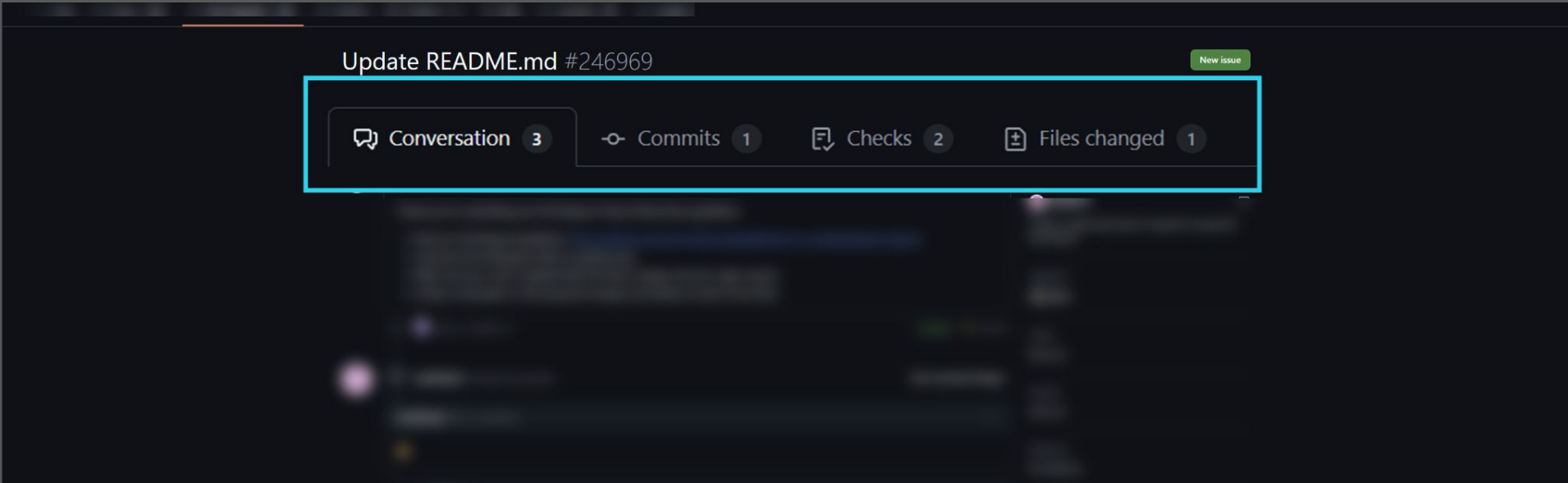
Elements - Navigation



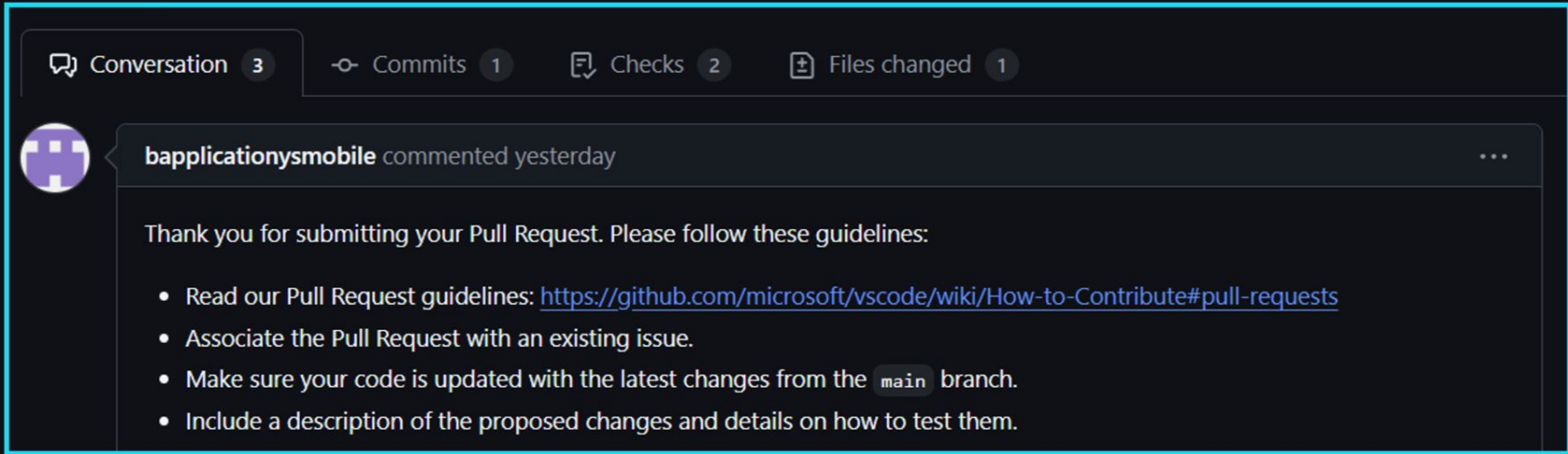
Elements - Meta Information



Elements - Details



Elements - Description, Comments



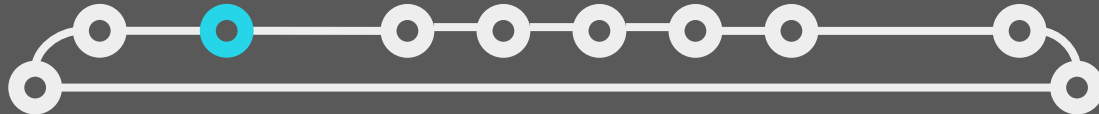
The screenshot shows a GitHub interface with a pull request. At the top, there are tabs for 'Conversation' (3), 'Commits' (1), 'Checks' (2), and 'Files changed' (1). Below these, a comment from user 'bapplicationysmobile' is displayed, dated 'yesterday'. The comment text reads: 'Thank you for submitting your Pull Request. Please follow these guidelines:'. This is followed by a bulleted list of four instructions. The first instruction includes a link to the GitHub guidelines. The second instruction is to associate the pull request with an existing issue. The third instruction is to ensure the code is updated with the latest changes from the 'main' branch. The fourth instruction is to include a description of the proposed changes and details on how to test them. The entire comment area is highlighted with a red border.

Conversation 3 Commits 1 Checks 2 Files changed 1

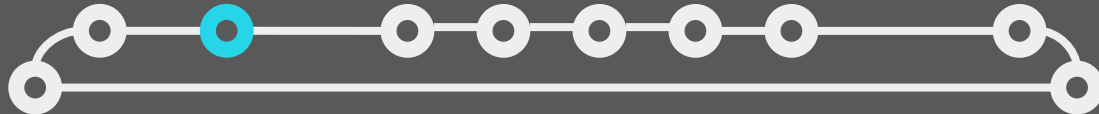
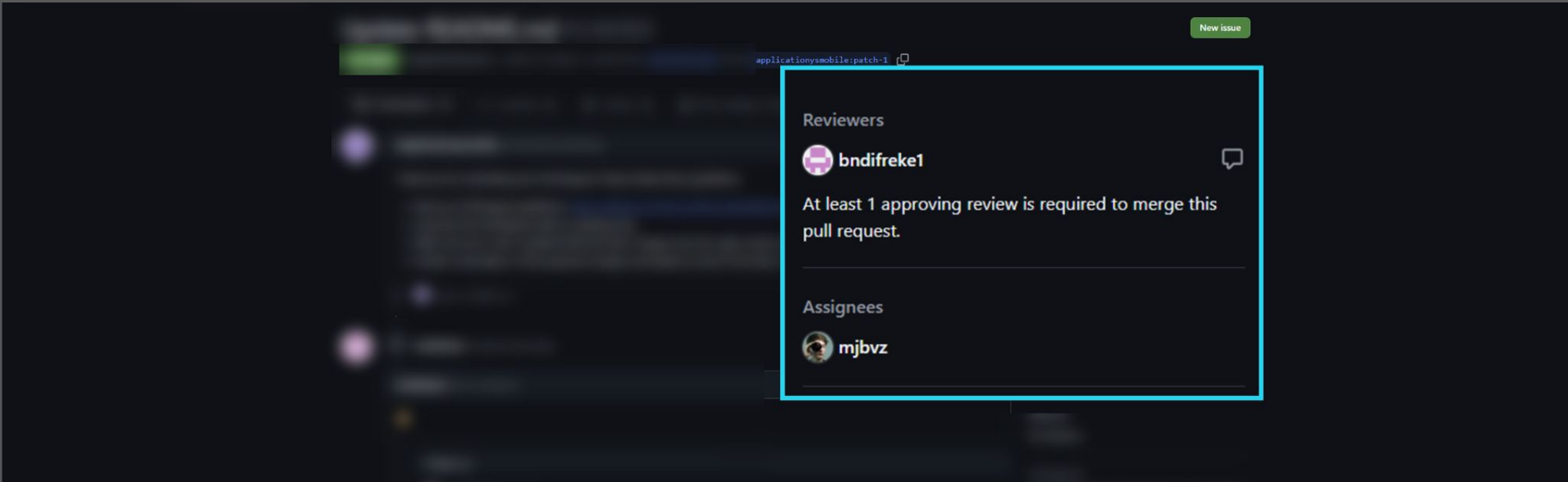
bapplicationysmobile commented yesterday

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

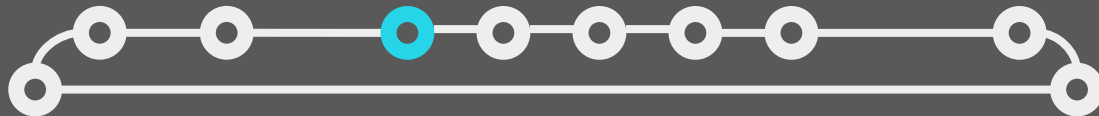
- Read our Pull Request guidelines: <https://github.com/microsoft/vscode/wiki/How-to-Contribute#pull-requests>
- Associate the Pull Request with an existing issue.
- Make sure your code is updated with the latest changes from the `main` branch.
- Include a description of the proposed changes and details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



Elements - Reviewer

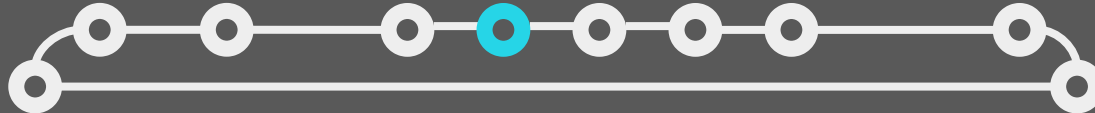
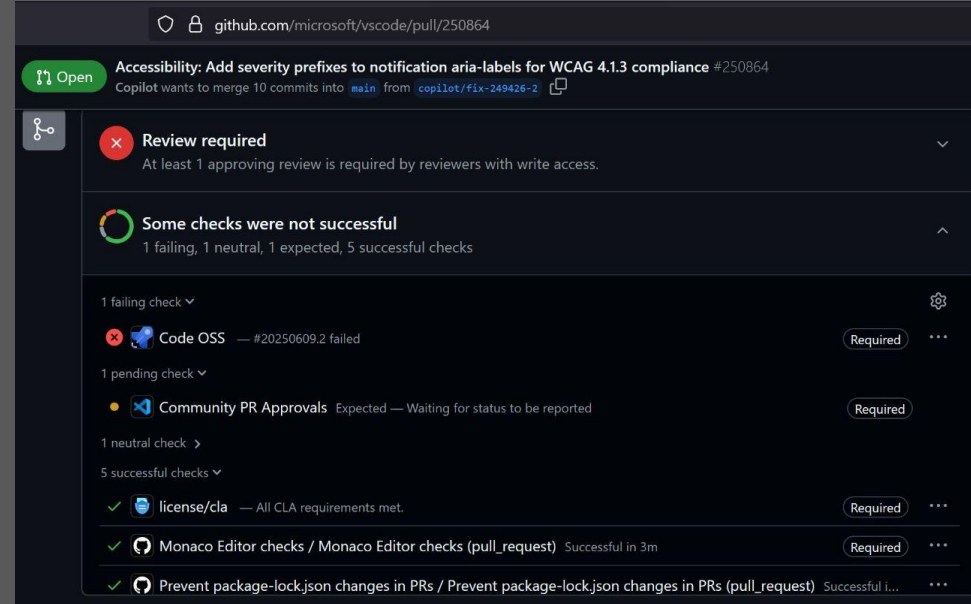


The My Review Approach

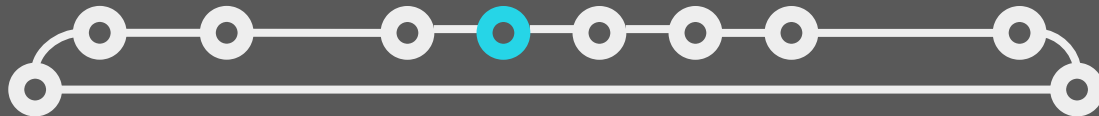


Policies & Guidelines

- How is the status?
- Are naming conventions applied?
- Which branch is addressed?
- Who are the reviewers?
- What status have the checks?

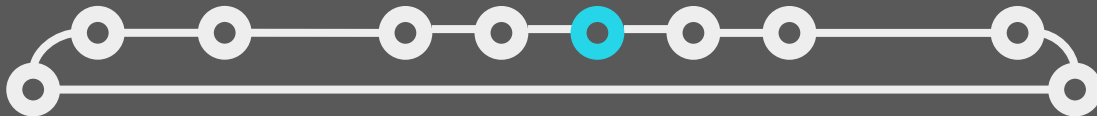


Be aware!



Documentation

- Do I understand the title?
- Is there documentation about the change?
- Do I understand the documentation?



Documentation

- Do I understand the title?
- Is there documentation about the change?
- Do I understand the documentation?

Accessibility: Add severity prefixes to notification aria-labels for compliance #250864

[Open](#) Copilot wants to merge 10 commits into [main](#) from [copilot/fix-249426-2](#)

Conversation 9 Commits 10 Checks 6 Files changed 5

Copilot commented 3 days ago • edited by meganrogge

Screen readers were not announcing notification severity/status before message content, violating WCAG 4.1.3 Status: Messages requirements. When users navigated notifications in VS Code, they would hear the message directly without context about whether it was an error, warning, or info notification.

Changes Made

This PR adds severity prefixes ("Error:", "Warning:", "Info:") to all notification accessibility interfaces:

1. Notification Center (`notificationsList.ts`)

- Modified `NotificationAccessibilityProvider.getAriaLabel()` to include severity prefix
- Added `getSeverityPrefix()` helper method
- Before: "File not found, notification"
- After: "Error: File not found, notification"

2. Notification Toasts (`notificationsToasts.ts`)

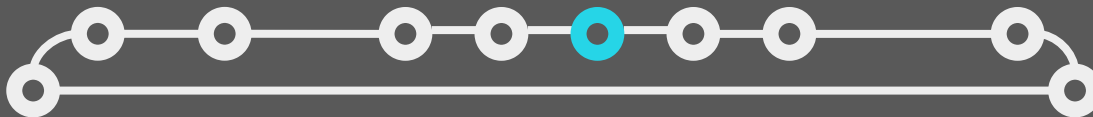
- Updated widget aria-labels to include severity information
- Added consistent `getSeverityPrefix()` helper method
- Ensures pop-up notifications announce severity when they appear

3. Notification Accessible View (`notificationAccessibleView.ts`)



- Modified `getContentForNotification()` to prepend severity prefix
- Added `getSeverityPrefix()` helper method
- Ensures detailed notification content announces severity first

4. Comprehensive Tests


- Added test suite for `NotificationAccessibilityProvider`
- Tests all severity levels and source handling




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

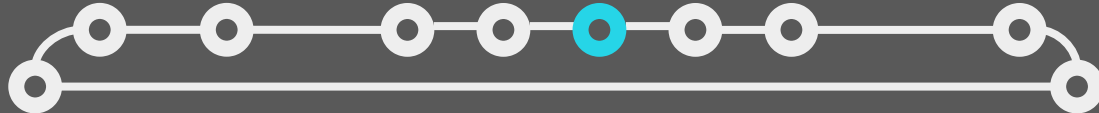
Contributor ...

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

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

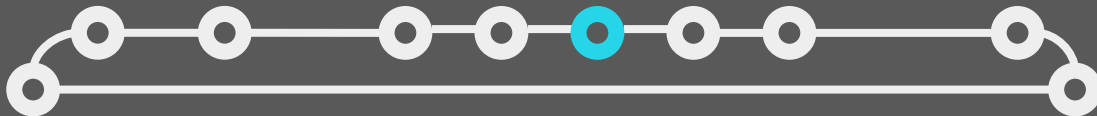
Conversation 0 Commits 5 Checks 33 Files changed 4 +22 -10

 **bpa** commented 3 days ago Member ...

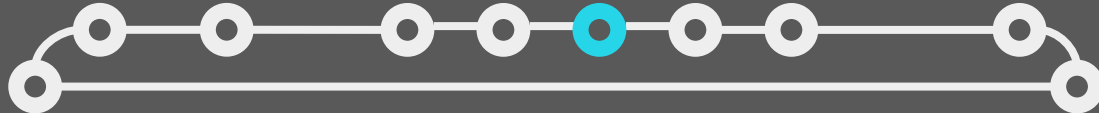
No description provided.

Reviewers
No reviews



Assignees






Documentation - The Bad



Get Answers

 Copilot



 **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.

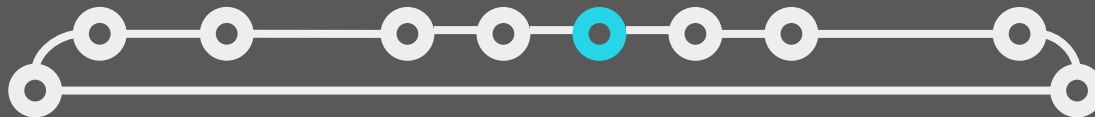
Overview of Conversations in the Pull Request

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.





Comments & Commits

- Others Feedback
- Commit Timeline

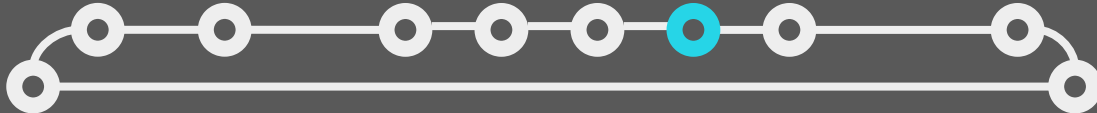
Add terminal history commands to view overflow menu #250771

[Open](#) Copilot wants to merge 4 commits into `main` from `copilot/fix-250770`

[Conversation](#) 1 [Commits](#) 4 [Checks](#) 7 [Files changed](#) 4

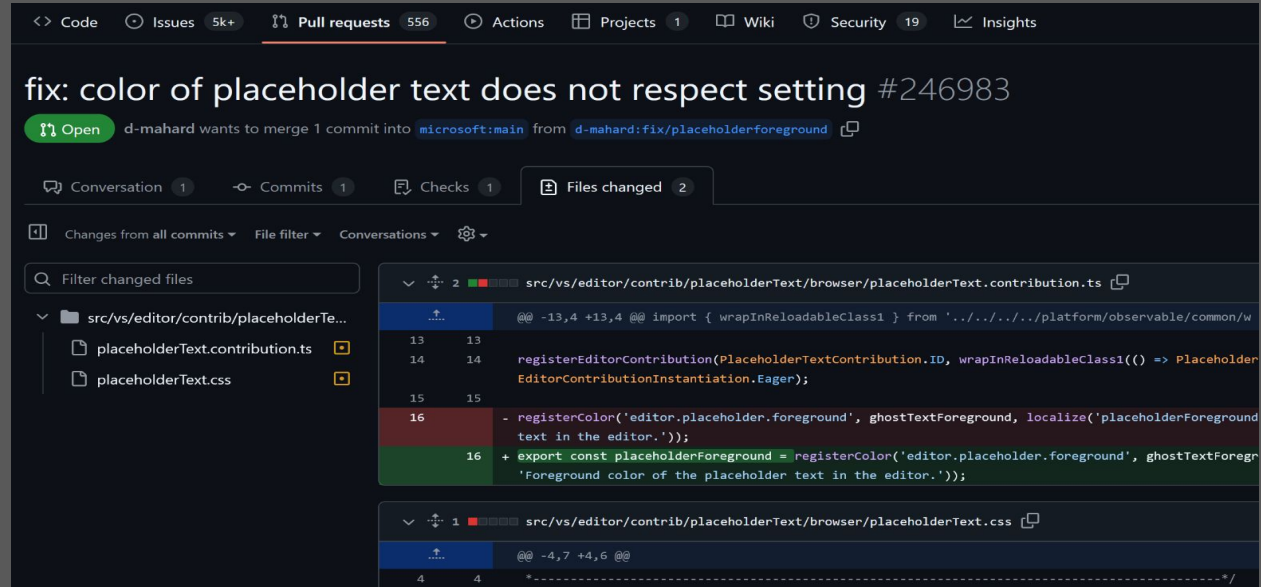
Commits on Jun 5, 2025

- Initial plan for issue
Copilot committed 4 days ago · ❌ 2 / 8
- Add GoToRecentDirectory and RunRecentCommand to terminal view overflow menu
Copilot and Tyriar committed 3 days ago · 🟡 1 / 3
- Correct imported setting id
Tyriar committed 3 days ago
- Move menu registration into terminalContrib too
Tyriar committed 3 days ago · ✅ 7 / 8



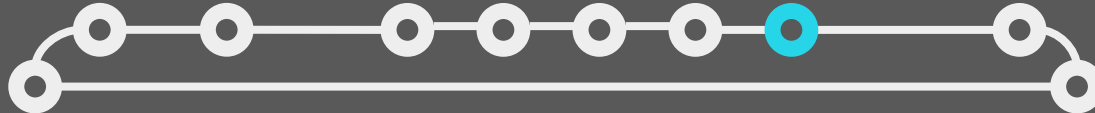
Files & Code

- Typos
- External Files
- Documentation
- Changed Files
- Unit Test



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. The interface shows a list of changed files, with "src/vs/editor/contrib/placeholderText/browser/placeholderText.contribution.ts" selected. The diff view shows a change to the file, with a new line added (line 16) that defines a constant "placeholderForeground" using the "registerColor" function. The change is highlighted in green. The interface also shows a search bar for changed files and a list of files in the repository.

```
@@ -13,4 +13,4 @@ import { wrapInReloadableClass1 } from '../../platform/observable/common/w
13 13
14 14   registerEditorContribution(PlaceholderTextContribution.ID, wrapInReloadableClass1(() => Placeholder
    EditorContributionInstantiation.Eager);
15 15
16 16   - registerColor('editor.placeholder.foreground', ghostTextForeground, localize('placeholderForeground
    text in the editor.'));
+ 16 + export const placeholderForeground = registerColor('editor.placeholder.foreground', ghostTextForeg
    'Foreground color of the placeholder text in the editor.'));
```



Files & Code - Update External Files

Installer Upgrade

#

Edit

<> Code

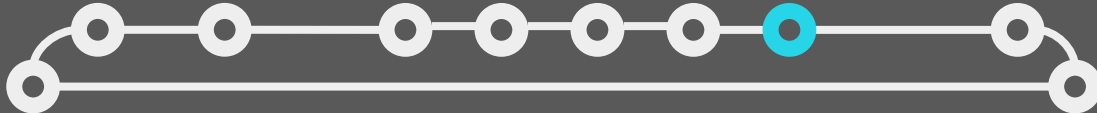
Merged merged 2 commits into master from fix/my-1234-installer-upgrade

on Jan 3

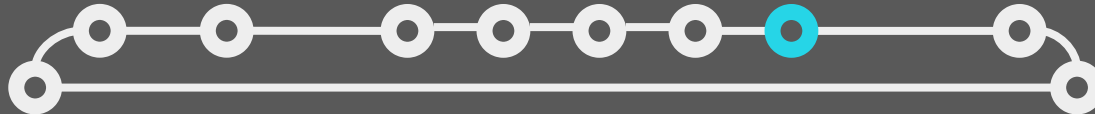
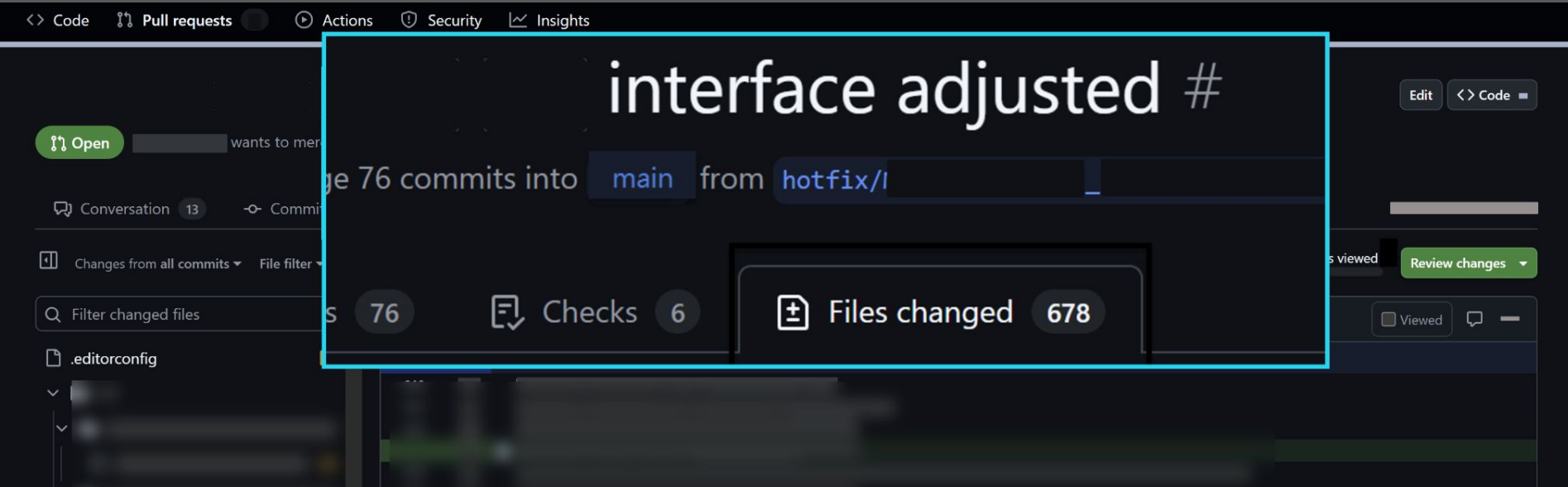
```
@@ -276,7 +276,7 @@  
276 276 <PackageReference Include="...eInstaller_x86" Version="1.2.171" />  
276 276 <PackageReference Include="...eInstaller_x86" Version="1.2.172" />
```

versus

```
276 276 <PackageReference Include="...eInstaller_x86" Version="1.2.171" />  
276 276 <PackageReference Include="...eInstaller_x86" Version="1.2.172 -PullRequest1234.00" />
```



Files & Code - Number of Changes



Files & Code - Unrelated Changes

Updated the manuals

#

Edit

<> Code

Conversation 0

Commits 1

Checks 8

Files changed 6

+0 -0

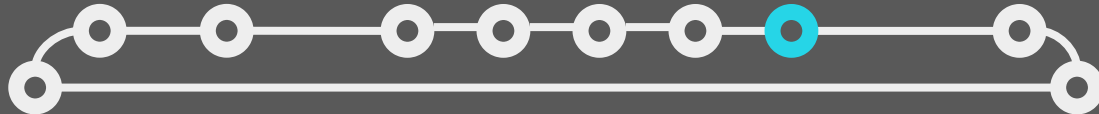
ExternalFiles/Manuals

.pdf

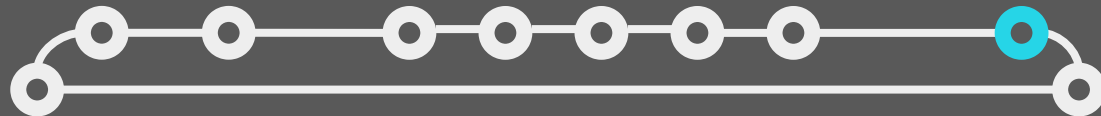


Editor

Editor/Actions



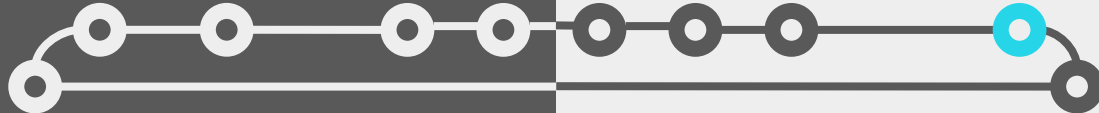
Are you not
done yet?



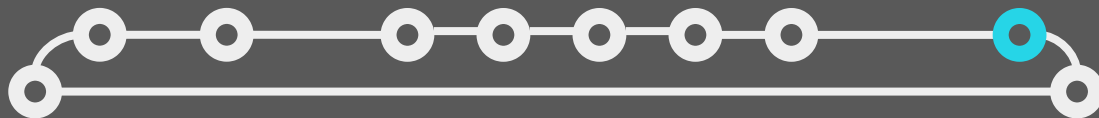
Noooooo

I haven't started "Testing" yet

- Run the software incl. the changes
- Include the news
- Explore the changes

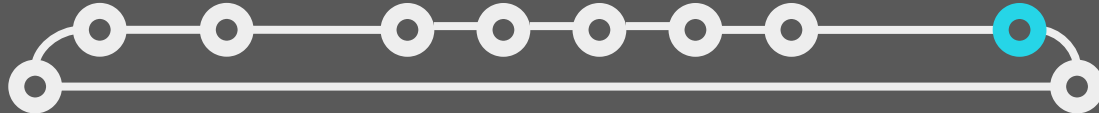


Finally



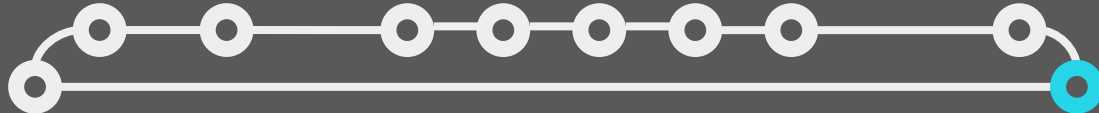
What's in it for me?

- Shift left testing
- Preventive character
- Better informed testing



How YOU can 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 in chaos





ALLES
Gode ♥

Thank you

Mail: Loveletterfromatester@gmail.com

LinkedIn: [andrea-jensen](#)

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