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The project application review process

Publishing projects on drupal.org

Who?

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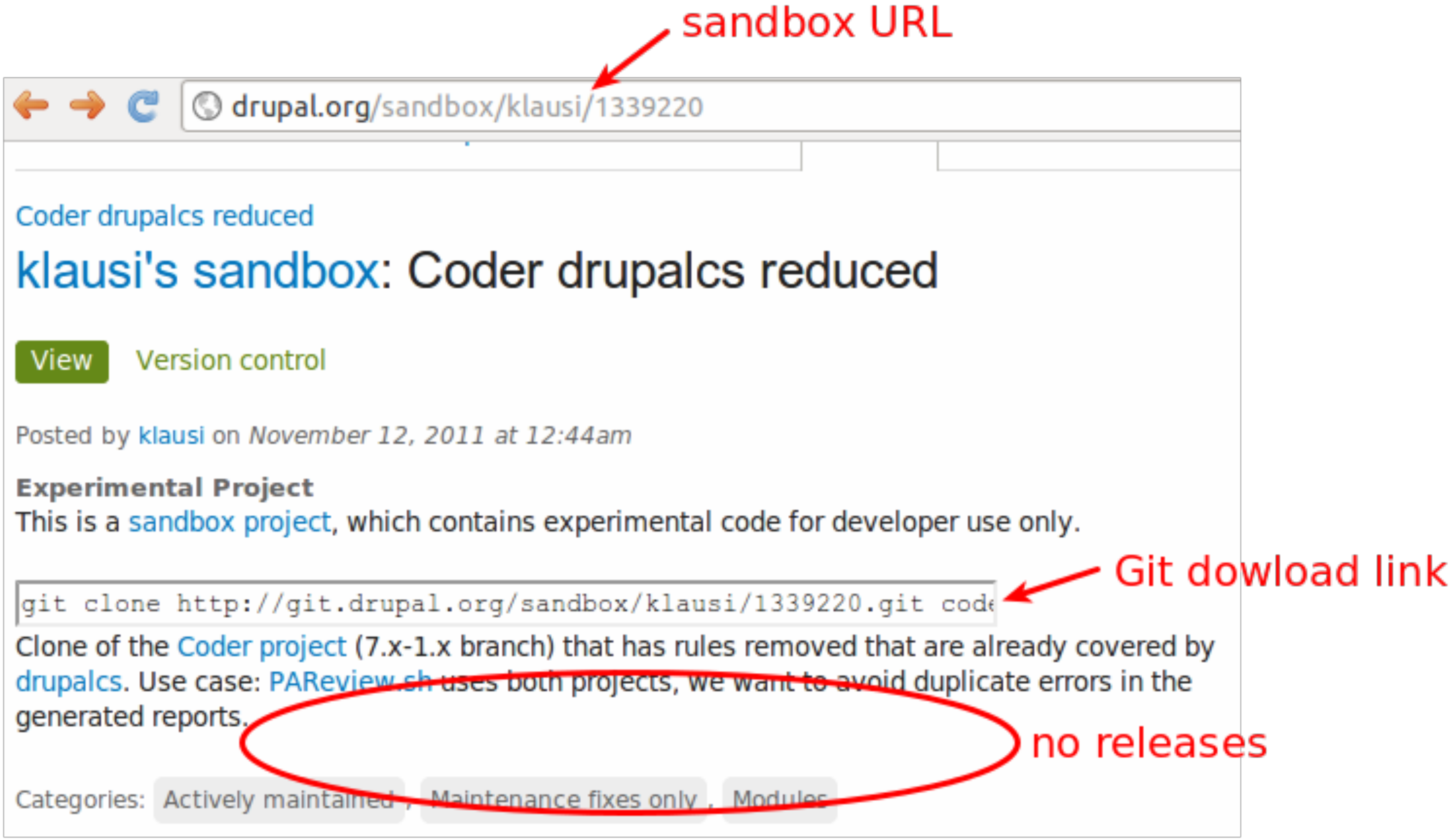
So how can you contribute code?

Sandbox projects

Everybody can publish code on drupal.org for **free**!

Photo credit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/darren/5583483453/

Documentation: http://drupal.org/node/1068950



Coder drupalcs reduced

klausi's sandbox: Coder drupalcs reduced

Posted by klausi on *November 12, 2011 at 12:44am*

Experimental Project
This is a sandbox project, which contains experimental code for developer use only.

```
git clone http://git.drupal.org/sandbox/klausi/1339220.git code
```

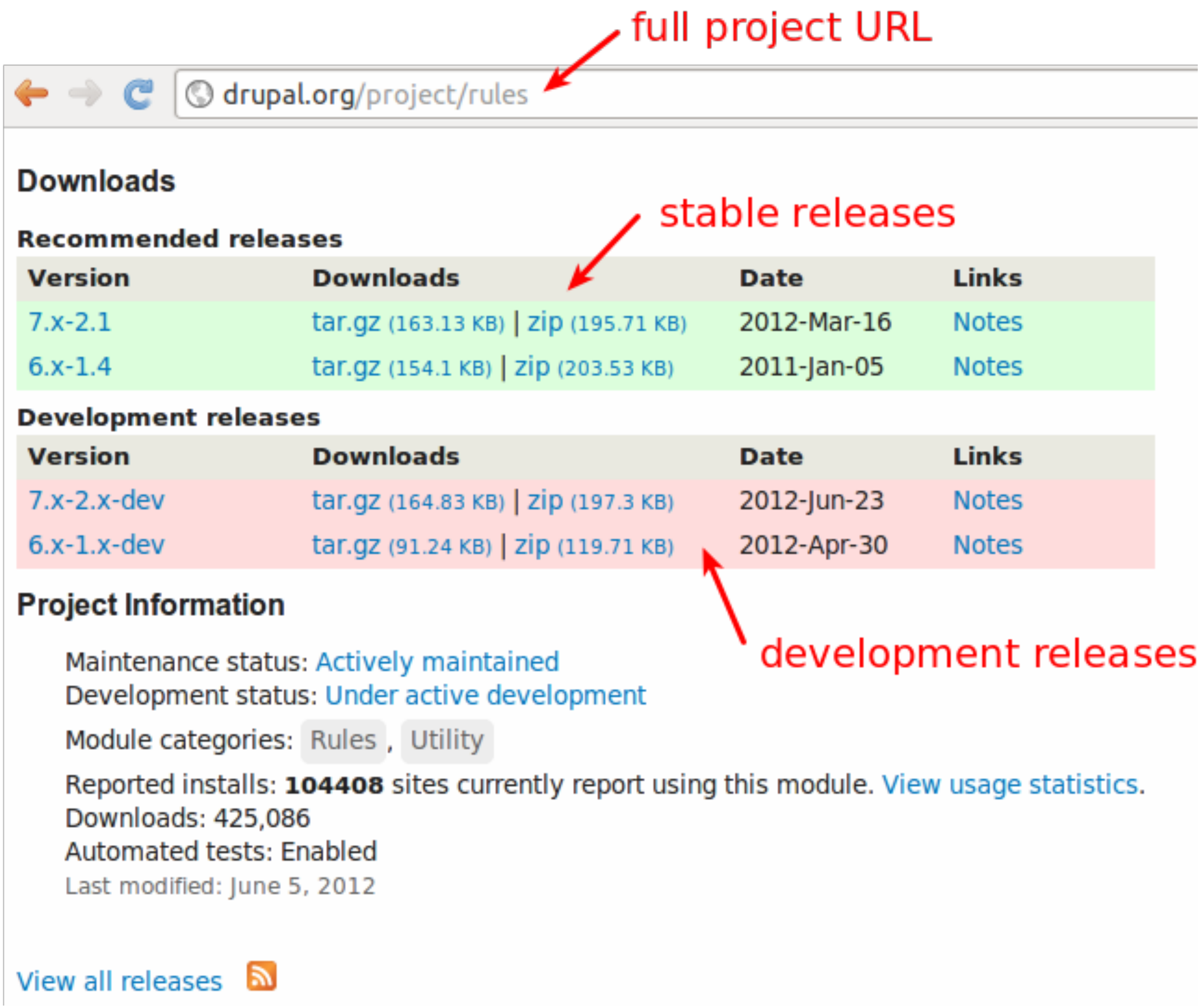
Clone of the Coder project (7.x-1.x branch) that has rules removed that are already covered by drupalcs. Use case: PAReview.sh uses both projects, we want to avoid duplicate errors in the generated reports.

Categories: Actively maintained , Maintenance fixes only , Modules

Full projects

... are sandboxes plus

- Project URL and namespace
- packaged releases for download
- favored in search results



full project URL

drupal.org/project/rules

Downloads

stable releases

Recommended releases

Version	Downloads	Date	Links
7.x-2.1	tar.gz (163.13 KB) | zip (195.71 KB)	2012-Mar-16	Notes
6.x-1.4	tar.gz (154.1 KB) | zip (203.53 KB)	2011-Jan-05	Notes

Development releases

Version	Downloads	Date	Links
7.x-2.x-dev	tar.gz (164.83 KB) | zip (197.3 KB)	2012-Jun-23	Notes
6.x-1.x-dev	tar.gz (91.24 KB) | zip (119.71 KB)	2012-Apr-30	Notes

development releases

Project Information

Maintenance status: Actively maintained
Development status: Under active development

Module categories: Rules, Utility

Reported installs: **104408** sites currently report using this module. View usage statistics.
Downloads: 425,086
Automated tests: Enabled
Last modified: June 5, 2012

View all releases

Full projects are not for free

Problems:

- name space squatting
- licensing (drupal.org is GPLv2 only)
- security vulnerabilities
- project duplication
- code quality and best practices
- abandoned projects

The project review process

Permission to create full projects

One time approval process:
http://drupal.org/project/projectapplications

You bring the new project, we bring the reviews.

Note: maintainers of existing projects can add maintainers without any approval.

And then what?

People will review your project.

Code review administrators approve applications.

List of people: http://groups.drupal.org/node/142454

Workflow

- **needs review**: application is ready to be looked at
- **needs work**: applicant has to correct blocker (s)
- **RTBC**: reviewer found no problems
- **fixed**: administrator has approved application
- **won't fix**: application is not appropriate
- **duplicate**: multiple applications of one person

Documentation: http://drupal.org/node/532400

Benefits of reviewing applications

- Learn Drupal by reviewing code
- Learn about alternative ways
- Learn how to analyze foreign code
- Learn how to write secure code
- Learn about best and worst practices
- Stay on top of what is new and hot
- Karma for helping and mentoring

Review checklist

- Check for similar modules
- One application per user
- Repo contains code and correct branches
- No custom LICENSE.txt and no 3rd-party stuff (make sure libraries API is used)
- Informative project page and README.txt
- Best practices and code style
- Correct and secure API usage
- No security issues

Documentation: http://drupal.org/node/1587704

Examples of security problems

1. XSS
2. unprotected menu paths
3. form API misuse
4. CSRF
5. Access bypass
6. SQL injection

http://crackingdrupal.com/

http://drupalsecurityreport.org/

Documentation: http://drupal.org/writing-secure-code/

Mentoring

Reviewing applications means guidance.

- linking to resources
- suggesting alternative paths/solutions
- clear instructions
- help and encouragement

klausi's way to manage applications

I check

- review bonus list
- RTBC issues that had a review bonus
- critical issues that had a review bonus
- random reviews here and there

patrickd's way to manage applications

- I introduce new applicants to the queue
- Review and approve oldest RTBC issues
- Review oldest applications needing review
- Giving support/cheering up desperate applicants

The queue has some issues

Current status

About 100 applications needing review.

From 2011-02-25 to 2012-08-08:

- 1806 overall (3-4 per day)
- 644 approved (1 per day)
- 111 with security issues (verified)
- 365 waiting for a maintainer response

Problems with the process

We have a huge lack of active reviewers!

Leading to

- very long response times
- very desperate applicants
- very bad reputation to potential developers

⇨ We need more people doing regular reviews, more automation and clear documentation.

How many reviewers are needed?

Minimum: one. Very looooong response times ;-)

Currently: 3 - 5. Long response times.

Sustainable: 6 - 10. Moderate response times.

Optimum: 10+. Short response times.

Accomplishments and progress

Automated review tools

have revolutionized the process.

- almost no coding standard issues anymore
- correct Git branch names
- comment blocks on all functions
- ... and many details more

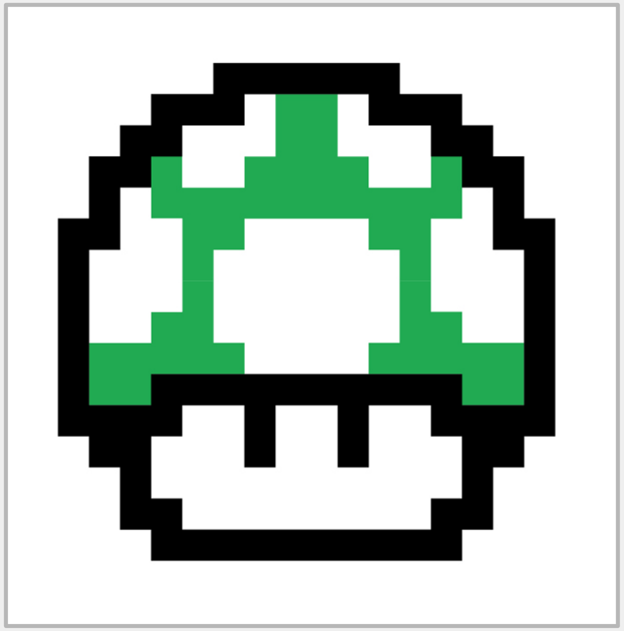
People accept nitpicky reports from those tools and are able to correct them.

Automated review tools

programs that analyze source code for errors.

- Coder (many false positives)
  http://drupal.org/project/coder
- Drupal Code Sniffer
  http://drupal.org/project/drupalcs
- pareview.sh
  http://drupal.org/project/pareviewsh
- Online web service to check projects:
  http://ventral.org/pareview

Review bonus



Problem:
Lack of reviewers

Solution:
Applicants become reviewers

- 3 reviews of other projects
- issue tag "PAReview: review bonus"
- high priority list

Planned improvements on drupal.org

Automation, automation, automation.
Postponed until drupal.org is on Drupal 7.

- Integrated automated reviews
- Application issues can only be created if the automated review reports less than X errors
- RTBC applications are auto-approved after 4 weeks.
- "needs work" applications are auto-closed after 4 weeks
- http://drupal.org/sandbox/jthorson/1367220

Other ideas for improvements

- mandatory review bonus
- issue queue thresholds
- review team with regular meetings
- usage of tags, e.g. "PAReview: Commerce"
- on-demand reviewers for "uncommon" applications (Commerce, Ubercart, Aegir..)
- Separate approvement for modules, themes and features

Feedback and governance

Applicant feedback:
"How do you feel about the process?"

> I've often thought about giving up.

> The review bonus helped me getting through within a week.

> The long response times are very frustrating.

> The process is really good I really appreciate that.

Applicant feedback:
"How could it be enhanced?"

> “ Having more reviewers is essential for sustainable response times. ”

> “ More automation on drupal.org! ”

> “ Reviewers should be less picky. ”

> “ Documentation should be more cohesive, and less duplicating. ”

> “ I don't think it should change at all. ”

Review process governance

Discussion and decision making takes place in Code Review Group.

http://groups.drupal.org/code-review

This process is still evolving.

We all work it out together how drupal.org should work.

Next steps

- Recruit more regular reviewers
- Finish drupal.org Drupal 7 migration
- Revisit automation plans
- Implement enhancements for the project application issue queue

Attracting reviewers

- application review sprints

JOIN US ON FRIDAY!!

- encouraging applicants to review each other (review bonus)
- project review Wednesday
- Application queue "Spotlight" (getting more attention to reviewers)

Let's get to the point.

(It follows the stuff you actually should remember)

Key messages

(proudly presented to you in Comic Sans MS)

- **Everybody** can publish code
- We **need your help** to review applications
- Review **automation** is the future

Resources

- Code Review discussion group
  http://groups.drupal.org/code-review
- Project application issue queue
  http://drupal.org/project/projectapplications
- Documentation
  - how to apply: http://drupal.org/node/1011698
  - how to review: http://drupal.org/node/894256
- Drupal Code Review on Twitter
  http://twitter.com/drupal_review

Questions?

Discuss, suggest and get involved.

What did you think?

Locate this session on the DrupalCon Munich website:
http://munich2012.drupal.org/program

Thank you!