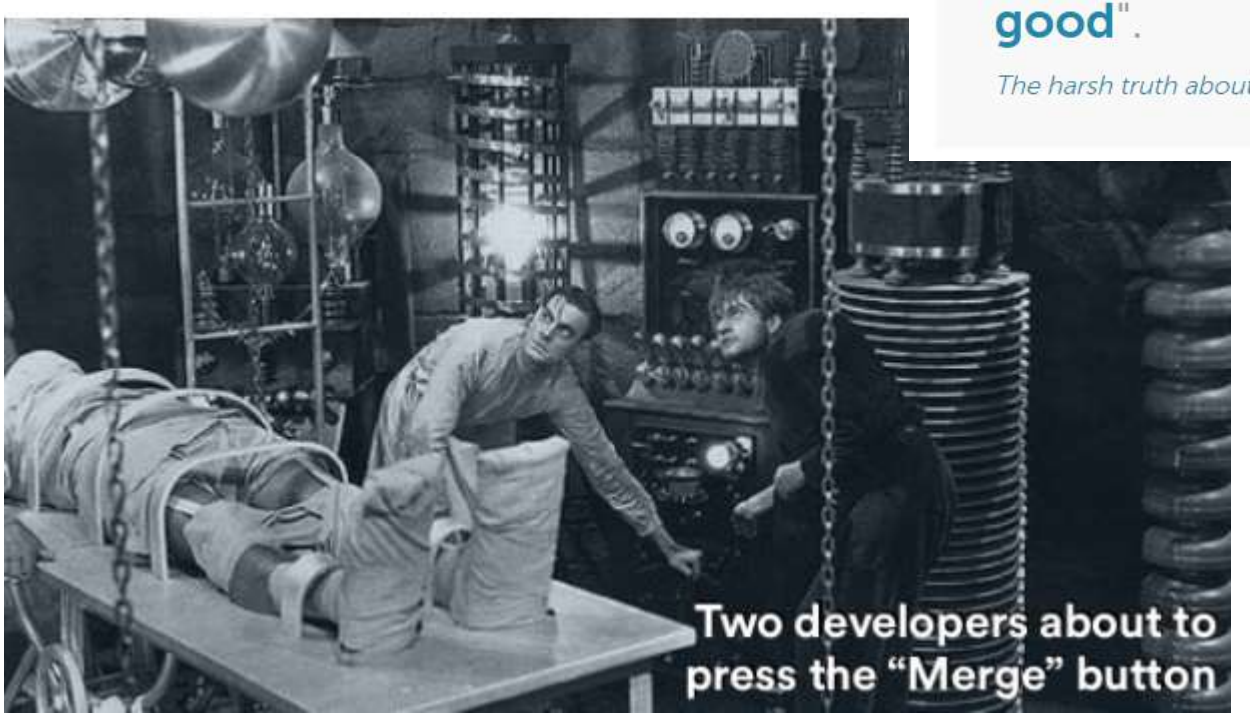
INSA INSTITUT NATIONAL DES SCIENCES APPLIQUÉES ROUEN NORMANDIE

CODE REVIEW

Where we speak of code approval

"Ask programmers to review **10 lines of code**, they'll find **10 issues**. Ask them to do **500 lines** and they'll say **it looks good**".

The harsh truth about code reviews.



Source : https://fr.slideshare.net/GoAtlassian/code-reviews-vs-pull-requests-75670325

How code review aligns with :

- **Agile manifesto**
  - Value : Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
    - *collective code ownership* (or *shared code*) : the code base is owned by the entire team (no notion of individual ownership of modules)

Source : https://agilemanifesto.org/

We are committed to discovering new ways to better deliver our products.
In doing so, we value:

Individuals and Interactions over process and tools	**Working products** over comprehensive documentation.
Customer Collaboration over contract negotiation	**Responding to Feedback** over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the bottom, we value the items on the top more.

Agile Principles

1	Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery	7	Working product is the primary measure of progress
2	Welcome changing requirements, even late in development	8	Maintain a sustainable pace indefinitely
3	Deliver working product frequently	9	Give continuous attention to technical excellence
4	Business-people and cross-discipline teams must work together daily	10	Simplicity – the art of maximizing the amount of work not done is essential
5	Build projects around motivated individuals and trust them to get the job done	11	Teams self-organize
6	The most effective and efficient method of conveying information is face-to-face conversation	12	Teams regularly reflect and adjust to become more effective

- **SCRUM guide**
  - Scrum pillars : Inspection
    - The Scrum artifacts and the progress toward agreed goals must be inspected frequently and diligently to detect potentially undesirable variances or problems.

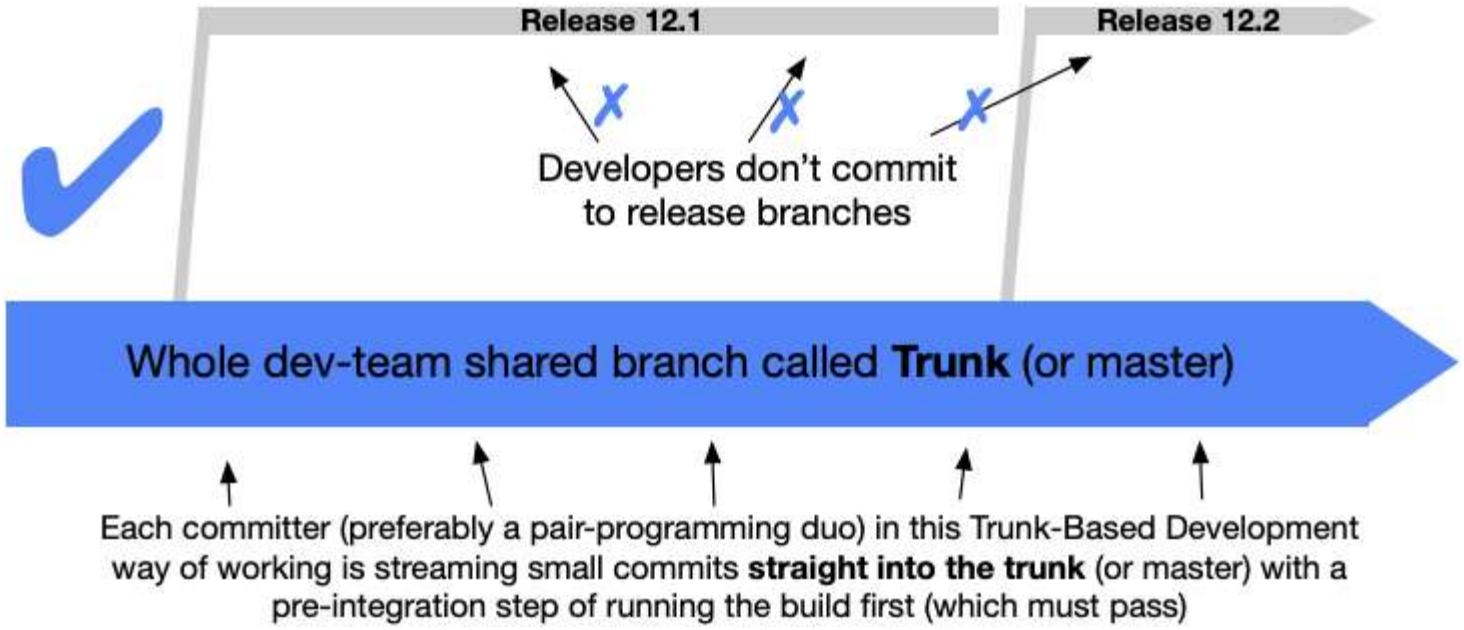
Source : https://www.scrum.org/resources/what-is-scrum

Two acceptions of *Code Review* term

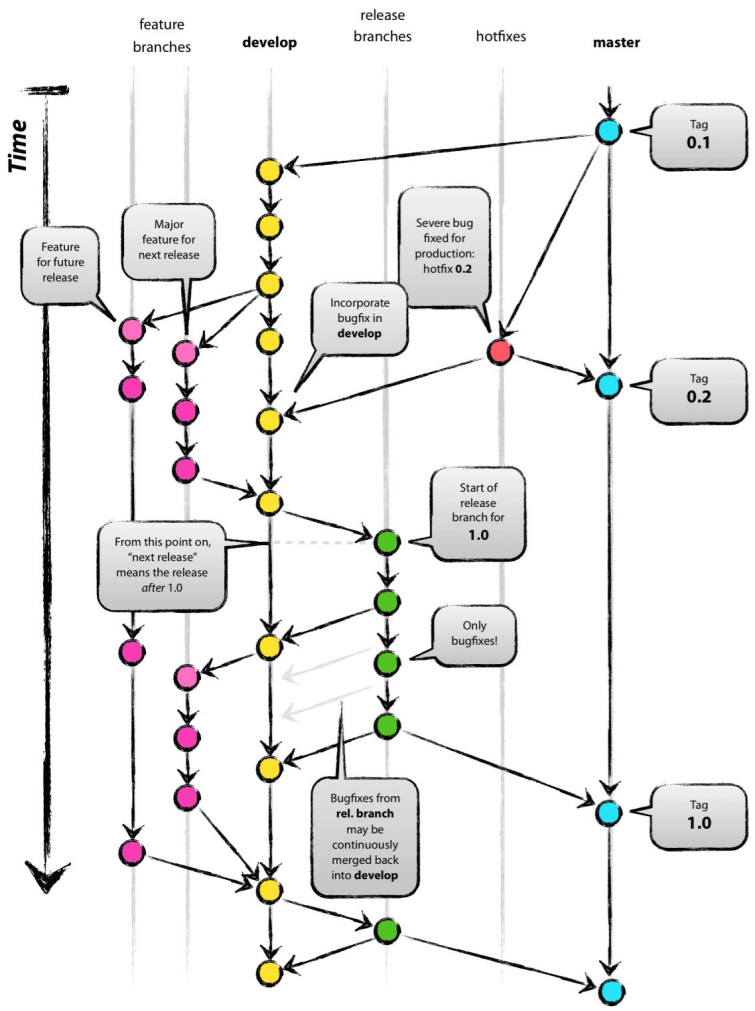
- **Code approval**
  - Domain : branching strategy
  - Intention : get approval of an *authority* to merge newly developped code
  - Implementation : PR (MR) requests
- **Peer review**
  - Domain : pair programming, mob programming, …
  - Intention : get feedback from others to improve skills, share the best pratices
  - Implementation : out of scope

Here the term *code approval* will be preferred !

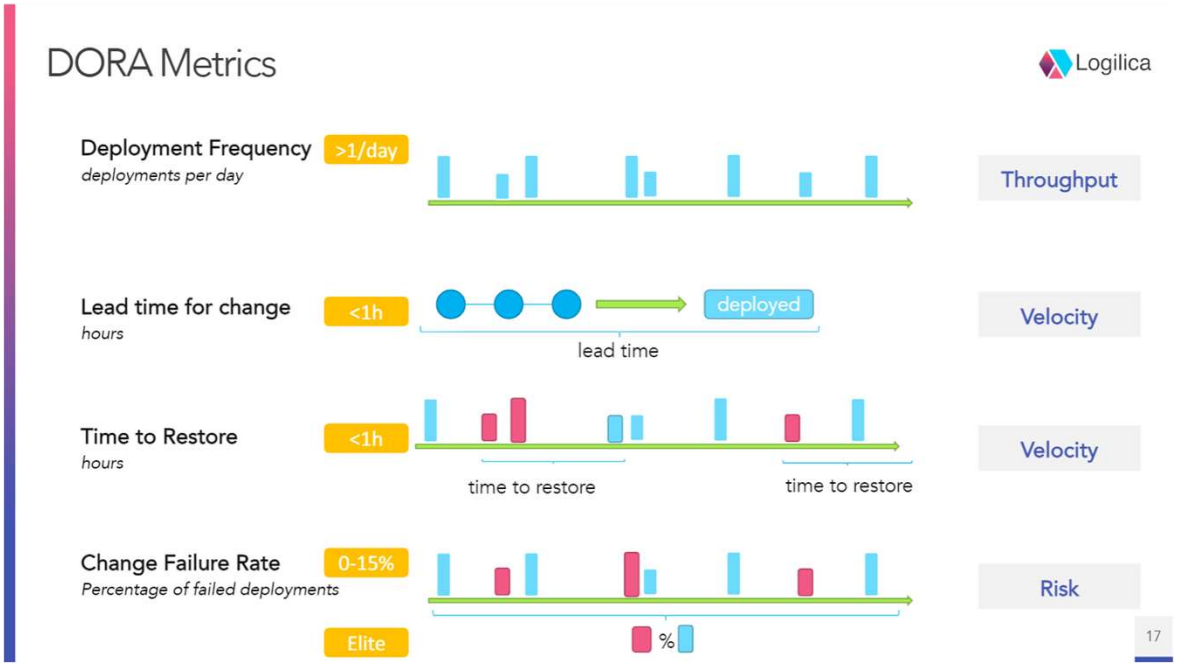
Branches strategy : Trunk-Based development



Branches strategy : GitFlow



Source : https://nvie.com/posts/a-successful-git-branching-model/



Code approval must not impair DORA's « Lead time for change »

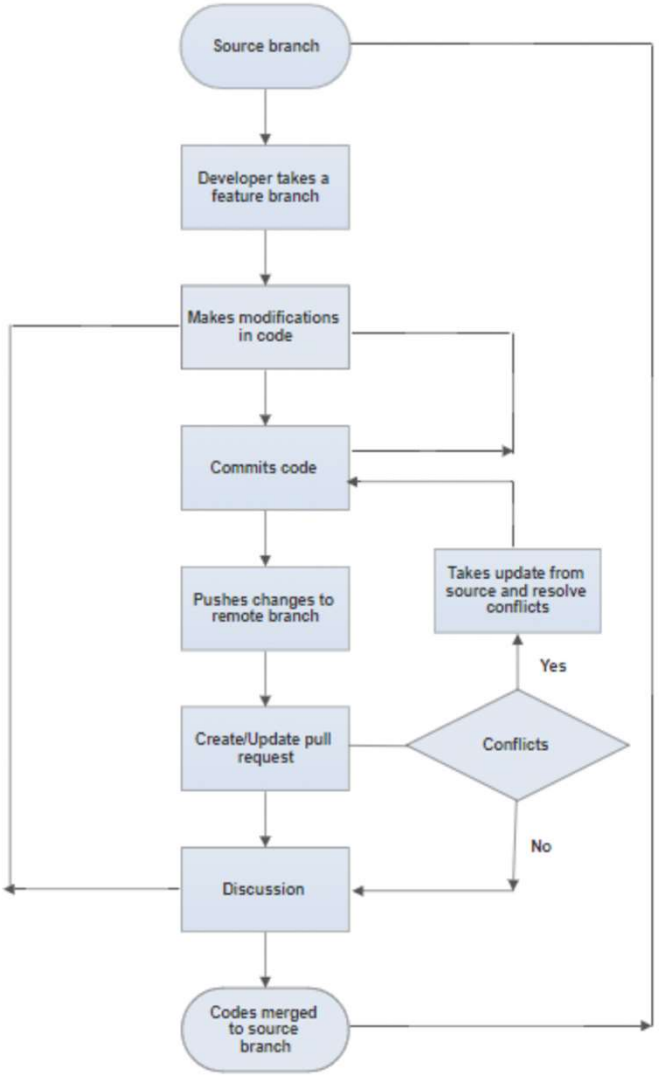
A code must not be approved when

- **Use case not covered**
- **Security matter**

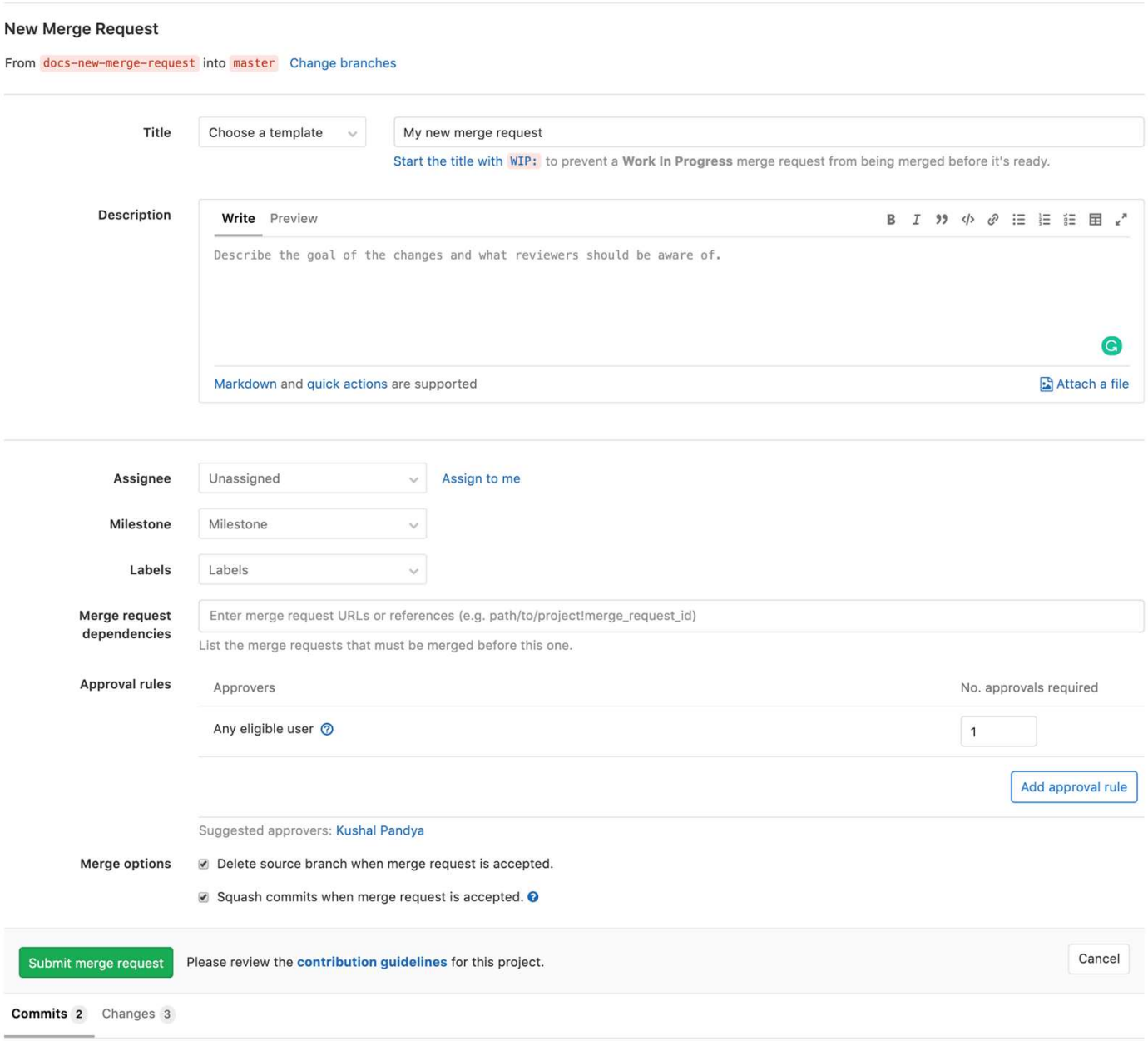
All other reason should not prevent approval, namely

- **Maintenability**

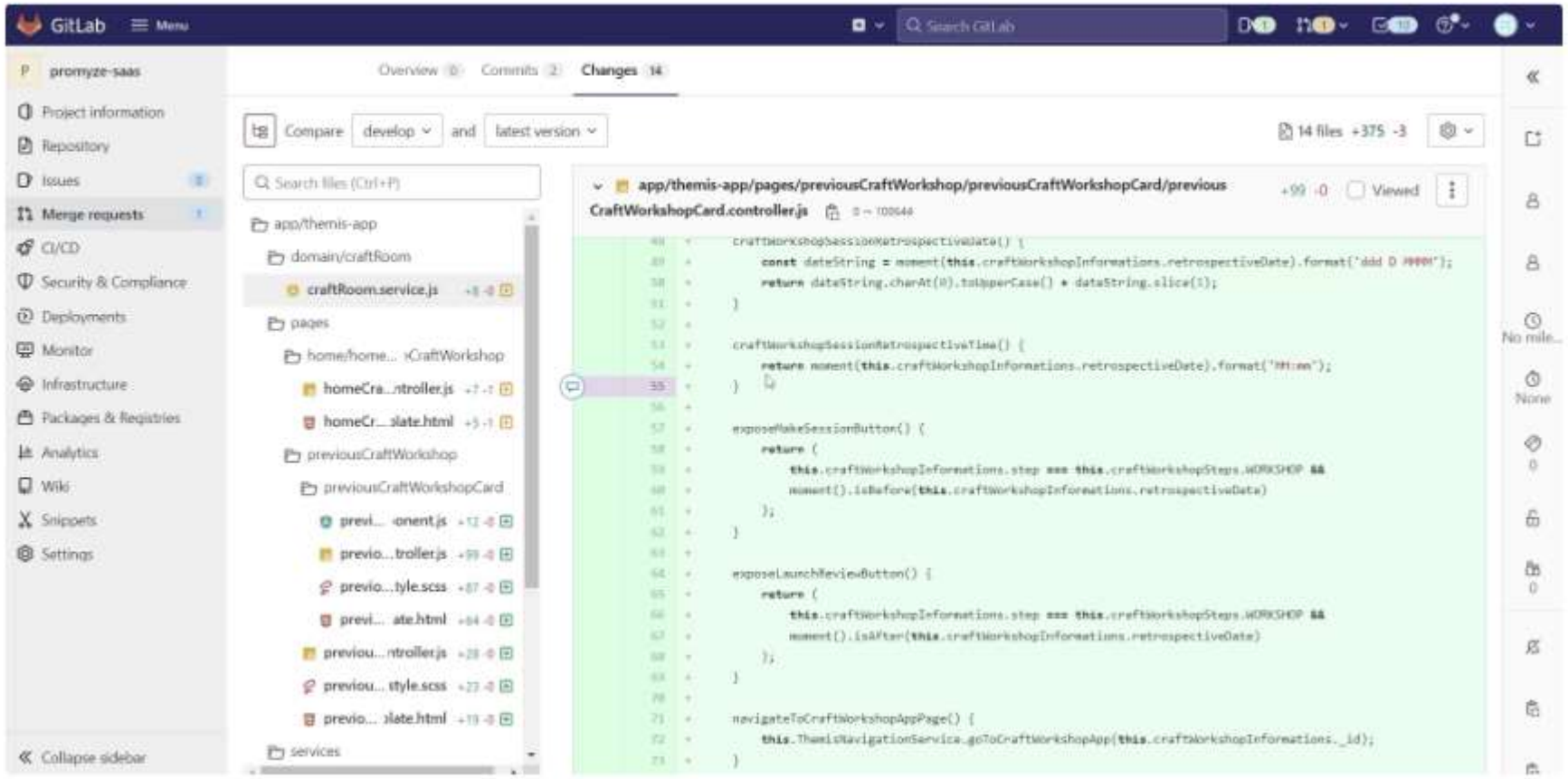
List of main steps of a MR or PR workflow



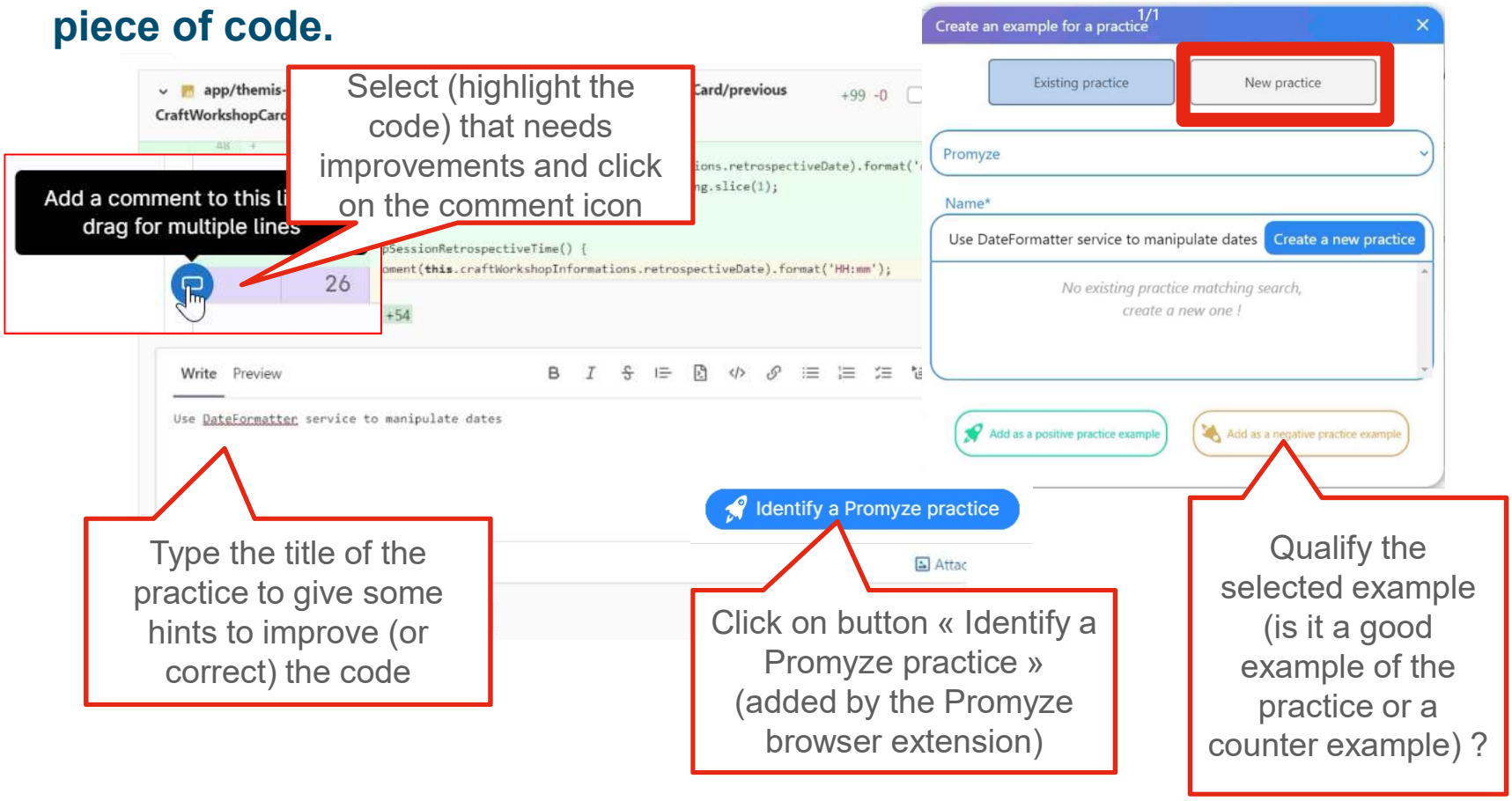
[Gitlab] Merge Request screen copy



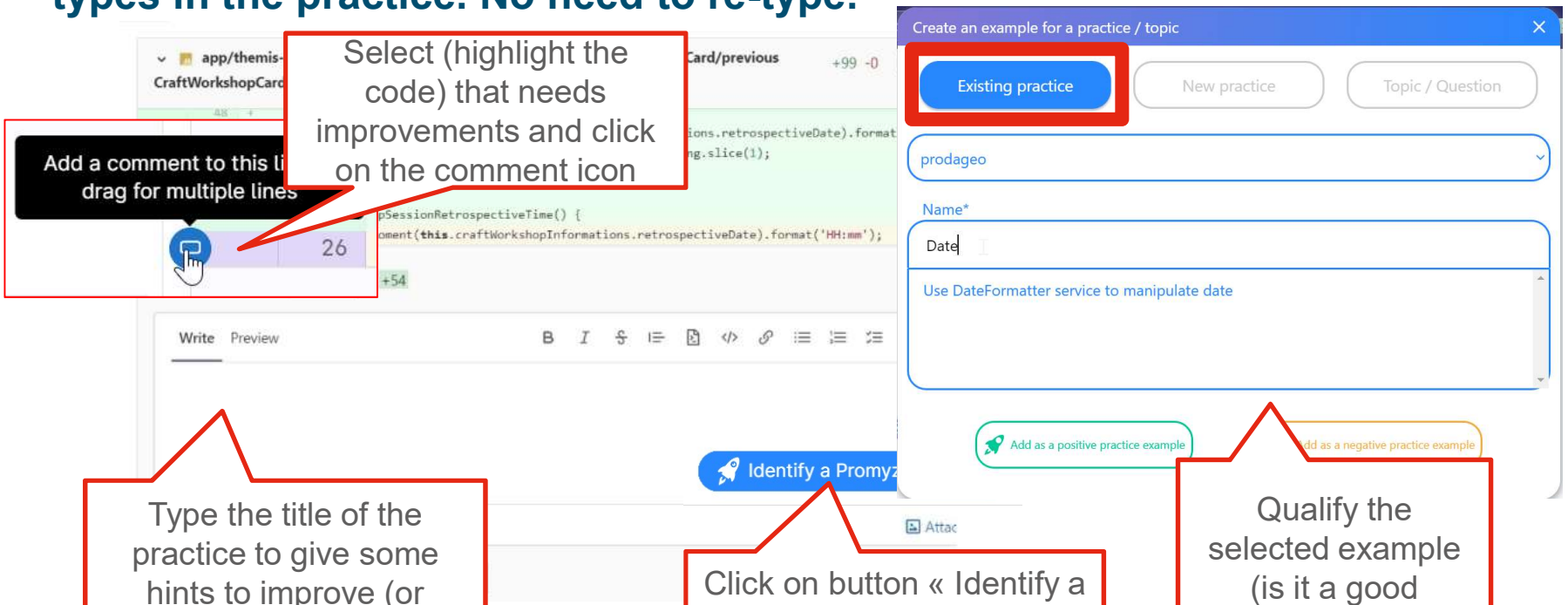
[Gitlab] Code review for Code Approval



While code reviewed, you can put in the knowledge base any negative or positive application of a practice by simply hightlighting it the related piece of code.



Next code review you see a counter-example of the practice, just add a reference to the pratice and the developper will get all the knowledge types in the practice. No need to re-type.



Numerous other tools are available to assist and optimize code approval

- **SmartBear Collaborator : customize code approval workflows to your requirements**
- **GitColony : avoid titanic reviews before deploying**