



QA and Automation

Make a Better Game and
Save Time + Money Doing It

What will I talk about?

1. How is QA done?
2. How to write tests?
3. How to automate?



Who am I?

- Nepo (they/them)
- QA (8y), freelance (2y)
- Consulting, work-for-hire, mentoring
- Barcelona Game Creators meetup



Part 1

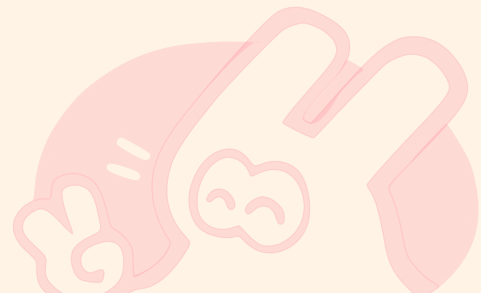
How is QA done?



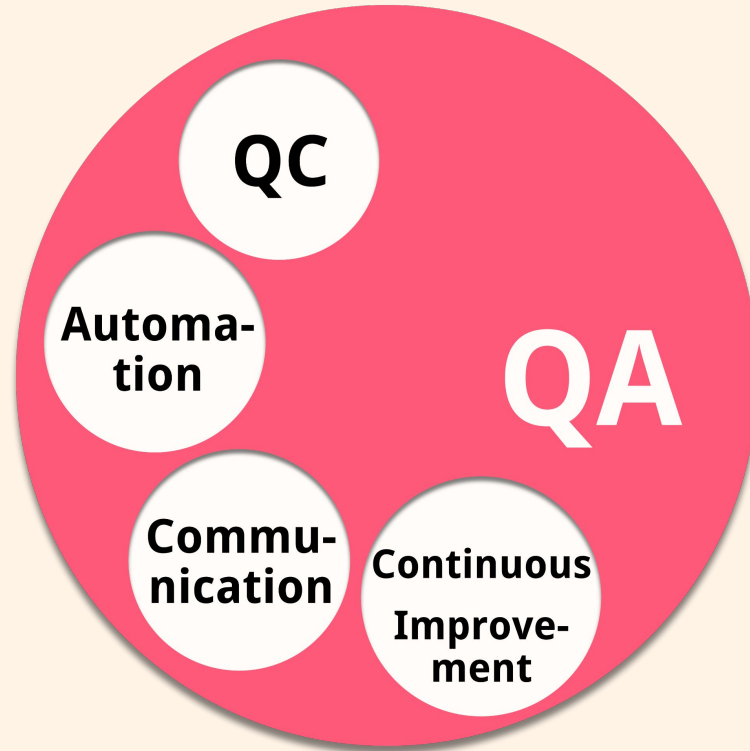
What does QA *actually* mean?



QA ≠ QC



QA ≠ QC



What is QA?

Ideation

- Brainstorm
- Investigate
- Prototype

Preproduction

- GDD
- Vertical slice
- Development plan

Production

- Implement
- Iterate
- Iterate
- Iterate
- ...

Postproduction

- Balancing
- Bug fixing
- Polishing

Release

- Build
- Testing
- Marketing

Live Players



What is QA?

Ideation

Preproduction

Production

Postproduction

Release

Live Players

QA



What is QA?

Ideation

Pre-production

Production

Post-production

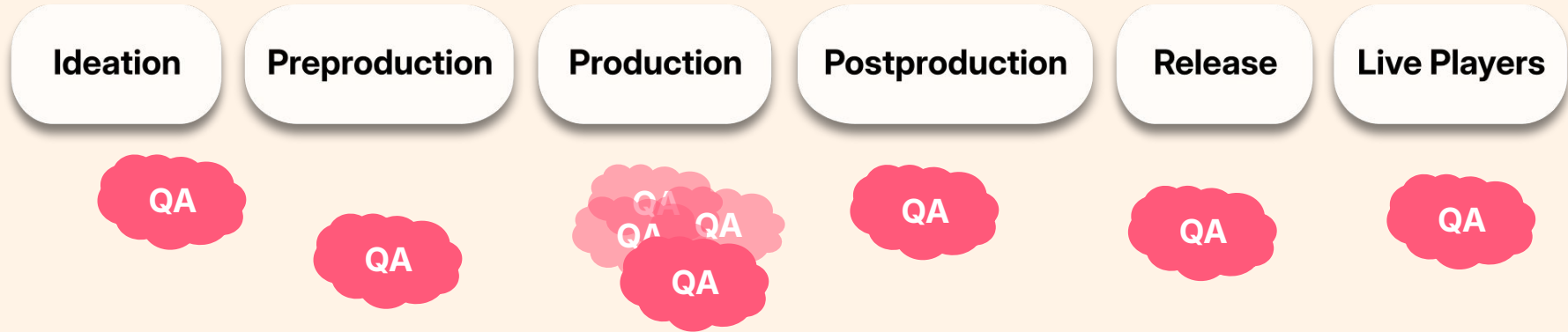
Release

Live Play

QA



What is QA?



QA works on **processes** throughout the entire development process



QA strategy: the objective

Objective: Find bugs?

Yes, but...



QA strategy: the objective

Ideation

Preproduction

Production

Postproduction

Release

Live Players



QA strategy: the objective



QA strategy: the objective



- Objective: find bugs **before the release**



QA strategy: the objective

Ideation

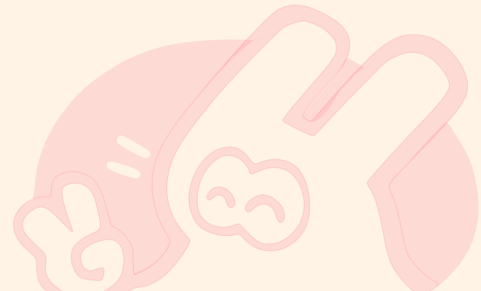
Preproduction

Production

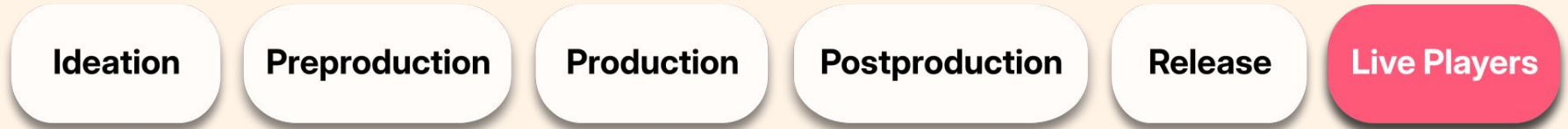
Postproduction

Release

Live Players



QA strategy: the objective



- Investigate
- Work on fix

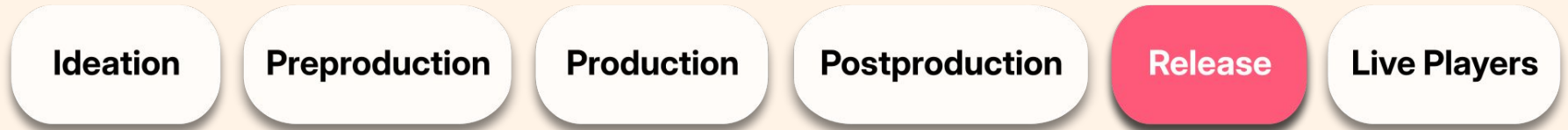
- Verify it works

- Build
- Upload new version

- Download
- Play
- Report error



QA strategy: the objective



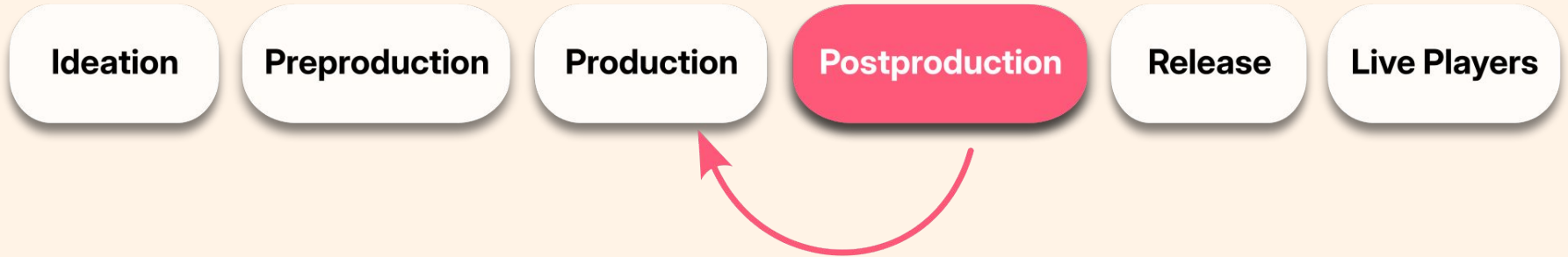
- Investigate
- Work on fix

- Verify it works

- Build
- Upload new version



QA strategy: the objective

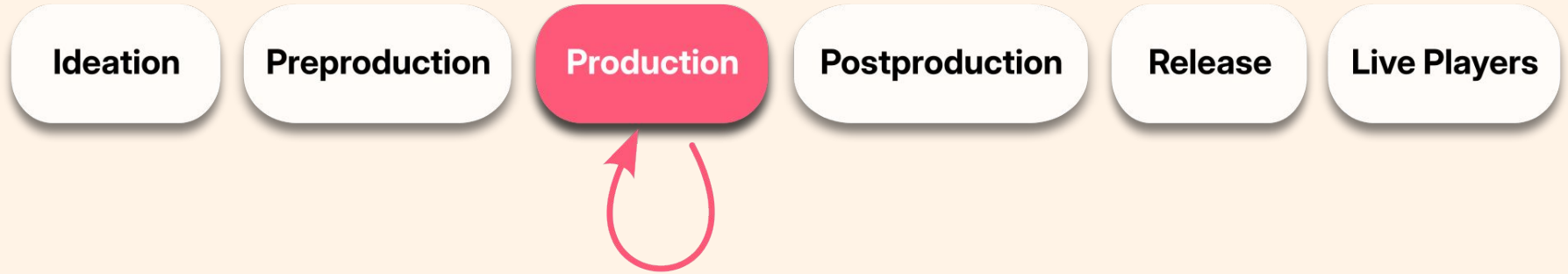


- Investigate
- Work on fix

- Verify it works



QA strategy: the objective



- Investigate
- Work on fix



QA strategy: the objective

Ideation

Preproduction

Production

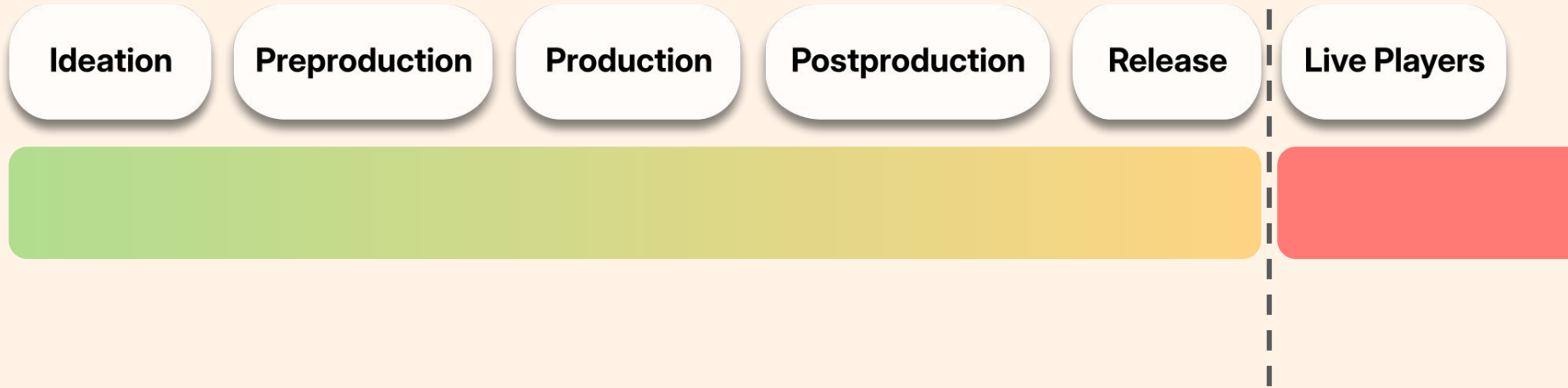
Postproduction

Release

Live Players



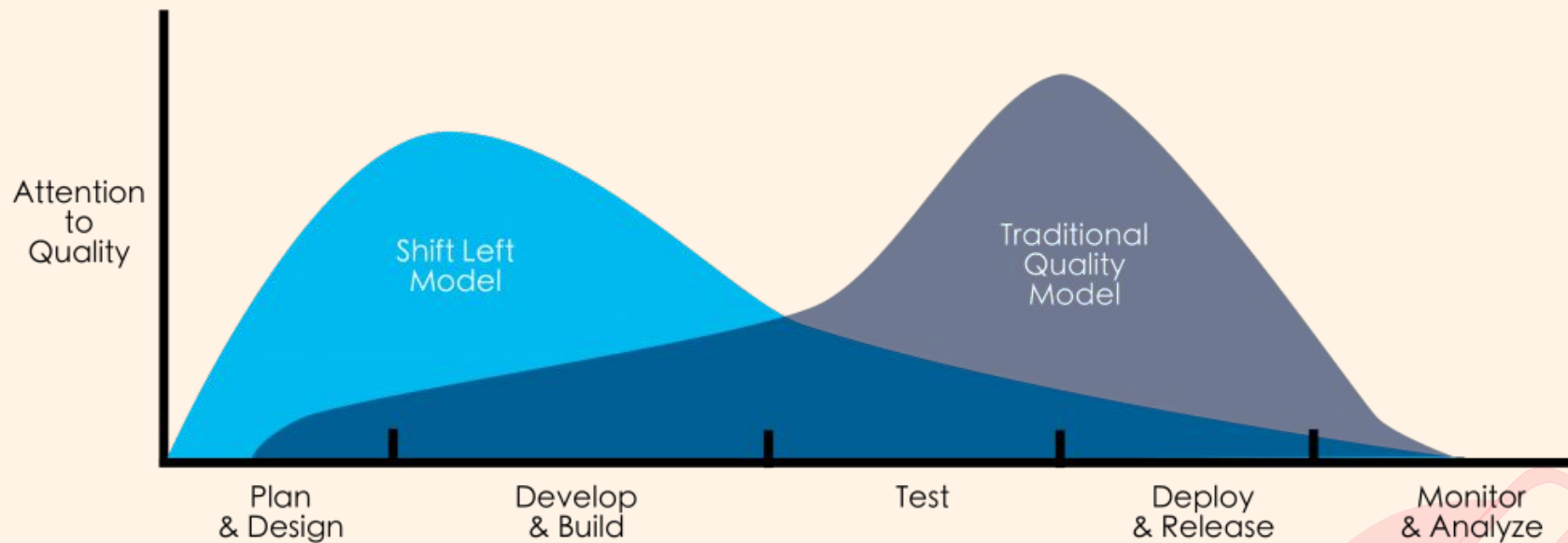
QA strategy: the objective



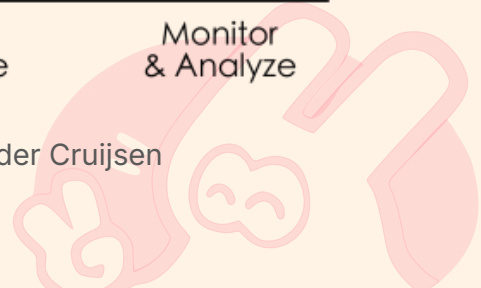
- Objective: find bugs **as soon as possible**



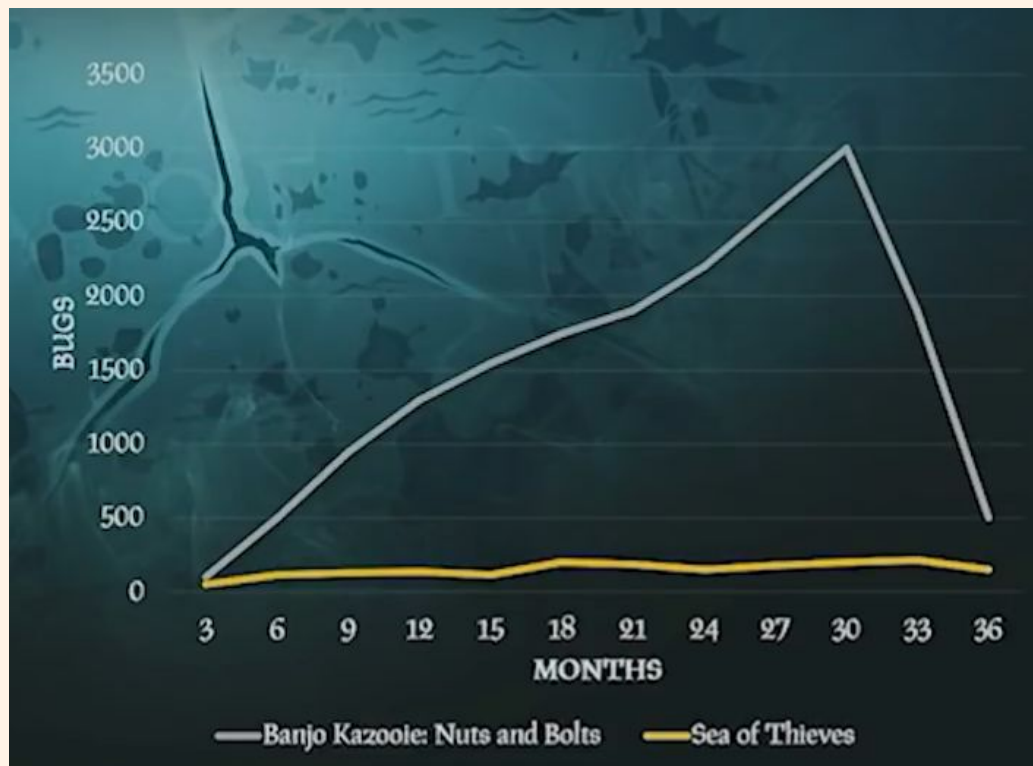
Shift left testing



"It's 2017: Test automation is not optional when building mobile apps!" — Geert van der Cruisen



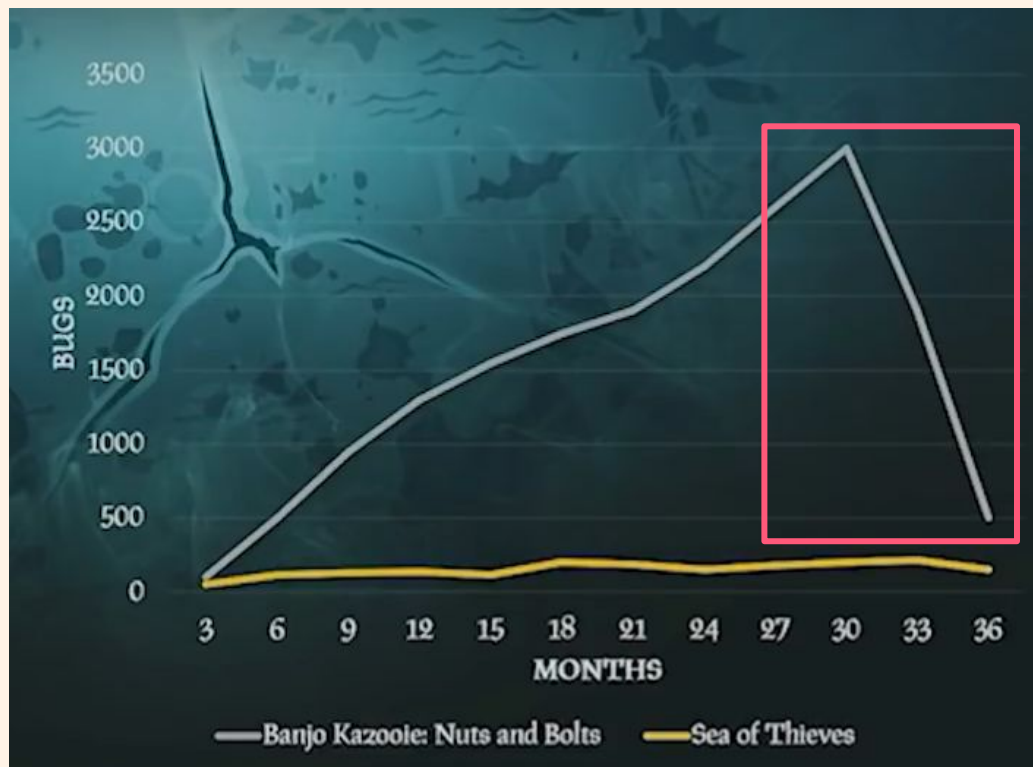
Shift left testing



"Automated Testing of Gameplay Features in 'Sea of Thieves'", Robert Masella, GDC



Shift left testing



Crunch!

"Automated Testing of Gameplay Features in 'Sea of Thieves'", Robert Masella, GDC



What is a process?

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- Investigate
- Prototype

Preproduction

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Production

- Implement
- Iterate
- Iterate
- Iterate
- ...

Postproduction

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Release

- Build
- Testing
- Marketing

Live Players



What is a process?

“A series of **tasks** performed in order to achieve **a goal**”

- Make code/art and **integrating it** in the game
- Upload a build to Steam and **releasing it**
- Have a meeting to **make decisions** about the project/team
- A brainstorming to **find new ideas**
- ... and many more examples



Testing processes

That's a beautiful idea! But...

- How is **a process** tested?
- Can **a meeting** be tested?



Post-mortem

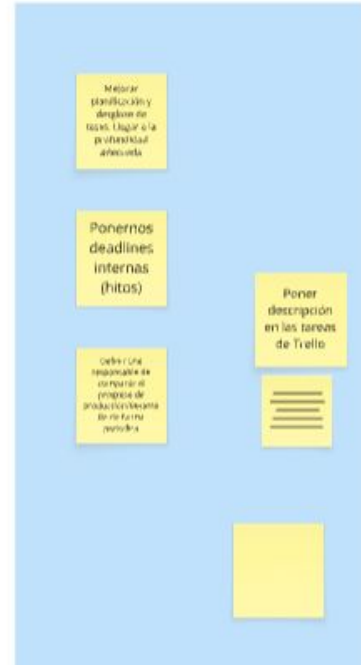
What went well



What didn't go well



How will we adjust in the future



Retrospective

Retro (30')

Desde 27
Mar

Cada columna representa una categoría. Tenemos que pensar en nuestra semana bajo esas categorías y compartir lo que nos ha afectado. Tendremos 5-10 minutos para escribir lo que se nos ocurra, y el resto del tiempo para discutir cómo evitar las cosas malas y fomentar las buenas.

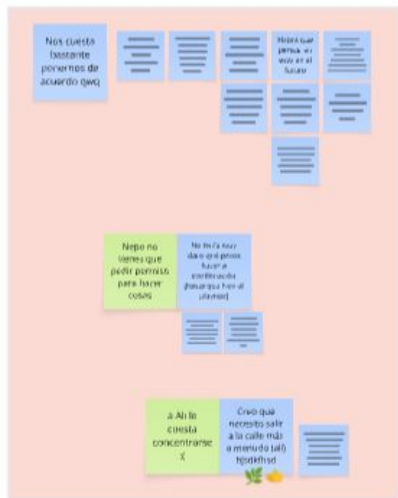
Good



A retrospective board for 'Good' experiences, featuring a light green background and various sticky notes. The notes include:

- Charles de arquitectura de software con Ant!
- El buen ambiente de trabajo que tenemos, me encanta!!!
- Antiprofe
- Al volver en un reunión a correr pa' que
- Hemos entrado en la rueda
- GDD <3
- El prototipo tan chulo que tiene! Me encanta!!!
- Modelos + animaciones de Ant <3
- Nepo hablando con Emilio
- La idea de la consultora es muy buena

Bad



A retrospective board for 'Bad' experiences, featuring a light red background and various sticky notes. The notes include:

- Nos cuesta bastante ponernos de acuerdo (wq)
- Hay que pensar en el valor
- Nepo no parece que pueda guiarlos para hacer cosas
- No me ha gustado lo que me pasó, hay que estar más pendiente de lo que pasa
- Ah lo chisla concentrarse
- Como que necesito salir a la calle más a menudo (a) repetitivo

Agreements

Documentar las ideas que se nos vayan ocurriendo en el Drive - Nepo creará el doc

Experimento: entrar en reunión cuando estemos currando (aunque sea muteado)

Actions



ROTI



Espacio reservado para dejar dudas, consejos, peticiones o amenazas de muerte.



Retrospective

Retro (30')

Desde 27
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Cada columna representa una categoría. Tenemos que pensar en nuestra semana bajo esas categorías y compartir lo que nos ha afectado. Tendremos 5-10 minutos para escribir lo que se nos ocurra, y el resto del tiempo para discutir cómo evitar las cosas malas y fomentar las buenas.

Good



A retrospective board for 'Good' experiences, featuring a light green background and various sticky notes. The notes include:

- Charles de arquitectura de software con Anti!
- El gran avance de trabajo que aprendimos, nos ayudamos los unos a los otros
- Antiprofe
- Al volver en una reunión a correr por que
- Hemos entrado en la rueda
- GDD <3
- El prototipo fue divertido y nos hizo estar en línea
- Modelos + animaciones de Anti <3
- Nepo hablando con Emilio
- La idea de la consultora es muy buena

Bad



A retrospective board for 'Bad' experiences, featuring a light red background and various sticky notes. The notes include:

- Nos cuesta bastante ponernos de acuerdo (dax)
- Hacer que prima + el vecino en el futuro
- Nepo no parece que pueda guiarlos para hacer cosas
- No se le ocurre nada si se pone a escribir cosas (porque hay al volante)
- Ah lo que me concentrarse
- Como que necesito salir a la calle más a menudo (aló) repetitivo

Agreements

Documentar las ideas que se nos vayan ocurriendo en el Drive - Nepo creará el doc

Experimento: entrar en reunión cuando estemos currando (aunque sea muteado)

Actions



ROTI



Espacio reservado para dejar dudas, consejos, peticiones o amenazas de muerte.



Asking feedback

Space at the end of a meeting to leave feedback



Espacio reservado para dejar dudas, consejos, peticiones o amenazas de muerte.



La persona que esté hablando de un post-it puede decir "vale, siguiente cosa"

Duró demasiado

Iterating on processes

Can a meeting/process be tested?

- **Look back**
- Think about what could be **changed** to **improve it**

Iteration unlocks **continuous improvement**



Does this work?

Project A brainstorming:

- No guide, no structure
- 4h meeting, no choice made. 2h more next week to choose an idea

Project B brainstorming:

- 1 session, split in parts:
 1. Come up with ideas based on categories
 2. High level game proposal
- Choice made in 2h



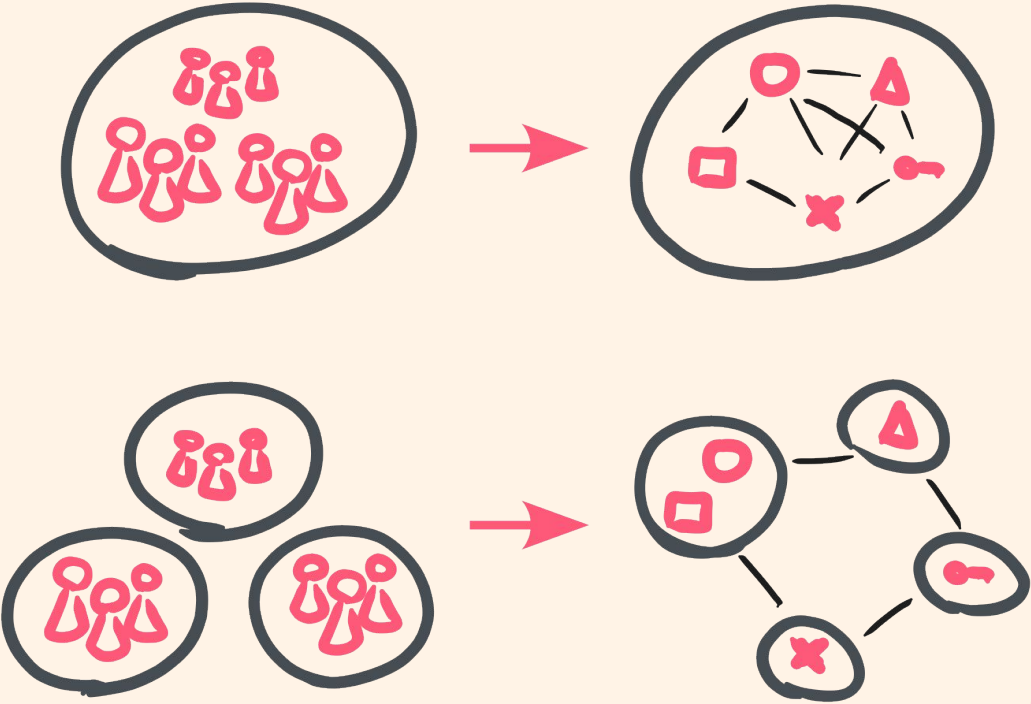
Conway's Law

"Any organization that designs a system (defined broadly) will produce a design whose structure is a copy of the organization's communication structure."

— Melvin Conway



Conway's Law



Summary

- QA can be applied throughout **all the development process**
- Objective: find+prevent defects **as soon as possible**
- Reduce **feedback loops**
- Look back (**good, bad**) and think about **what to change**

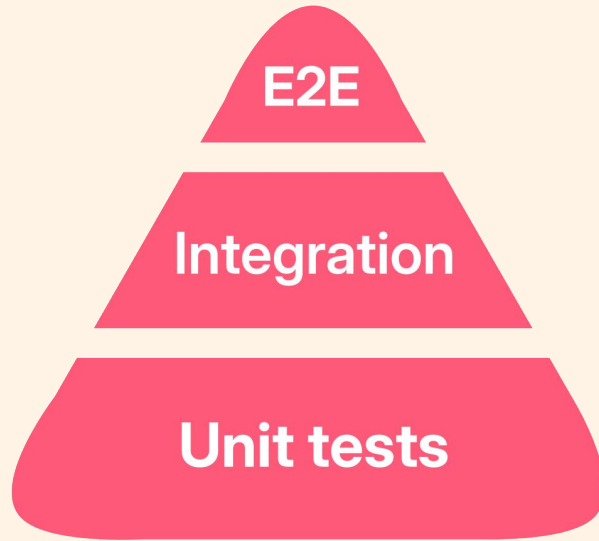


Part 2

How to write tests?



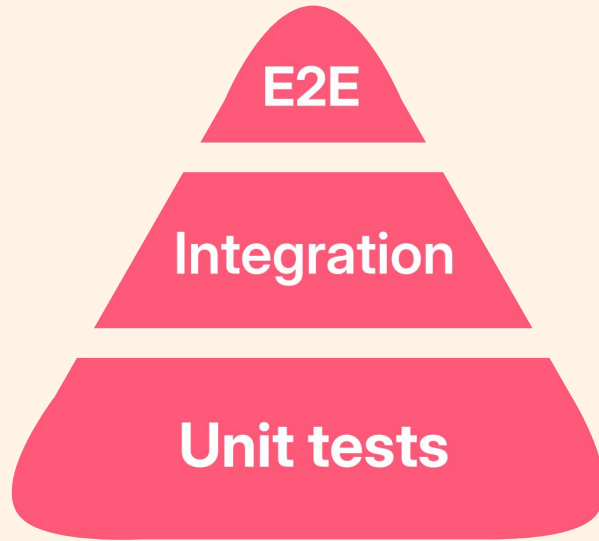
Test implementation



Pyramid testing model, Mike Cohn & Lisa Crispin



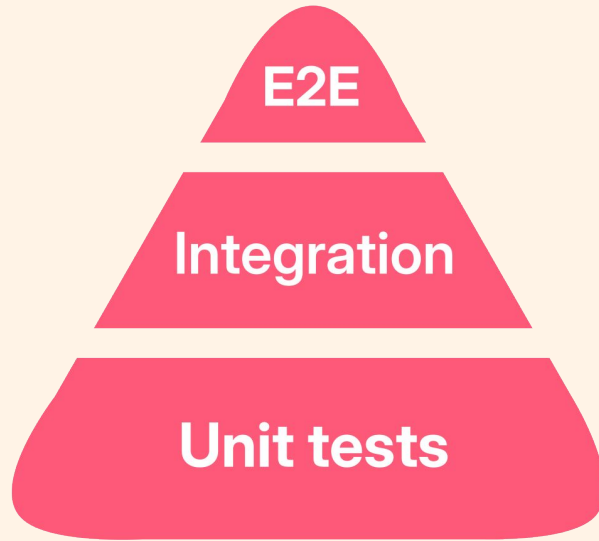
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Test implementation



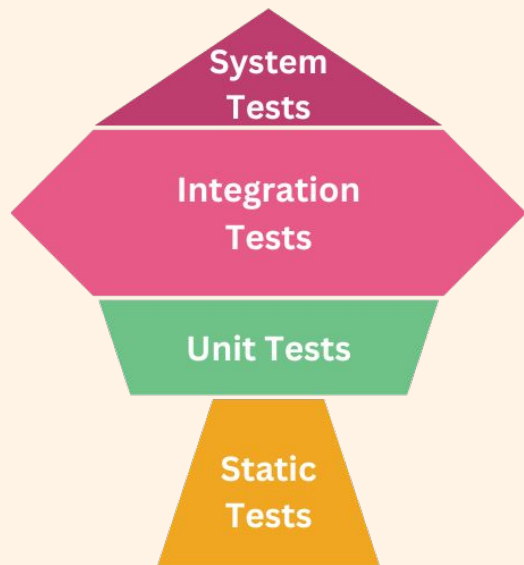
Pyramid testing model, Mike Cohn & Lisa Crispin

- Old
- Smells like waterfall
- Why do you even need so many unit test?!

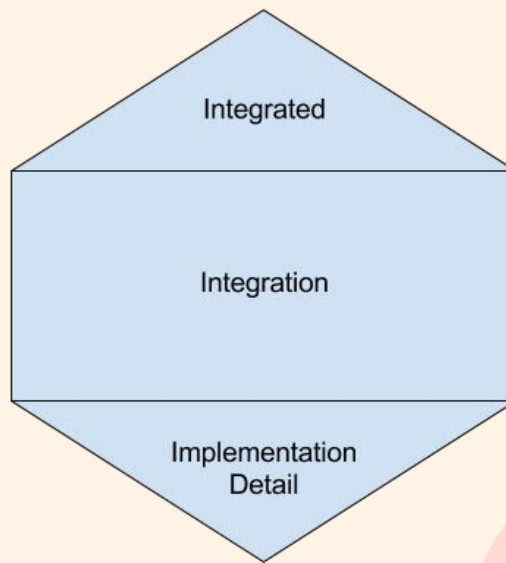


Test implementation

“Write tests. Not too many. Mostly integration” — Guillermo Rauch



Trophy testing model, Kent C. Dodds

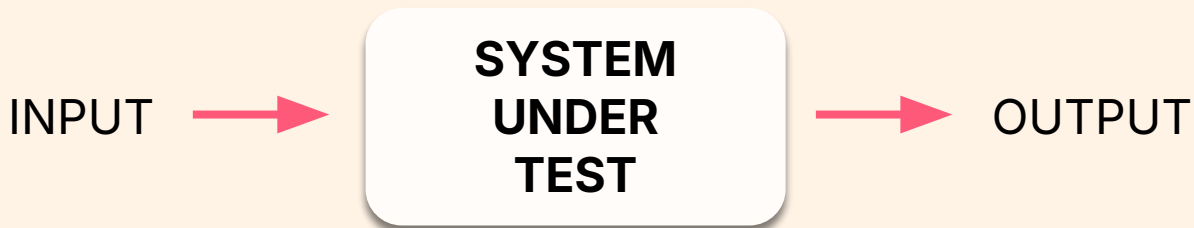


Microservices honeycomb testing model, Spotify



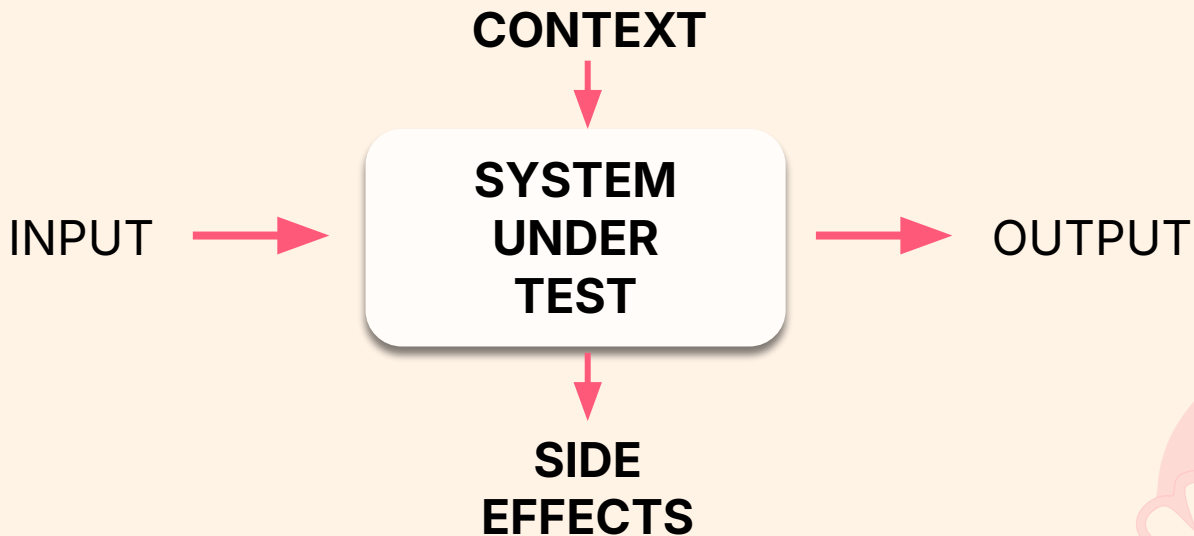
Why integration?

- When was the last time you wrote **a single unit** of code?
- What about a **pure function**?



Why integration?

- The code we write is **integrated** with an **engine, libraries...**
- The **state** of these systems **influences results** and **context**



Why integration?

- If we don't test **the whole thing**, we cannot ensure it **works correctly**
- We *have to* write **integration tests**



How do I write integration tests?

GIVEN

One or more **units**

WHEN

Act on a unit

THEN

Check that system changed as expected



How do I write integration tests?

GIVEN

Prepare the **scene**

WHEN

Call a **method**

THEN

Assertions on the Nodes



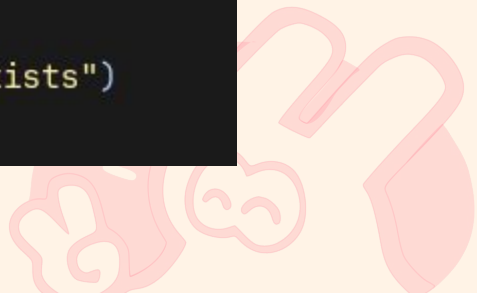
How do I write integration tests?

```
var sut: PackedScene = load("res://modules/characters/gato/gato.tscn")

func test_state_machine_exists():
> #GIVEN
> var gato: Node = add_child_autofree(sut.instantiate())

> #WHEN
> var state_machine: Node = gato.find_child("StateMachine")

> #THEN
> assert_not_null(state_machine, "StateMachine does not exists")
```



How do I write integration tests?

```
const ACTION_NAME := "act"
const TEMP_FILE := "user://temp.txt"
const FILE_CONTENT := '{"control_schemes":[{"input_actions":[],"name":"one","toggle_joystick":f
func test_reset_changes() -> void:
>| # GIVEN
>| InputMap.add_action(ACTION_NAME)

>| var file := FileAccess.open(TEMP_FILE, FileAccess.WRITE)
>| file.store_string(FILE_CONTENT)
>| file.close()

>| var storage_stub = load("res://addons/input_remapper/service/storage_service.gd").new()
>| storage_stub.settings_file = TEMP_FILE
>| var input_remapper = sut.new(storage_stub)

>| # simulate user changes
>| var input_action = load("res://addons/input_remapper/model/input_action_button.gd")\
>|     .new(ACTION_NAME, Helper.create_input_event(KEY_0))
>| input_remapper.get_current_scheme().input_actions.append(input_action)

>| # WHEN
>| input_remapper.reset_changes()

>| # THEN
>| assert_eq(input_remapper.get_current_scheme().name, "one")
>| assert_eq(input_remapper.get_current_scheme().input_actions.size(), 0)
>| assert_true(InputMap.has_action(ACTION_NAME))
>| var events := InputMap.action_get_events(ACTION_NAME)
>| assert_eq(events.size(), 0, "The action has no input events")
>| input_remapper.free()

>| InputMap.erase_action(ACTION_NAME)
>| FileAccess.remove_absolute(TEMP_FILE)
```



How do I write integration tests?

GIVEN

WHEN

THEN

```
const ACTION_NAME := "act"
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» input_remapper.free()

» InputMap.erase_action(ACTION_NAME)
» FileAccess.remove_absolute(TEMP_FILE)
```




```

1 extends GutTest
2
3 class TestDialogueUI extends GutTest:
4
5     var sut: PackedScene = load("res://modules/core_systems/dialogue_system/view/dialogue_ui.tscn")
6     var test_dialog: DialogueContainer = load("res://modules/core_systems/dialogue_system/tests/test_dialogue.t
7
8     func test_name_and_message() -> void:
9         var ui: Control = add_child_autofree(sut.instantiate())
10        var message: DialogueMessage = test_dialog.messages[0]
11
12        ui.set_message(message)
13
14        assert_eq(ui.find_child("NameLabel").text, message.name)
15        assert_eq(ui.find_child("MessageLabel").text, message.message)
16
17    func test_viewport_size() -> void:
18        var ui: Control = add_child_autofree(sut.instantiate())
19

```

Run All test_ui.gd TestDialogueUI test_name_and_message



Running...



Run in progress



Copy

Clear

Test runners



GUT by Butch Wesley ([link](#))



gdUnit4 by Mike Schulze ([link](#))



GoDotTest by Chickensoft Games ([link](#))

... or write your own!



More test types!

- Tests for **specific issues**
- Find an issue and cover it with a test
- Goal: prevent something bad from happening **without your knowledge**
- 100% coverage isn't helpful



Screenshot test

Compare screenshots to find differences

List of items:

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3
- Item 4

ORIGINAL SCREENSHOT

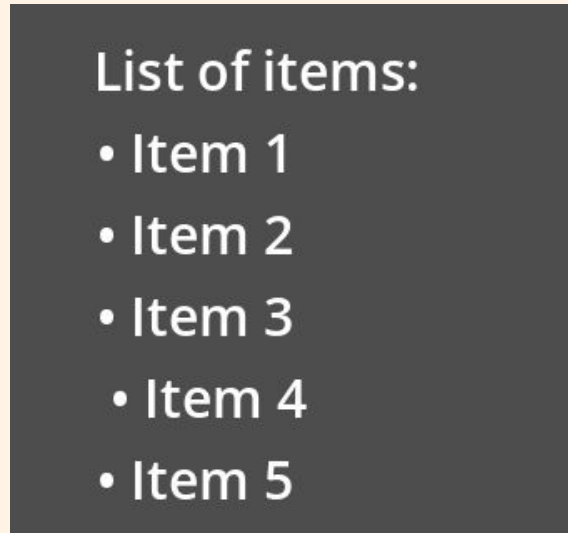


Screenshot test

What is the difference between these 2 images?



ORIGINAL SCREENSHOT

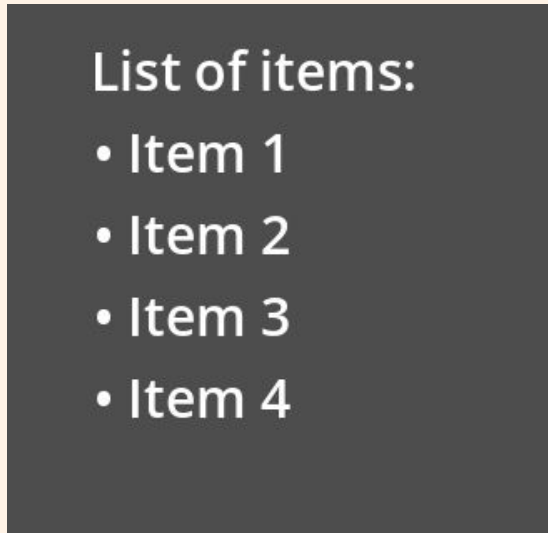


TEST SCREENSHOT

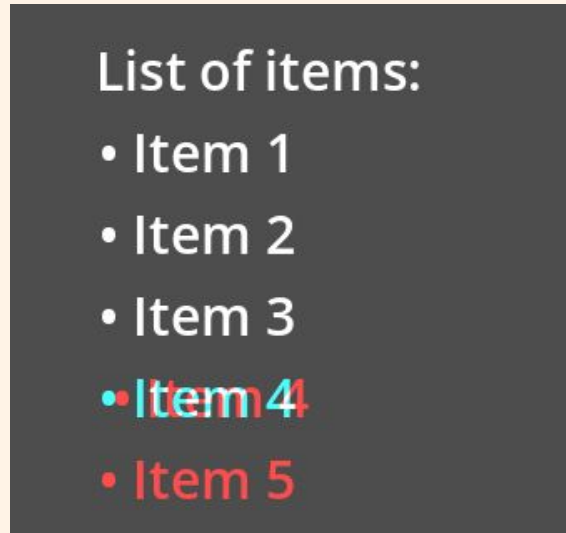


Screenshot test

What is the difference between these 2 images?



ORIGINAL SCREENSHOT



DIFFERENCE

■ Missing

■ New



Screenshot test

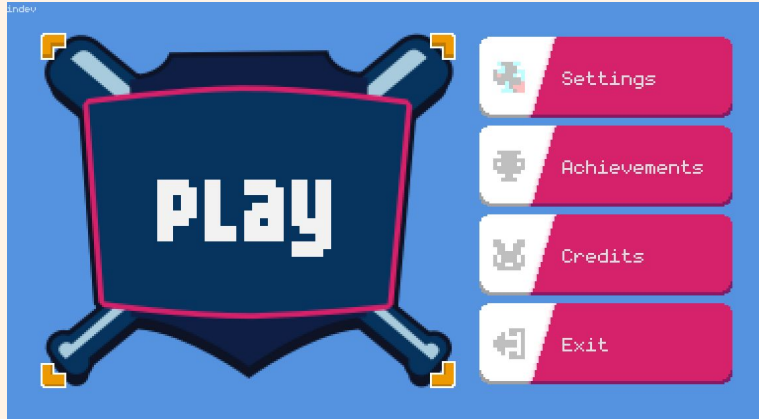
What for?

- UI testing
- Texture checks
- Shader testing



Character selection screen, Michiball

Screenshot test

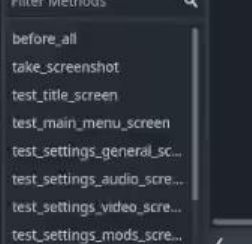
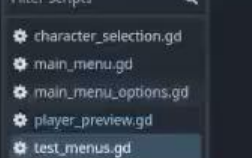
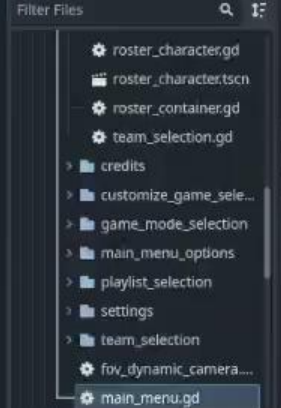
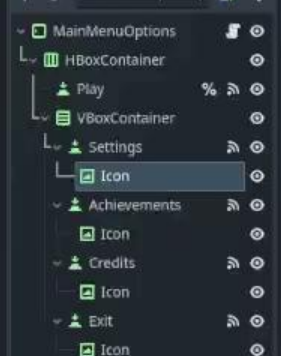


Main menu, Michiball

```
● Passing 0.0 | Failing 1.0 | Pending 0.0 | Orphans 1.0 | Errors 0.0 | Warnings 0.0

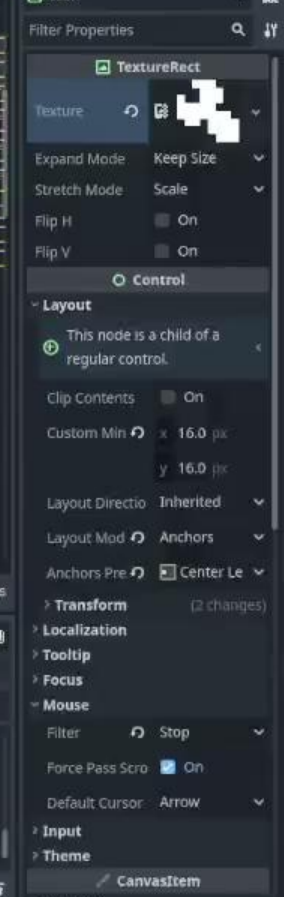

⬇ ⬆ | All: ⬇ ⬆ |  Passing | Sync: 🐦 T


└─ res://src/tests/screenshot/test_menus.gd
  └─ ● test_main_menu_screen
    └─ ● fail: [0.00110918209877] expected to be < than [0.001]: snapshot is different at line 32
```



```

18 func test_title_screen() -> void:
19     var title_scene: PackedScene = load("res://src/core/game_menu/title_screen.tscn")
20     var _title: Node = add_child_autofree(title_scene.instantiate())
21     await(wait_frames(4, "wait para que cargue la escena"))
22
23     var result: ComparisonResult = take_screenshot("title")
24     assert_lt(result.difference_by_percent, THRESHOLD, "snapshot is different")
25
26 func test_main_menu_screen() -> void:
27     var main_menu_node = load("res://src/core/game_menu/main_menu_options/main_menu_options.tscn")
28     var _main_menu: Node = add_child_autofree(main_menu_node)
29     await(wait_frames(4, "wait para que cargue la escena"))
30
31     var result: ComparisonResult = take_screenshot("main_menu")
32     assert_lt(result.difference_by_percent, THRESHOLD, "snapshot is %f different" % result.differe
33
34 func test_settings_general_screen() -> void:
35     var settings_scene: PackedScene = load("res://src/core/game_menu/settings/settings.tscn")
36     var _settings: Node = add_child_autofree(settings_scene.instantiate())
37     await(wait_frames(4, "wait para que cargue la escena"))
38
  
```



Screenshot test

Available as an open source Godot plugin!



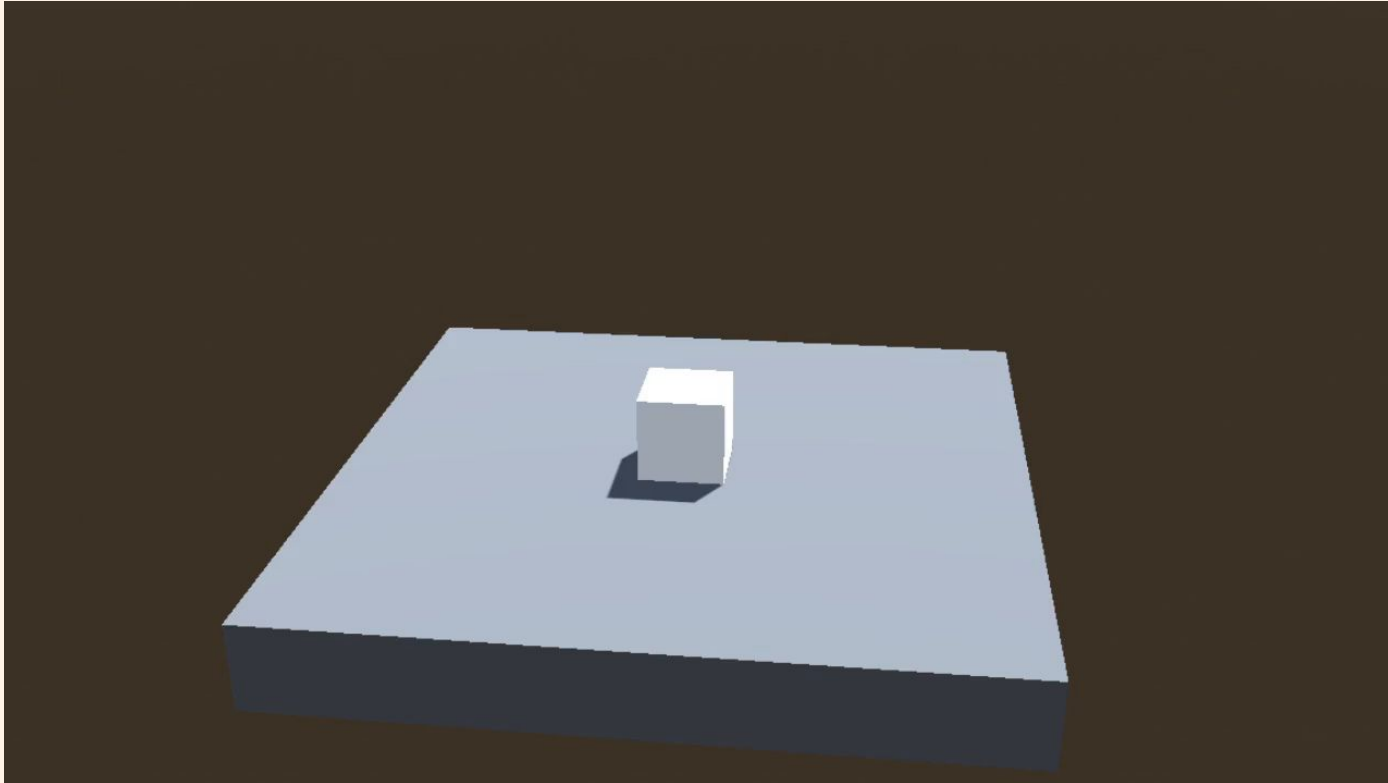
<https://github.com/Nokorpo/GDsnap>



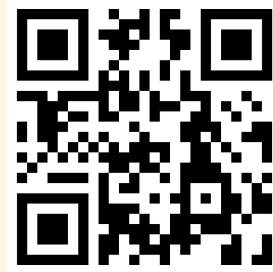
Performance test/benchmark



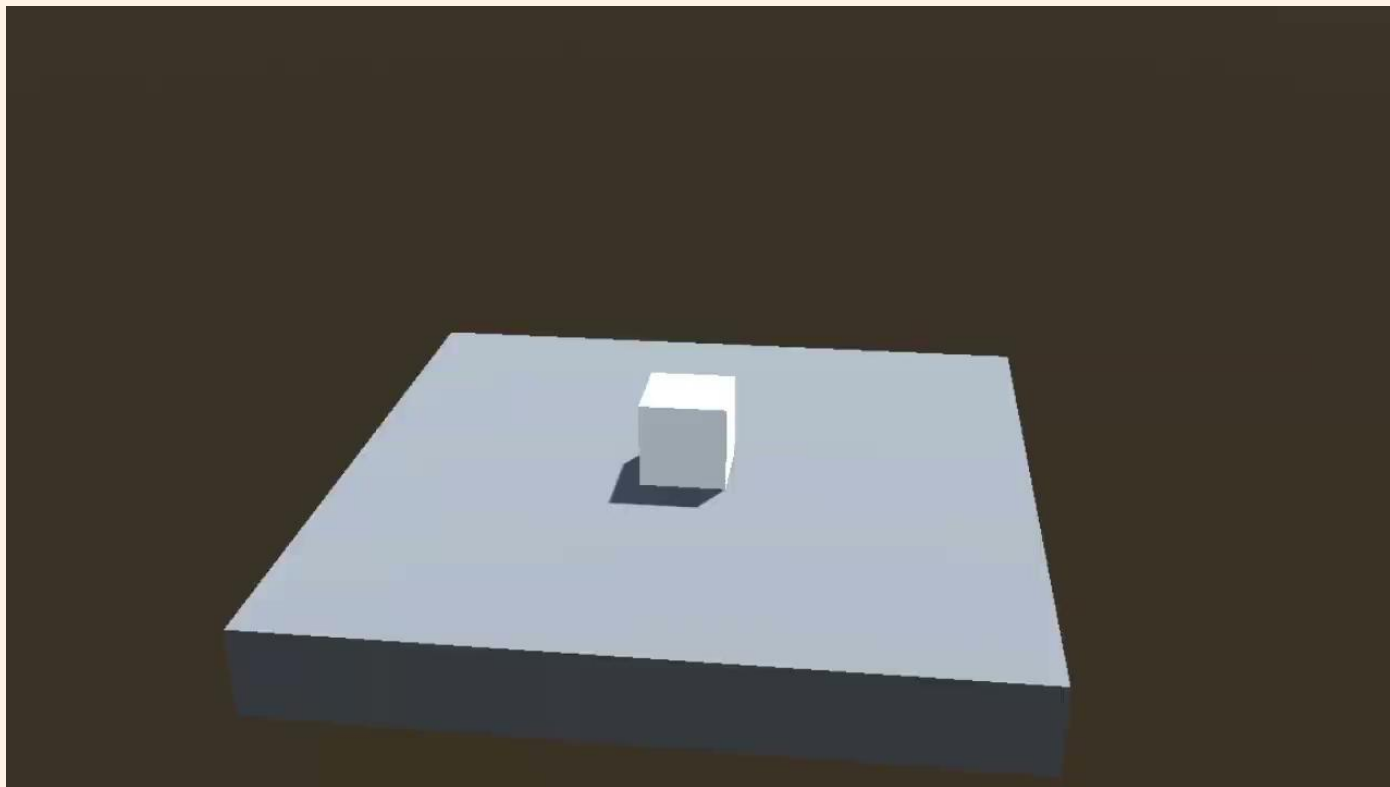
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Performance test/benchmark

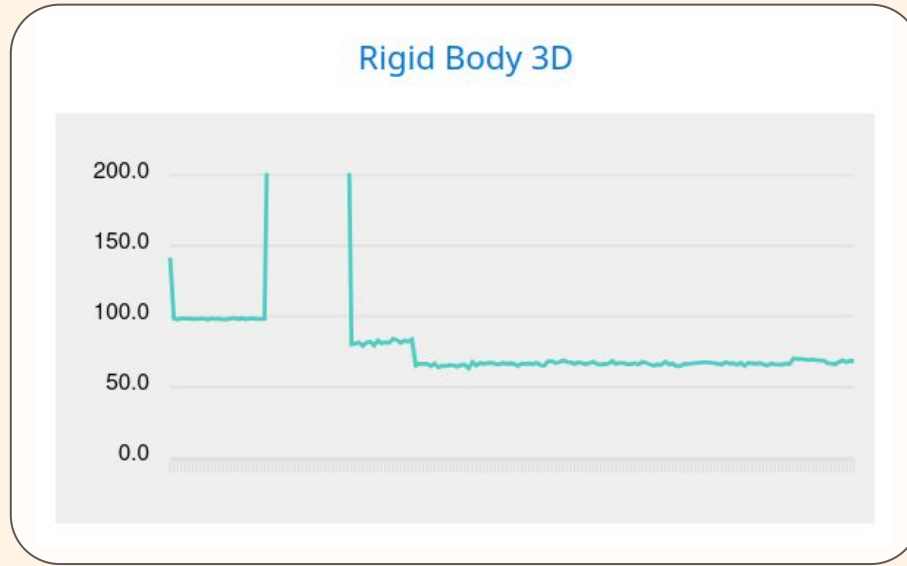


<https://github.com/Nokorpo/GDsnap>



Performance test/benchmark

Example: <https://benchmarks.godotengine.org/>



Godot Engine Benchmarks



Performance test/benchmark

What for?

- Track resource usage evolution during a level's development



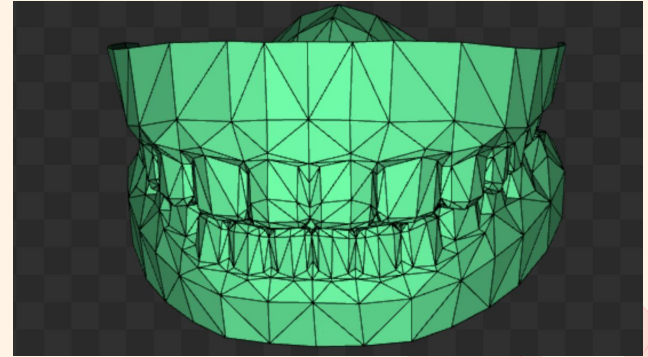
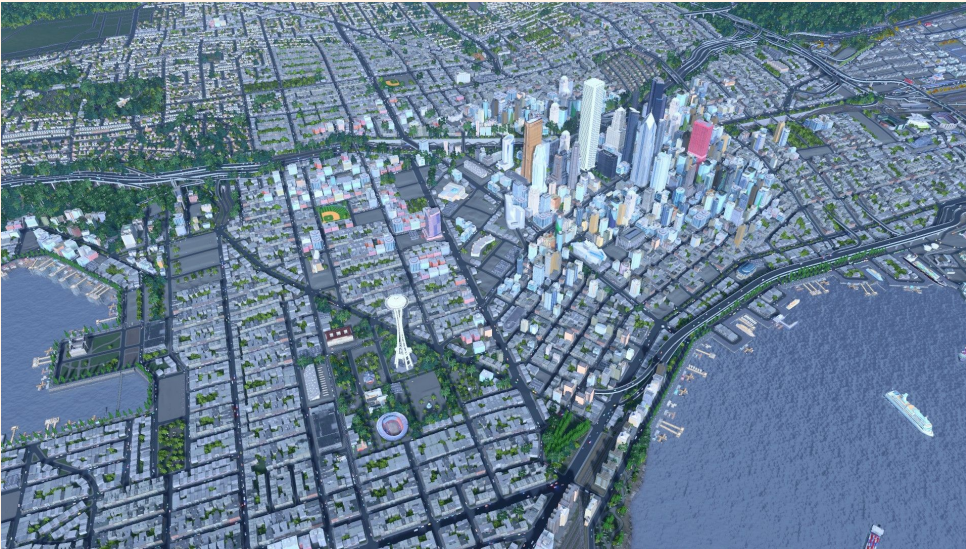
Blighttown,
Dark Souls



Performance test/benchmark

What for?

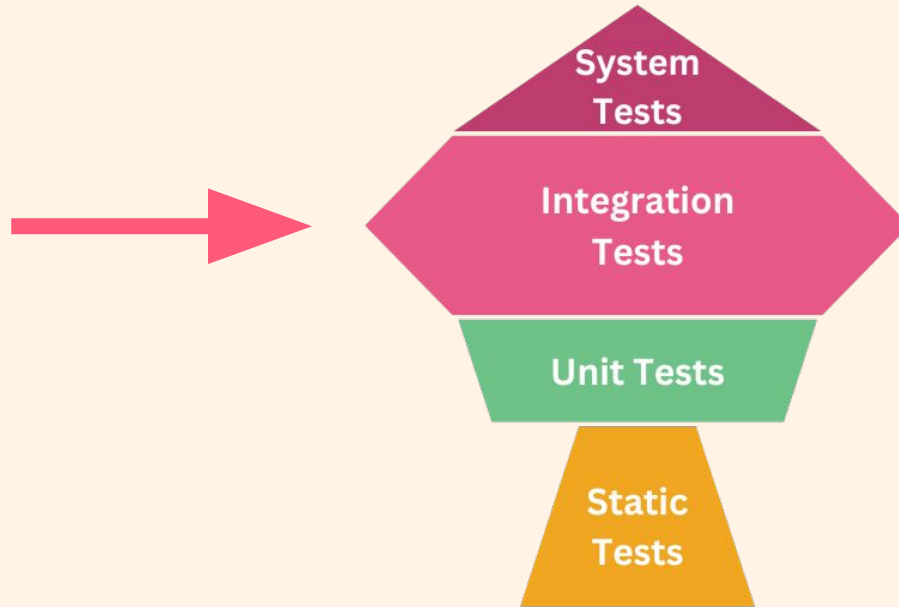
- Prevent commonly repeated objects from causing trouble



↑ NPC teeth Mesh, Cities Skylines 2

← Cities Skylines 2 gameplay

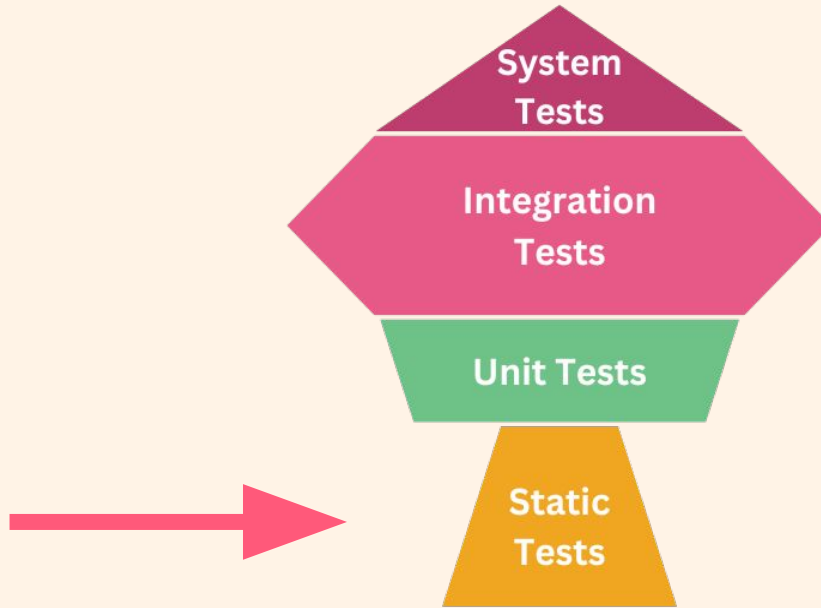
More test types!



Trophy testing model, Kent C. Dodds



Static analysis



Trophy testing model, Kent C. Dodds



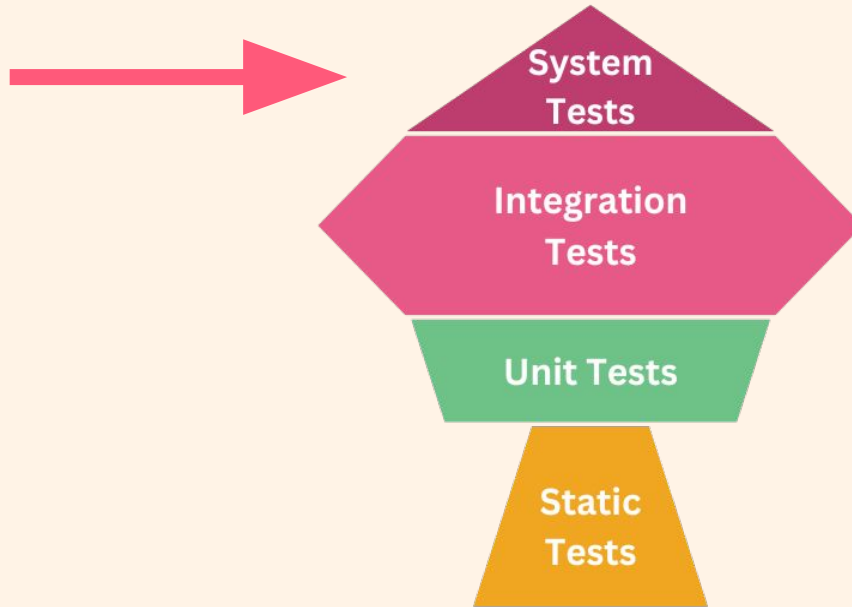
Static analysis

- Game isn't executed, the test just reads its files
- Very useful and **almost free**. Examples:
 - Compilation errors and linters
 - Script that checks file naming, config files...

```
Icon2.svg: wrong file or folder name. Please, keep everything in lower case.  
Icon2.svg.import: wrong file or folder name. Please, keep everything in lower case.  
src/GameManager/game.tscn: wrong file or folder name. Please, keep everything in lower case.  
src/input/WiiMoteInput.gd: wrong file or folder name. Please, keep everything in lower case.
```



Smoke test



Trophy testing model, Kent C. Dodds



Smoke test



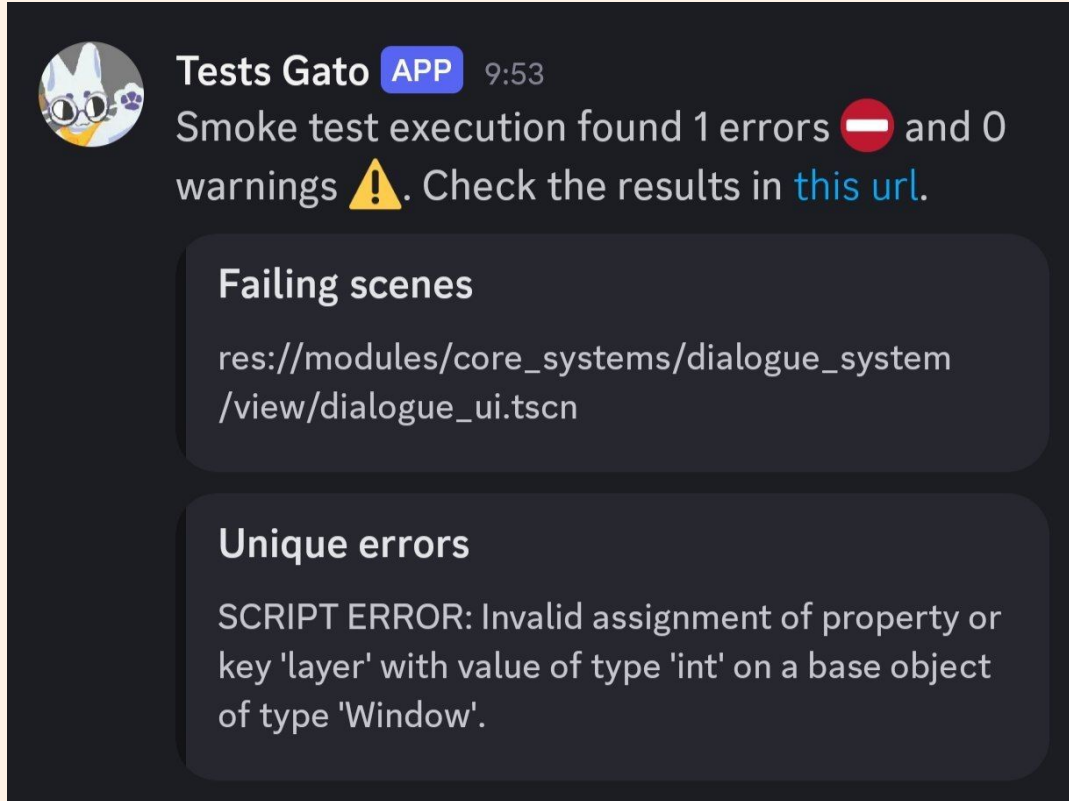
Smoke test


Open game scenes and check whether they have errors

```
74 - Testing res://src/core/game_menu/character_selection/character_selection.tscn...
75 - Testing res://src/core/game_menu/character_selection/player_selection_preview.tscn...
76 - Testing res://src/core/game_menu/character_selection/roster_character.tscn...
77 - Testing res://src/core/game_menu/credits/credits.tscn...
78 - Testing res://src/core/game_menu/customize_game_selection/game_mode_selection.tscn...
79 SCRIPT ERROR: Parse Error: Invalid argument for "new()" function: argument 4 should be "bool" but is "Resource".
80     at: GDScript::reload (res://src/core/game_menu/game_mode_selection/game_mode_selection.gd:22)
81 ERROR: Failed to load script "res://src/core/game_menu/game_mode_selection/game_mode_selection.gd" with error "Parse
82     error".
83     at: load (modules/gdscript/gdscript.cpp:3022)
83 - Testing res://src/core/game_menu/game_mode_selection/game_mode_selection.tscn...
```



Smoke test



 **Tests Gato** APP 9:53
Smoke test execution found 1 errors 🛑 and 0 warnings ⚠️. Check the results in [this url](#).

Failing scenes

```
res://modules/core_systems/dialogue_system  
/view/dialogue_ui.tscn
```

Unique errors

```
SCRIPT ERROR: Invalid assignment of property or  
key 'layer' with value of type 'int' on a base object  
of type 'Window'.
```



Summary

- Write tests. Not too many. Mostly **integration**
- Tests for **specific issues**
 - Static analysis
 - Smoke test
 - Screenshot test
 - Performance test
 - ...
- Prevent something bad from happening **without your knowledge**



Part 3

How to automate?



Hypothetical

Who will make a **more consistent** coffee?

- Pablo, college student, brews 1L every 2-3 months when he has to cram, buys whatever coffee the supermarket has in store...
- A coffee pod machine



Manual processes

- A **manual** process **will eventually fail**
 - Interruptions, forgetting a step, mistakes
 - Blue screen, power outage, program update broke compatibility
 - ... and more
- **Avoid** manual processes
 - Or make containment plans (eg. checklist, redundancy)



What processes can be automated?

- Running **tests!**
- **Builds** (Android/iOS, Web, Windows/Mac/Linux)
- Uploading a build to a **store** (itch.io, Steam, App Stores...)
- Tasks that only 1 person in the team knows how to do
- Tasks that must happen every X time
 - (eg. clean up a directory, generate a changelog, generate documentation)
- Image/video conversion to a specific format/resolution
- ...





Continuous Integration (CI)

- Run scripts in **response to**:
 - Commit push
 - Pull request merge
 - Every X time (cron)
 - Press of a button
- Automation for the **whole team**
- Iterate **faster**, more **consistently**



CI with Unity


Manually triggered 29 minutes ago	Status	Total duration	Artifacts
 GerardGascon  d242b00 master	Success	13m 37s	—


main.yml

on: workflow_dispatch

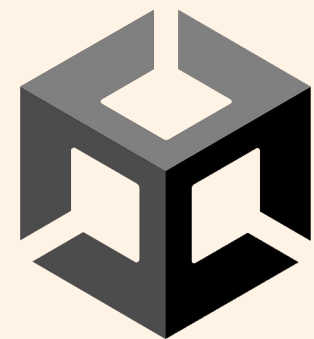
 Test my project 

5m 37s

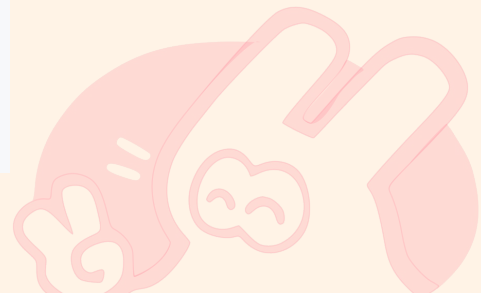
Matrix: Build my project 

 1 job completed



Show all jobs



Unity







CI with Unity

Manually triggered 1 hour ago	Status	Total duration	Artifacts
 GerardGascon  44b687b master	Failure	33m 7s	—

main.yml
on: workflow_dispatch


Matrix: Build

-  Test 15m 39s
-  Build (StandaloneLinux6... 14m 25s
-  Build (StandaloneOSX, osx) 7m 0s
-  Build (StandaloneWindo... 17m 18s



CI with Godot

Triggered via schedule 4 days ago

 nepo-dev [8c52f8e](#) [main](#)

Status

Success

Total duration

2m 16s

Artifacts

-

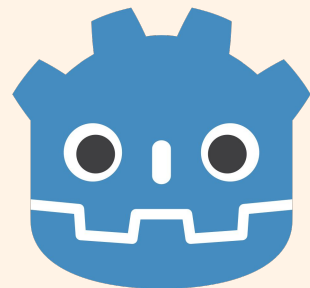
release.yaml

on: schedule

✓ Linux build 1m 49s

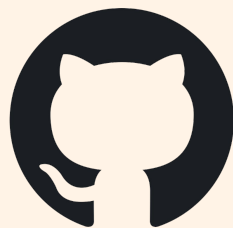
✓ Windows build 1m 49s

✓ Discord notification 10s

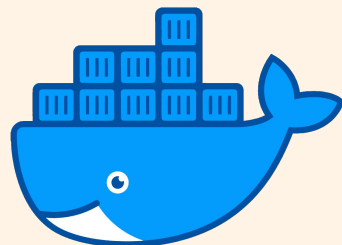


Continuous Integration (CI)

```
1 name: Build + Deploy
2 on: workflow_dispatch
3
4 env:
5   ITCHIO_USERNAME: nokorpo
6   ITCHIO_GAME: michiball
7   BUTLER_API_KEY: ${ secrets.BUTLER_API_KEY }
8   GODOT_VERSION: 4.4.1
9
10 jobs:
11   web:
12     name: Build and deploy to itch.io
13     runs-on: ubuntu-latest
14     container:
15       image: barichello/godot-ci:4.4.1
16     steps:
17       - name: Checkout
18         uses: actions/checkout@v2
19         with:
20           lfs: true
21       - name: Setup
22         run: |
23           mkdir -v -p ~/.local/share/godot/export_templates
24           mv /root/.local/share/godot/templates/${GODOT_VERSION}.stable
25             ~/.local/share/godot/export_templates/${GODOT_VERSION}.stable
26       - name: Web Build
27         run: |
28           mkdir build
29           godot --export-release --headless "Web" ./build/index.html
30       - name: Itch.io Deploy
31         run: |
32           ls ./build
33           butler push ./build $ITCHIO_USERNAME/$ITCHIO_GAME:html5
```



GitHub
(Actions)



docker



Continuous Integration (CI)

```
1 name: Build + Deploy
2 on: workflow_dispatch
3
4 env:
5   - ITCHIO_USERNAME: nokorpo
6   - ITCHIO_GAME: michiball
7   - BUTLER_API_KEY: ${ secrets.BUTLER_API_KEY }
8   - GODOT_VERSION: 4.4.1
9
10 jobs:
11   - web:
12     - name: Build and deploy to itch.io
13     - runs-on: ubuntu-latest
14     - container:
15       - image: barichello/godot-ci:4.4.1
16     - steps:
17       - - name: Checkout
18       - - ...
19       - - name: Setup
20       - - ...
21       - - name: Web Build
22       - - ...
23       - - name: Itch.io Deploy
24       - - ...
```

← When does it run

← Variables:

Names, passwords, API keys...

← Steps to run



Continuous Integration (CI)

```
steps:  
- name: Checkout  
  uses: actions/checkout@v2  
  with:  
    lfs: true  
- name: Setup  
  run: |  
    mkdir -v -p ~/.local/share/godot/export_templates  
    mv /root/.local/share/godot/templates/${GODOT_VERSION}.stable  
    ~/.local/share/godot/export_templates/${GODOT_VERSION}.stable  
- name: Web Build  
  run: |  
    mkdir build  
    godot --export-release --headless "Web" ./build/index.html  
- name: Itch.io Deploy  
  run: |  
    ls ./build  
    butler push ./build $ITCHIO_USERNAME/$ITCHIO_GAME:html5
```

← Download project

← Setup Godot

← Generate web build

← Upload to itch.io



Continuous Integration (CI)

	Execution time	Storage
Github	1.000 min/mo	1 GB
CircleCI	2.000 min/mo	2 GB
Itch.io	–	30 GB



Summary

- Objective: find defects **as soon as possible**
- Test and **iterate** processes to achieve **continuous improvement**
- **Write tests**. Not too many. Mostly **integration**.
 - Tests for **specific issues**
 - Prevent something bad from happening **without your knowledge**
- Avoid human error and bottlenecks with **automation**



Questions?



<https://nokorpo.com>

- Slides
- More information
- Examples
- Relevant links

