Use of Continuous Integration in BOINC Projects Development

BOINC:FAST 2017 Vadim Gusev, IAMR KRC RAS

Software Project Housekeeping

- Any sufficiently big software project should be set up in a way that allows collaboration of multiple developers
- Any project that is aimed at big user base should be tested prior to public release
- Every release should be integrated into company's infrastructure or delivered to users

Continuous Integration

Software development practice that encourages developers to integrate new code changes into releases as often as possible by:

- Having a code repository
- Automating builds
- Automating testing
- Automating deployment

Having a Code Repository



Automating Builds

- Pull new code
- Satisfy build-time dependencies
- Perform compilation
- Save build artifacts



Automating Testing

- Unit testing
 - Low-level
 - Language-specific
- Integration testing
 - High-level
 - Application-specific



Automating Deployment

Application-specific actions:

- Deploy server software
- Upload new design
- Send e-mail to users
- Linear and automatable



CI Pipeline Summary

- Monitor code repository for changes
- Build and test every commit, also deploy every commit to "public" branch of the repository
- Fail fast by prioritizing lighter steps
- Notify involved team members about failures

CI Application in **BOINC**

Choosing CI system:

- Standalone (Jenkins) or integrated with repo (GitLab)
- Self-hosted (both of above) or cloud-based (Travis CI, CircleCI)
- Form simple to really complicated

Building BOINC Program

- Clean build environment
- Isolate independent projects
- Multiple cross-platform builds

Testing BOINC Program

- Unit testing:
 - Prioritize math-heavy functions
- Integration testing:
 - Treat BOINC program as server
 - Request-response testing

Deploying BOINC Program

- Delivery framework is already present in BOINC
- Invoke it from CI pipeline

Conclusion

- Continuous Integration:
 - Automates housekeeping
 - Reduces reaction time on new bugs
 - Increases development transparency
- CI on BOINC:
 - Build process is essentialy the same
 - Testing strategy is stragihtforward
 - Delivery framework is alredy implemented

Thank you for attention

14/14