

## Code Review Evolved: Tick-the-Code

Code review intends to make both the code and its authors better by looking directly at the source code. Although this is true for **Tick-the-Code**, too, there are huge differences between it and traditional code reviews. Here the most important ones:

	Tick-the-Code	Traditional code review
<b>How?</b>	You look for <b>one</b> thing at a time.	You look at code and expect errors to bounce at you. <b>Passive</b> . You'll get bored in no time.
<b>What?</b>	You look for violations of Good Coding Principles.	You look for <b>errors</b> in functionality.
<b>Consequence</b>	You can remove the <b>unnecessary</b> complexity caused by haste, carelessness and lack of skill.	The checkers report aspects of <b>taste</b> and <b>style</b> issues.
<b>Why?</b>	So you'd make less errors. So you'd not make many errors at all. So maintenance'd be more reliable.  Foremost, so you'd <b>learn</b> .	It is all but impossible to understand functionality from the source code (mental debugging). To find at least something, you'll end up marking minor issues.
<b>Ultimate goal</b>	To <b>prevent</b> making errors.	To find errors <b>earlier</b> .
<b>Results?</b>	on average about <b>100</b> ticks an hour.	about 10-20 items an hour.
<b>How much?</b>	up to <b>1000</b> physical lines an hour.	100-250 lines of code an hour.
<b>Who can check?</b>	<b>Anybody</b> who knows the programming language. You don't have to know the application area.	Only the few and already overworked <b>experts</b> are suitable checkers.
<b>When to check?</b>	Regularly and often enough.  Recommendation: an hour weekly, every week.	Either each change ( <b>too small</b> ) or only when larger wholes become ready ( <b>too rarely</b> ).
<b>How does checking feel like?</b>	Intense concentration for an hour is tough, but at the same time also <b>meaningful</b> and rewarding. You'll want to tick again next week.	Checking is tedious, tiresome and hard. You'll wish you didn't have to do it again.
<b>Psychological impact</b>	Strengthens team spirit by offering clear <b>common</b> rules.	Complaining about matters of taste is interpreted as petty nitpicking.

Qualiteers Miska Hiltunen offers **Tick-the-Code** -courses for software developers.  
For more information, please visit [www.qualiteers.com](http://www.qualiteers.com).