



Introduction to Continous-X services at NHR@KIT

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Table of Contents



- 1. Motivation
- 2. Continuous-X at NHR@KIT

3. GitLab: Examples and Exercises

Motivation



What is the X in Continous-X (CX)

- Continuous Integration
- Continuous Testing
- Continuous Benchmarking
- Continuous Deployment

Motivation (continued)



What can CX help you with?

- gatekeeping/enforcing coding standard on contributions from others
- parts of the development cycle that do not fit on the machine you use to develop code.

Typically...

- Run all unit and integration tests
- Measure test coverage
- Check code style and practices (Linting)
- Test compilation with different compilers and libraries (e.g., MPIs, CUDA/ROCm, ...)
- Test and benchmark on specific hardware ←
- Automated deployment / packaging (for varying compilers, MPIs, hardware)
- ... all using standardized environments in conjunction with containers

Continuous-X Service at NHR@KIT



2. Continuous-X at NHR@KIT

- Introduction
- Runner Setup
- CI levels in detail





Level	Number jobs/day	Runner on	Self- managed Runner	Permanent Runner	Full Hard- ware Access (e.g. GPUs)	Container support	Jobs with timing constraints
1	Low	Compute Node	~	×	~	~	×
2	Medium	Dedicated Login Node	~	✓	✓	✓	medium workloads
3	High	Dedicated Hardware	×	~	✓	✓	~

See: NHR@KIT User Documentation: Continuous Integration: Overview

GitLab: Setting up a Runner

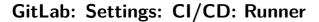


The gitlab-runner application is used to:

- register runnners for a GitLab instance or repository, with the register subcommand. Multiple runner can be registered, for multiple GitLab servers and repositories, on the same machine.
- launch all the registered runner for the user: this is done with the run subcommand. This command will eventually run the pipeline.

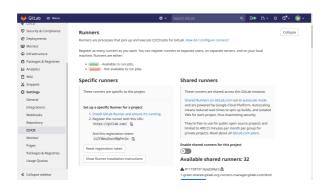
The capability of each registered runner depends on:

- The *executor* used by the runner (e.g., shell, docker, custom)
- The host the runner lives on (e.g. a login node or a compute node), i.e., on which host the gitlab-runner run command was called, or the CI level





Example Repository





Register a GitLab Runner on the HoreKa Cluster

Login to dedicated CI node

```
ssh hk-ci-controller.scc.kit.edu
```

```
(bq0742@hk-ci-controller.scc.kit.edu) Your OTP: <OTP>
(bq0742@hk-ci-controller.scc.kit.edu) Password: <Password>
. . .
Last login: Mon Oct 25 16:15:10 2021 from 2a00:1398:4:1801::810d:3bc6
[] [bq0742@hkn1993] [Mon. 2021-11-08 15:07:19]
[~] $
```

Register a GitLab Runner on the HoreKa Cluster (continued)



Register and configure GitLab Runner

gitlab-runner register

- Enter the GitLab instance URL: e.g. https://gitlab.com/
- Enter the registration token: <Token from GitLab: Settings: CI/CD: Runners>
- Enter a description for the runner: e.g. GitLab Runner at NHR@KIT
- Enter an executor: shell
- Configuration is written to \${HOME}/.gitlab-runner/config.toml
- Execute GitLab Runner

gitlab-runner run

Register a GitLab Runner on the HoreKa Cluster (continued)



Executors types supported by the GitLab Runner:

- Shell (simplest)
- Custom (allows customization to our system, e.g. using containers and/or Slurm)
- SSH
- Docker
- VirtualBox
- ...

Register a GitLab Runner on the HoreKa Cluster (Containers on Slurm)



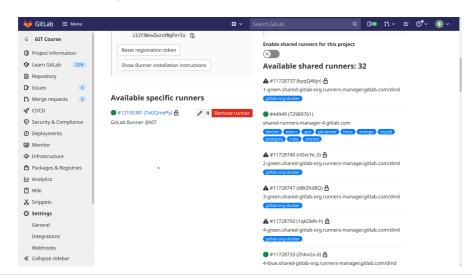
Using Containers

- NHR@KIT User Documentation: Using Containers 🗹
- Custom executor instead of shell executor
- No native Docker support (security constraints)
- Enroot 2: Root-less execution of Docker images
- Template folder: /usr/share/gitlab-runner/custom-executor-enroot
- Template GitLab Runner config: config.toml
- GitLab Runner config uses prepared scripts: config.sh, prepare.sh, run.sh, cleanup.sh
- .gitlab-ci.yml uses keyword image to configure Docker image





GitLab Settings: CI/CD: Runners



13/54

CI Level 1 at NHR@KIT



CI Level 1

- GitLab Runner is executed by a batch job
- GitLab Server is contacted by the runner, the batch job starts
- Requires access from compute node to GitLab Server
- GitLab Runner quits when all waiting CI jobs are executed
- Problem: Start of the GitLab Runner job is unknown in advance
- For repeating GitLab Runner jobs use scrontab (consider also scheduled pipelines 🗹)
- ⇒ Best suited for *nightly builds* and *nightly integration* tests





- Prerequisite: Register a GitLab Runner on HoreKa Cluster
- In CI Level 1 the GitLab Runner is executed as a batch job

```
sbatch \
   --wrap="gitlab-runner run" \
   --time="00:30:00" \
   --partition="dev_cpuonly"
```





CI Level 1 at NHR@KIT (continued)

Alternative method: Create a batch script for submission:

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
#SBATCH --partition dev_cpuonly
#SBATCH --time 00:30:00

# Prepare your environment
module add compiler/intel mpi/impi numlib/mkl
module list

# Start GitLab Runner
gitlab-runner run
```





■ Use scrontab -e 🗹 to set up regular GitLab Runner jobs:

```
#SCRON -p dev_accelerated
#SCRON -t 00:30:00
@midnight gitlab-runner run
```

- Jobs are not guaranteed to execute at the preferred time!
- Jobs are regularly queued in the batch system:

```
squeue
```

JOBID PARTITION	NAME	USER ST	TIME	NODES NODELIST(REASON)	
1503545 dev_accel	gitlab-r	bq0742 PD	0:00	1 (BeginTime)	

CI Level 2 at NHR@KIT



- Prerequisite: Register a GitLab Runner on HoreKa Cluster
- In CI Level 2 the GitLab Runner
 - is executed as systemd user service
 - runs on dedicated login node (e.g. hk-ci-controller.scc.kit.edu)
 - Limited / shared resources ⇒ Runtime variations
 - Only suited for medium workloads
 - No access to special hardware
 - is self-managed
 - Systemd management
 - CI jobs can start immediately





Start GitLab Runner Service

```
systemctl --user start gitlab-runner.service
```

Get status of GitLab Runner Service

```
systemctl --user status gitlab-runner.service
```

gitlab-runner.service - GitLab Runner for bq0742

```
Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/user/gitlab-runner.service; disabled; vendor 
preset: enabled)
Active: active (running) since Tue 2021-11-09 11:45:41 CET; 3s ago

Main PID: 1167130 (gitlab-runner)

CGroup:

// user.slice/user-8946.slice/user@8946.service/gitlab-runner.service

1167130
```





Read log output of GitLab Runner Service

```
journalctl --user --unit gitlab-runner.service
```

```
WARNING: Running in user-mode.
WARNING: Use sudo for system-mode:
WARNING: $ sudo gitlab-runner...
```

Configuration loaded builds=0 listen address not defined, metrics & debug endpoints disabled builds=0 [session server].listen address not defined, session endpoints disabled .. builds=0

CI Level 2 at NHR@KIT (continued)



Stop GitLab Runner Service

systemctl --user stop gitlab-runner.service





A Custom Executor has been developed for HoreKa and bwUniCluster 2.0 that can reside on the login node (as for CI level 2) and launch jobs on the compute nodes via Slurm, while using Enroot or Singularity (now Apptainer) for containers.

This helps to have the same performance reliability as CI level 1 but without having to manually start the gitlab-runner, among other things.

Installation/Registration steps:

- Download the code from the Materials on the Indico page of the workshop
- Copy it on HoreKa/bwUniCluster 2.0 and extract the archive
- To register a new runner, execute ./utils/gitlab-runner-register-wrapper.sh and follow the instructions (launch it before with the --help option to see what is available)

(Soon step 1 and 2 should not be needed any more)

CI Level 3 at NHR@KIT



- Dedicated hardware
- For projects that
 - generate many CI jobs per day
 - need predictable runtimes and performance
 - require privileged access to special resources
- Available platforms:
 - Intel: Broadwell, Cascade Lake, Ice Lake
 - NVIDIA: V100, A100
 - AMD: Rome, Milan, MI100
 - Fujitsu: ARM64FX
- Get in contact with CI Operations Team

Register a GitLab Runner on the HoreKa Cluster: recap



Options:

- Run permanently on the login node, using a shell executor
- Run permanently on the login node, using a custom executor that submits jobs automatically to a compute node
- Wrap 'gitlab-runner run' in a time-limited slurm job (either manual launch or with scrontab, possibly in conjunction with Scheduled Pipelines (2))

GitLab: Examples and Exercises



- Introduction
- Runner Setup
- Cl levels in detail

3. GitLab: Examples and Exercises

GitLab: the CI/CD interface



- GitLab CI/CD Documentation:

 - Keyword reference for the .gitlab-ci.yml file 🗹
 - GitLab CI templates 🗗
- YAML-config file gitlab-ci.yml
- GitLab offers integrated Cl-editor with visualization and linting





- Each push triggers a new pipeline (unless skipped 🗷)
- Each pipeline consist of stages
 - Predefined stages: .pre, build, test, deploy, .post
 - Stages run in sequence
 - Working tree is typically cleaned up between stages: Use artifacts to keep files
- Each stage consist of jobs
 - Jobs in the same stage can run in parallel
- If a job fails then the stage fails, and all subsequent stages are skipped
- If a stage fails then the pipeline fails

Exercises and Examples



Repository with examples and exercises

- Tip: when trying the exercises, disable email notifications regarding pipeline events (click on the bell icon in the main page of the repository and select "Disabled")
- For more examples: the official GitLab CI/CD template collection

 ✓

Disclaimer

The selection of features listed here is based on my personal experience. It is only a selection: to have a broader view of what is available, look at the templates and at the official documentation.

Exercise: A Basic Pipeline



A single-stage pipeline that compiles and run a C program.

- "Fork" repository on a GitLab server
- Configure runner for the cloned repository
- Briefly consider the security aspects (what code is the runner going to run? Where? When?)
- Trigger the pipeline on the main branch

Exercise: Failures



A failing pipeline gives an important message about the status of our code, so it is important that when there is a failure in the code we run (e.g., test cases or benchmarks)

- Run the pipeline on the failure-01 branch. It fails: why? Is it expected?
- Q Run the pipeline on the fail-failed-01 branch. It does not fail: why? Is this expected?
- Run the pipeline on the fails-correctly-again branch. It fails: why? Is it expected? What was changed?

How much code you write in your .gitlab-ci.yml and how much code should you write in bash scripts?

Exercise: Environment Variables



To customize the behaviour of the test code, GitLab offers a few ways to set environment variables with different degrees of secrecy.

Checkout the environment-variables branch and follow the instruction in README.md.

Example: Artifacts



Artifacts are the main way to transfer information between jobs in a pipeline, and from the runner to the GitLab web interface.

- Checkout the artifacts branch
- a have a look at the .gitlab-ci.yml file
- 1 Try to run the pipeline. Does the behaviour depend on the executor type (e.g., docker vs shell)?

Example: Pipeline code reuse with templates and extends



Don't Repeat Yourself: reuse code in pipeline definition

- Oheckout branch templates
- ② have a look at the .gitlab-ci.yml file, notice the use of .greet-base and of the extends: key
- How can the base job be customized?

See also: yaml anchors





- Oheckout branch include
- a have a look at the .gitlab-ci.yml file, and the use of include:
- Mow can you include multiple files? How is the content merged?





It is possible to periodically mirror the content of a repository to and from another one.

- Push mirror: the mirror is updated when a push to the repo is made (docs) 🗹
- Pull mirror: the mirror is updated periodically (polling) (docs) 🗹

Note: Setting up a pull mirror on GitLab requires GitLab Premium (at the time of writing, this **is** available on git.scc.kit.edu)

GitLab CI/CD: Exercise: Mirroring from GitHub to GitLab



Depending on the GitLab tier available, it might be impossible to set up a pull mirror. As a workaround, it is possible to use GitHub actions to push.

- Create an empty repository on GitHub and push the example repo there (tip: disable notifications)
- Create and empty repository on a GitLab server (tip: disable notifications)
- Oheckout the github-to-gitlab-mirror branch in the example repo
- Follow the instructions in the README.md to set up the mirroring

Basic Git: Exercise: Git Hooks



The basic features of CI can be replicated without GitLab or GitHub, but just setting up a bare repository and the relevant hooks.

- Checkout branch hooks
- Follow instructions in README.md

GitLab CI/CD: Test results and coverage



GitLab can show the results : of a test suite in a more convenient way.

If the GitLab pages feature is not active, one can use third party services to host the coverage reports .

Example on gitlab.com 🗗

Exercise: fix the tests and reach 100% code coverage.

HPC: a MPI job in a pipeline



Create a job that launches the program hostname on 2 different nodes, using:

- The shell executor (suggestion: either use srun, or prepare a shell script to launch with sbatch).
- The custom executor (suggestion: use srun hostname in the job body, set the COMMAND_OPTIONS_SBATCH variable appropriately).

(As examples or solutions, see here \square or here \square)

HPC: Run the NVidia HPL benchmark as part of a CI pipeline



NVidia provides a container image <a>Image for its HPC benchmarks.

The exercise: run the HPL benchmark on a GPU node on HoreKa.

It requires registering an account at ngc.nvidia.com, setting up authentication for Enroot, and registering a runner for the repository of the exercise.

The exercise is described/sketched here ☑.

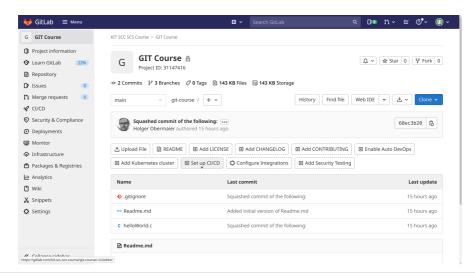
Screenshot Gallery



A set of reference pictures (a substitute for the live demonstration)

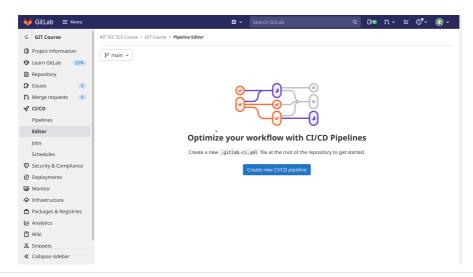


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Set up CI/CD)



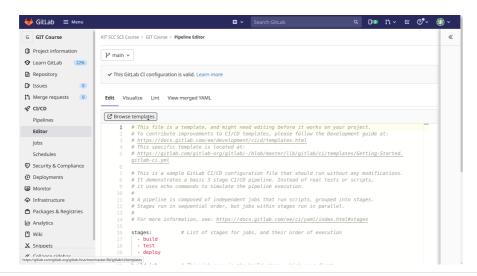


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (CI/CD Editor)



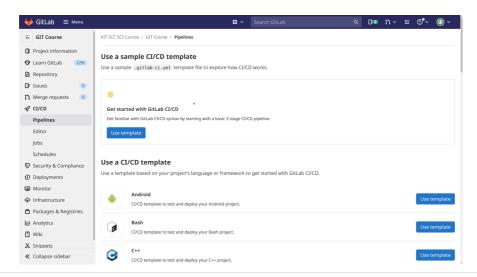


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Browse Templates)





GitLab: the CI/CD interface (CI/CD Templates)





GitLab: the CI/CD interface (.gitlab-ci.yml)

```
stages:
- build
- test
build-hello-world-job:
  stage: build
  script: cc helloWorld.c -o helloWorld
  artifacts:
    paths:
    - helloWorld
    expire_in: 1 day
test-code-job1:
  stage: test
  script: if [[ $(helloWorld) != "Hello World" ]]; then exit 1; fi
```

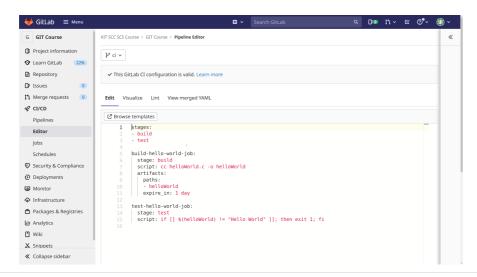


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (.gitlab-ci.yml)

Test stage can use compute resources

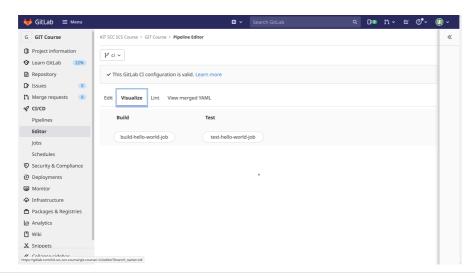


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Edit)



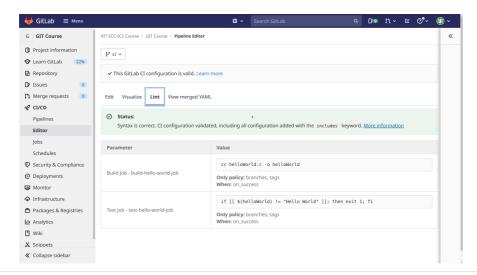


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Visualize)



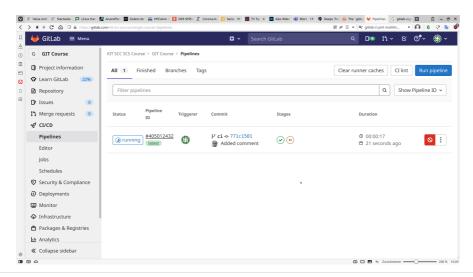


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Lint)



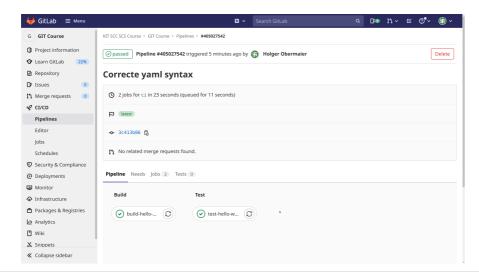


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (CI/CD: Pipelines)



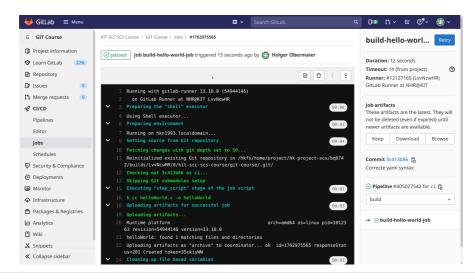


GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Pipeline passed)





GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Build Job)





GitLab: the CI/CD interface (Test Job)

