

Q Review

by Keegan Jordan

Q Review is a brand new Slack integrated tool that allows developers to review code directly within the application. Additionally, it provides many automations for the user such as creating group discussion around reviews, applying comments and responses, and quickly giving the go-ahead to ship the new code. The reason I chose this project was because of the time I have spent (and still do!) engaging my coworkers and team members in the code review process. Since I enjoy creating teams of independent contributors, the code review process is one I enforce more often than I would like.

I've found a lack of quality code review integrations on the platforms where developers are most active, namely, Slack. Slack is my direct communication to the ecosystem of our code development environment. It is integrated with GitHub, Standup Apps, Trello, and many more. This means that I have confidence in knowing that everything I need exists in one place. That being said, an application to bring code reviews to the Slack application would cut out a great deal of time that hangs up developers and slows down the code commit process. Since reviewing platforms are largely text based already, it will make a good pairing for a slack application. For instance, users can type in commands to slack to add comments, ask questions, request changes, and ship changes. Additionally, it localizes the conversation and engages both the reviewers and the requester in a space where they can discuss the change that is being made. Finally, this discussion can be linked to the pull request so anyone curious can be added and involved in the crucial process of review.

The biggest challenge I see in completing this project by the deadline, is the process of registering the applications on the Slack platform and with the GitHub/Jira APIs. This could be a quick step or it could be a long process and is one that I have not looked into enough at this point in time. Additionally, the tools I have available for me in the GitHub or Jira API may not be enough to complete the project I envision. If this is the case, other applications will have to be considered or a new approach for persisting the review data will have to be implemented. Given that these are of little issue, the implementation of a text processor with API integrated application should smoothly fit into the timeline of this quarter. Finally, this project can range from the most basic of implementations, a PR alert app (which exists already), to a full-fledged code review platform that can exist beyond Slack (in the command line, perhaps).

Hours spent: 3