

# Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery Platform Development of Software Engineering and Software Project Management in Higher Education

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**Abstract** — We present a report of the development phase of a platform that aims to enhance the efficiency of software project management in higher education. The platform accommodates a strategy known as Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD). The phase consists of several stages, followed by testing of the system and its deployment. For starters, the CI/CD platform will be deployed for software projects of students in the Faculty of Information Technology, Universitas Kristen Maranatha. The goal of this paper is to show a design of an effective platform for continuous integration and continuous delivery pipeline to accommodate source code compilation, code analysis, code execution, until its deployment, all in a fully automated fashion.

**Keywords**— continuous integration; continuous delivery; software project; project management

## I. INTRODUCTION

There is a main trend in software engineering [1] and project management where the development of application consists of phases from writing codes, building and integrating the application, alpha and beta testing, debugging, troubleshooting, managing configuration, setting up runtime environment, and finally deploying the applications [2]. Those phases are repetitive tasks, time-consuming and complex processes. The applications are

likely to be very diverse and composed of various tools, commercially or open-source technologies, therefore managing application delivery lifecycle is difficult because of those complexities. Dealing with those daunting and complex tasks, one solution is using the DevOps [3] [4] approach.

The relatively new emerging DevOps is a culture where development, testing, and operations teams join together collaborating to deliver outcome results in a continuous and effective way [2] [5]. This way DevOps is a better approach for organizations to enter the marketplace in the middle of fierce competition and enabling them to build a better quality of applications; hence allowing to increase benefits and bringing customer expectation and satisfaction. It makes the organizations see opportunities and reducing the time necessary for customer feedback of a significant fix or new features in development. The DevOps ultimate goal is to reduce the development time from the initial concept until the end result. DevOps culture can significantly result in faster time to deployment and a much efficient outcome, and developers can perform continuous integration of their code and maintain the integrity of the code at all stages of development.

Here we are interested in the Continuous Integration [6] and Continuous Delivery [7] [8] combined practice approach, abbreviated as CI/CD, which is one of the

DevOps approaches, which we will apply to higher education software engineering and student software project management system. In higher education, particularly in information technology, information systems, and computer science education programs, where every student works on a software development project, management of those student projects is necessary to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness. For this reason, it is better to apply CI/CD approach to achieve a better software project management system.

## II. METHODOLOGY OF CI/CD RESEARCH

In this section and the following subsection, we describe CI/CD methodology using strategy approach in brief as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Methodology of CI/CD (strategy)

Here our methodology in Figure 1 works as the strategy described of the following: Firstly, CI/CD is explored by doing a survey of tools available, where among those tools there are readily available to be used and matching their requirements. Secondly, in the development stage, experimentations using selected tools are performed based on tools exploration and utilization. Lastly, testing of the system is performed leading to the deployment phase.

### A. Basics Concept

According to Fowler [9] Continuous Integration is defined as a practice of a software development with frequent, at least daily, integration of works done by members of a team, which leads to daily multiple integrations. Every team is possible to perform testing of customer requirements with development. Continuous Delivery is defined as a discipline of a software development where a deployment pipeline is built in a way that at any time it can release the resulting software [10]. It assures end users whatever is being produced will meet their needs, hence it shows the customer, whenever they want, what developers are delivering. CI/CD strategy is also known as Continuous Deployment, see Zubin [11], Heller [12], Atlassian [13] and Manturewicz [14].

Related works and analyses of Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery practices have been done extensively by some studies, for example, Lehtonen et al. [15], Humble et al. [7], Ståhl et al. [6] and Chen [8]. Those studies conclude that such practices lead faster, effective, and more efficient in the software development chain, and

yet maintaining software engineering basic principles, as in [1]. An automation practice of CI/CD has been performed by Arachchi and Perera [16] which includes automation for agile software project management, while Krusche and Alperowitz [17] implement the continuous delivery practice in multi-customer project courses.

### B. CI/CD Tools

Continuous Integration (CI) system [6] [9] is a regulator that involves many tools and combine them to achieve the goal of automating the software development process. There are some tools, for example:

- 1) *Source code control / version control* [18]: is a tool to centrally control source code integration from all programmers involved. It also functions as a backup of the source code, regulators when mismatches occur between codes sent by different programmers, and setting the source code version automatically. Examples of version control tools: CVS, SubVersion, Git, Mercurial, etc.
- 2) *Server or cloud version control service provider* [19]: is a service on the internet that provides a server or cloud environment for source code management. Examples are: Github, Gitlab, Bitbucket etc.
- 3) *Source code builder* [20]: produces the destination code associated with the program language and framework used. For example: Java compiler, C compiler, C++ compiler, C# compiler, Python interpreter, PHP interpreter, Make, Ant, Gradle, Maven, etc.
- 4) *Software testing tools* [21]: which can be further divided into testing an atomic function (unit testing), testing the incorporation of various software components (integration test), and testing the software interface (user interface / user acceptance test). Examples are: Junit, NUnit, TestNG, Selenium, Mockito, etc.
- 5) *Software deployment / installation tools*: are used to build final installation packages to be delivered to end users.

### C. Readily Available Tools

In order to choose the most suitable tools for our projects, we analyse and evaluate some of CI/CD tools readily available on the market, as follows:

- 1) *TeamCity* [22]: is a Java-based CI/CD Server and managed by JetBrains. It was released on October 2, 2006. TeamCity can be accessed as a commercial server and licensed under an exclusive license. Free license gets access up to 100 build configurations and 3 Build Agents. It is used by developers and professionals in the field for DevOps [23] [24]. The advantage of TeamCity is that the server has a stable version because it is managed by JetBrains, which is

- not Open Source. The number of TeamCity plugins is less than those of the open-source CI/CD server.
- 2) *Jenkins* [25]: is a leading open-source CI/CD server which provides hundreds of plugins to support development, deploying, and automating any IT projects. It supports versioning tools that are widely used by developers, professionals [26] [27] [28] and scientists [29]. Because Jenkins is open source, anyone can patch the main code from the server so that it is more powerful, giving it an advantage point. On the other hand, since it is an open source, it is accessible to many people, therefore the structure of Jenkins grows more complex and not so easy to configure.
  - 3) *CircleCI* [30]: is a cloud-based CI/CD tool. CircleCI is also possible to be installed on a private server. It supports programming languages: Ruby, Python, Node, Java, PHP, RoR, DJ and JavaScript. Since it is cloud based, its user does not require physical hardware. However, it may cause problems when its cloud has problems.
  - 4) *Gitlab CI* [31]: is a service part of GitLab that builds and tests software every time a developer pushes code into an application. *GitLab CD*: is a software service that places changes to every code in production that results in a daily production deployment. The advantages of *Gitlab CI-CD* are collaboration techniques that allow project team members to integrate their work every day. However, Gitlab CI-CD disadvantage is that it can cause problems if there are problems with the Gitlab cloud or changes to the Gitlab Server.
  - 5) *Azure DevOps Server (formerly Team Foundation Server)* [32]: is a Microsoft product that provides source code management, reporting, requirements management, project management (Agile and WaterFall models), automated builds, lab management, testing and release management capabilities. Azure DevOps Server covers the entire application life cycle and DevOps capabilities. Azure DevOps Server can be used as a back-end to various integrated development environments (IDEs) but is designed for Microsoft Visual Studio and Eclipse on all platforms. The advantage of Azure DevOps Server is that it is very suitable for the project team that uses Microsoft technology. The disadvantage of Azure DevOps Server is that it requires a minimum license to purchase in Visual Studio to get a server license and is needed to purchase Azure DevOps so that the DevOps feature can run.
  - 6) *Travis CI* [33]: is a CI/CD service that is equally managed by JetBrains, just like TeamCity. Travis CI itself utilizes the full potential of all TeamCity features. Strengths and Weaknesses of Travis CI are the same as TeamCity, it's just more widely used for open-source projects.
  - 7) *GoCD* [34]: is an open-source tool used in software development to help teams and organizations automate the delivery of source code. GoCD supports automation throughout the build-test-release process from check-in code to deployment which helps to continue to produce stable software in relatively short cycles and ensure that the software will be released reliably at any time. GoCD is released under Apache License 2. The advantage of GoCD is that it supports several version controls tools, namely: Git, Mercurial, Subversion, Perforce and Team Foundation Server. The disadvantage of GoCD is that it requires a fairly complex configuration to be able to support other plugins.
  - 8) *Bamboo* [35]: is a CI/CD tool developed by Atlassian. Although initially available as a cloud-based service, the cloud version was discontinued at the end of January 2017. Bamboo's strength is that it has a Git branching workflow and integrated placement projects and has built-in integration with other Atlassian software such as Jira, Confluence, Bitbucket, and HipChat. The weakness of Bamboo is that not all services are free and not open-source software, so the time needed to fix the problem can considerably be longer.
  - 9) *Codeship* [36]: is a Continuous Delivery platform to hosts which help releasing software quickly, automatically and in frequency of several times a day. Codeship can shorten the development cycle so as to reduce the risk of bugs and increase innovation so as to help software companies to develop better and faster products by maintaining the testing and release process. Codeship automates the spread of the software and all necessary tasks involved with it. The advantage of Codeship is that it is managed by a company so the version can be stable. The weakness of Codeship is that every service provided has provisions that can always change according to what is offered.
  - 10) *BuddyBuild* [37]: is a web-based and self-hosted CI/CD tool for Git developers that can be used to build, test and use websites and applications with code from GitHub, Bitbucket, and GitLab. BuddyBuild employs a Docker container with language and frameworks already installed to build, monitor actions and notices with DevOps. The advantage of BuddyBuild is that it has been integrated with GitHub, Bitbucket, and GitLab but has weakness: it is not easy to integrate with other plugins.
  - 11) *AWS CodePipeline* [38]: a service from Amazon, is a Continuous Delivery service that helps developers automate the release flow for fast and reliable application and infrastructure updates. CodePipeline automates the creation, testing, and implementation phases of the release process every time there is a

code change, based on the release model that developers specify so that it allows the developers to send features and updates quickly and reliably. Developers can easily integrate AWS CodePipeline with third party services such as GitHub or with their own custom plugin. With AWS CodePipeline, developers only pay for what they use. There are no upfront fees or long-term agreements. So, the advantage of AWS CodePipeline is the ease of CI/CD services because it is managed by Amazon but has a disadvantage: the CI/CD services is not free.

#### D. CI/CD requirements

The requirement of CI/CD pipeline are described as follows:

- Long term maintainability must be ensured;
- Idempotence principles must be held, that is, should produce the same result if ran once or multiple times;
- Builds, tests and deployment should be done in automated fashion; and
- The pipeline must be orchestrated.

### III. DEVELOPMENT

The development of the platform consists of experimentation, exploration and utilization phases is described in the following:

#### A. Experimentation Stage

After analysing and comparing the features of the various tools available, we decided to choose Jenkins [39] and TeamCity [40].

We choose Jenkins because the license is free, the source code is available freely on the internet (open source), and can be integrated with many other devices. At present Jenkins is also de facto the most widely used CI/CD tool in the world. The reason we choose TeamCity because the installation process and settings are easier than other CI/CD tools, making it suitable for use as a first step in learning the CI/CD strategy. TeamCity licenses are available in both paid service and free models. The free model licenses are suitable for small teams that don't need too many build agents. A build agent is an environment where builds or jobs from a CI pipeline are executed.

#### B. Tools Exploration and Utilization

We explore CI/CD tools, Jenkins and TeamCity to experiments their performances and ease of usability. In the exploration, it is found that both tools are the most suitable for higher education student projects in informatics engineering study program.

We explore Jenkins and the results of our exploration: Jenkins is easy to install on various operating systems, Linux with various distributions and Windows 10; Jenkins is also available for Docker; Jenkins has weekly releases and provides long-term support; Jenkins is simple and has

easy user interface; Jenkins has many third-party plugins and it suggests plugins necessary at the time of installation; Jenkins has a good job configuration page and easy to navigate; Jenkins is easy to configure and it has customizable user interface; and it has notification support of its build status. Those results of the exploration lead to our decision to select Jenkins among other tools.

Exploration of TeamCity has results: TeamCity has many features; It has great support for Java, .NET, Android, and iOS; It has many very useful plugins [41] written by JetBrains and its community; TeamCity supports almost every major version control system (VCS) such as Git and Azure DevOps Server; TeamCity has a good dashboard; It provides historical data to track builds; TeamCity provides integration with IntelliJ IDEA and Visual Studio; and it has an easy to navigate user interface. Those results are our main reason to select TeamCity among other tools.

#### C. System Architecture

The architecture of the platform Jenkins and TeamCity are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3, respectively.

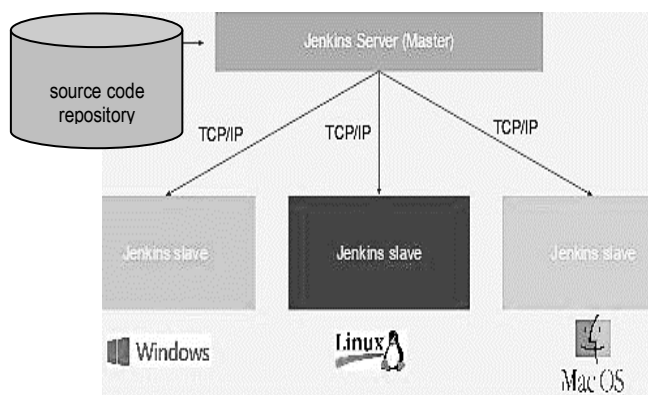


Figure 2. Jenkins architecture [39]

The architecture of Jenkins applies master-slave scheme where the server processes codes from the repository, which can be locally or remotely placed. The Jenkins slaves connected to the master and may have different operating systems.

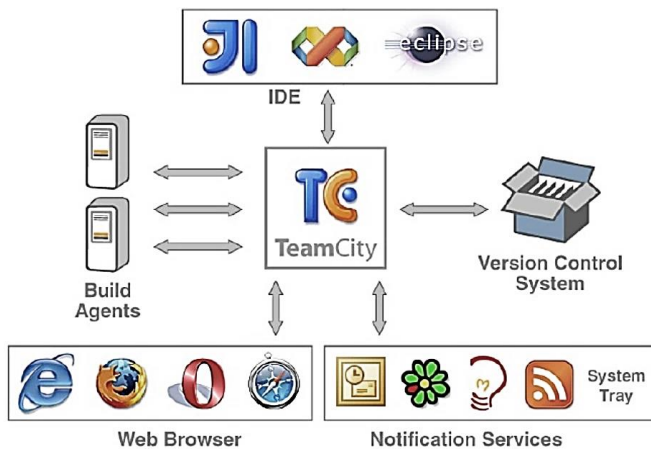


Figure 3. TeamCity architecture [40]

For TeamCity, the architecture [40] allows centralised scheme, therefore the users may use IDEs of their choices, in which the source code will be built by build agents, together with version control system, hence gives the user convenience thus accelerating the development.

#### IV. TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT

The testing and deployment of the platform is including setup and testing phases will be described as follows:

##### A. System Setup

We install the system in a quite powerful hardware, utilizing a relatively fast and state-of-the-art processor, namely AMD Ryzen 9 3900X running at 3.8 GHz (4.6 GHz Max Boost), which is built using 7-nm lithography technology with 12 computing cores and capable to run 24 simultaneous threads, running in a fully 64-bit instructions set. Large amount of 64 GB high-clocked rate random access memory (RAM) is installed to empower the system to be able to handle multiple requests simultaneously. A very fast M.2 PCIe NVMe, 1 TB large capacity, solid state drive (SSD) is installed to eliminate I/O bottleneck caused by very high data streams. With this high specification hardware, we hope that the system will perform smoothly, even under high load pressure.

##### B. Deployment

Deployment of projects using Jenkins can be described as in pipeline process shown in Figure 4. The process includes CI/CD stages: committing code submitted, build, test, stage and deploy. With Jenkins there is also source code control system and including results reporting for later references if needed.

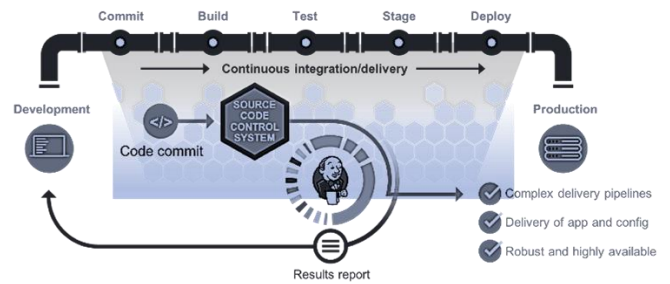


Figure 4. Deployment pipeline using Jenkins [39] [42].

Pipeline of deployment using TeamCity is described as in Figure 5. The process includes delivery, version control, built, testing of unit, automated acceptance test, user acceptance tests and release. At every stage there is a feedback. The testing stages assure the quality of the resulting product.

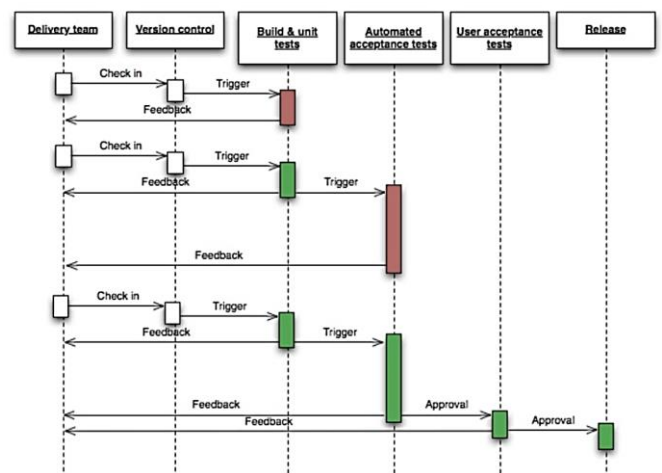


Figure 5. Deployment pipeline using TeamCity [23] [40]

##### C. Testing with Various Cases Experimentation

We utilize Jenkins and TeamCity to experiments their performances and ease of usability for various cases: including many source codes in various programming languages, with repository stored locally or remotely.

Here we present an example of CI/CD experimentation using Jenkins: After installed on the system, Jenkins can be started by invoking it on the command line terminal, as shown in Figure 6, and when successful, Jenkins is fully up and running (see Figure 7). Initial screen when Jenkins is running is a dashboard view (see Figure 8), here the installation is successful and Jenkins is ready. When a project is submitted, it is appeared as in Figure 9. In this example we connect the GitHub repository with Jenkins, where the repository is shown in Figure 10. Pipeline instruction for Jenkins is placed in the repository with name "Jenkinsfile" with content is shown in Figure 11. Our experiment of pipelining the built using Jenkins is successful, with a project status is notified by Jenkins in the dashboard shown in Figure 12. Jenkins pipeline branch main

status with run number and status can be seen in Figure 13. Log Checkout from GitHub version control was done as in Figure 14. Figure 15 shows a Linux command to list files in a directory, the command is executed at shell script, followed by compilation of Java code (Figure 16). The compiled code is then successfully executed (Figure 17). The console output in Jenkins is shown in Figure 18. Actual console output of the whole process is shown in Figure 19 and Figure 20.

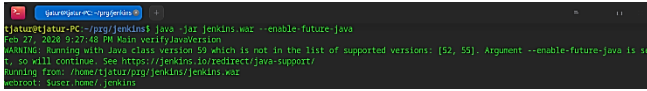


Figure 6. Invoke Jenkins on the command line terminal

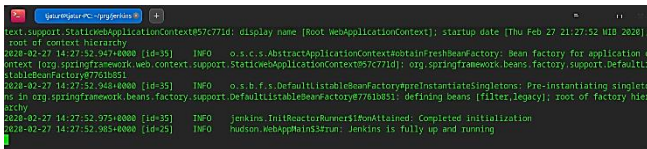


Figure 7. Jenkins is fully up and running

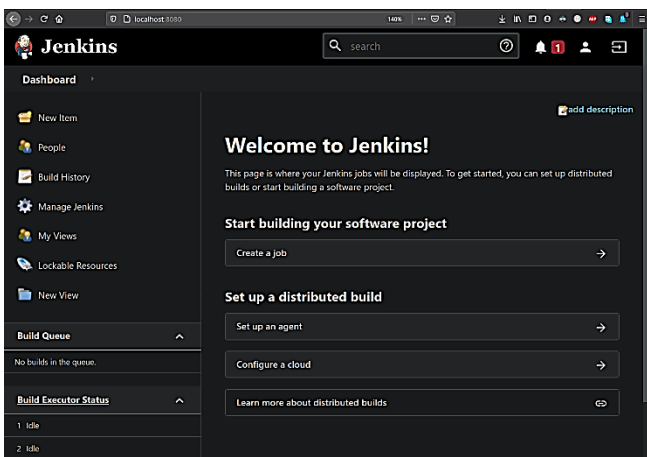


Figure 8. Jenkins initial dashboard view

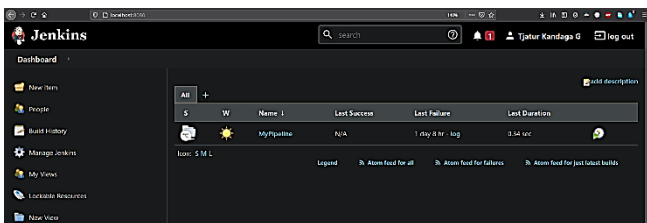


Figure 9. A project "MyPipeline" is added to Jenkins

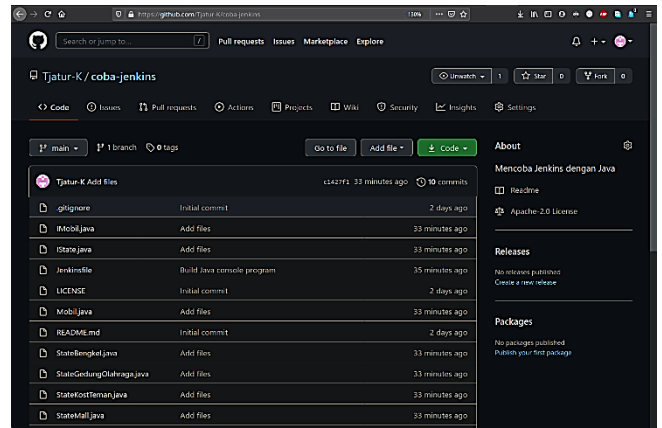


Figure 10. A repository in GitHub



Figure 11. Content of "Jenkinsfile" in the repository.

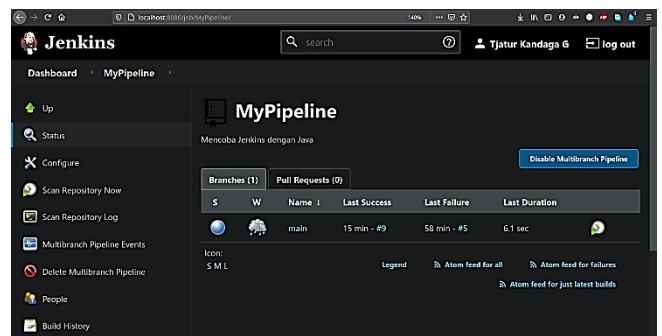


Figure 12. Pipeline status



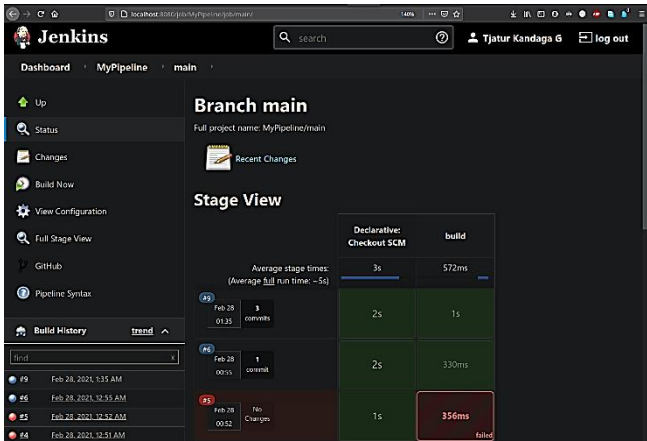


Figure 13. Jenkins pipeline branch main status

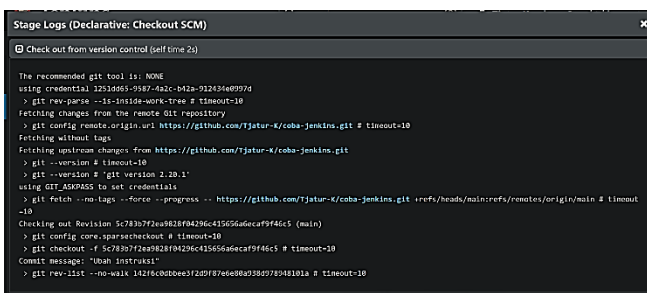


Figure 14. Log checkout from Github version control

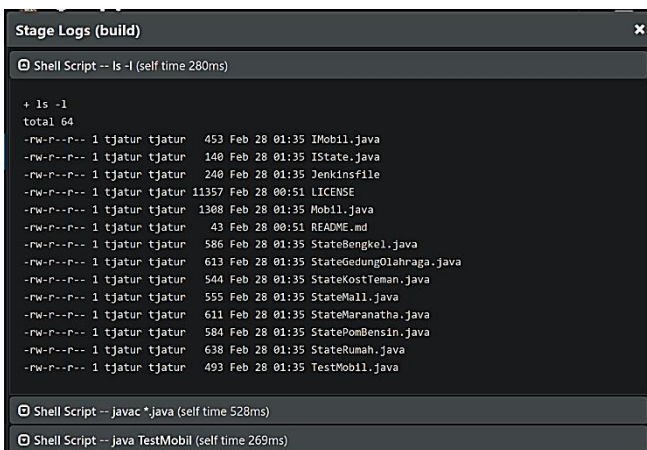


Figure 15. Build output of instruction 1, which is listing directory contents

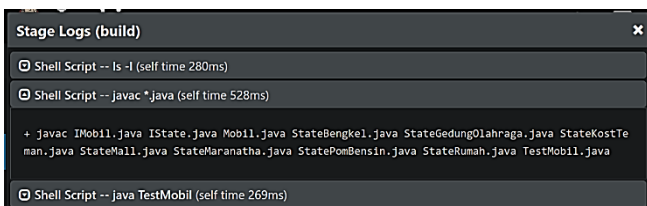


Figure 16. Build output of instruction 2, which is compiling Java code

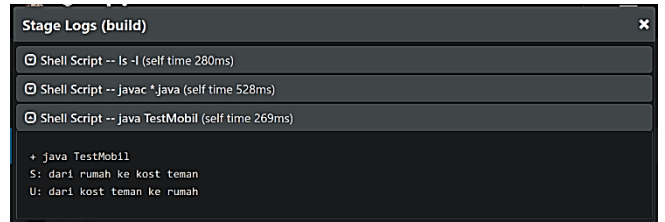


Figure 17. Build output for instruction 3, which is the execution of Java console program

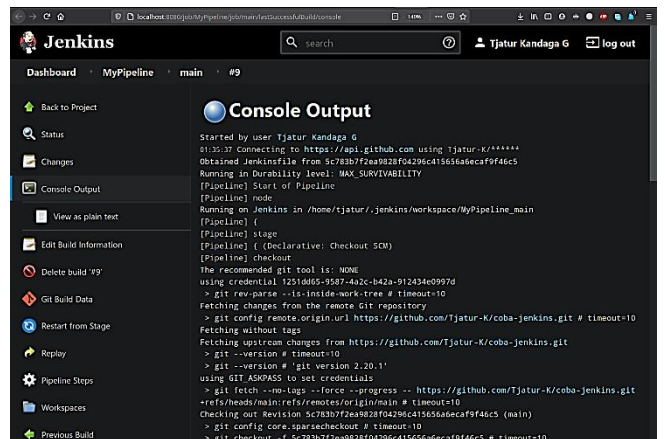


Figure 18. Jenkins console output

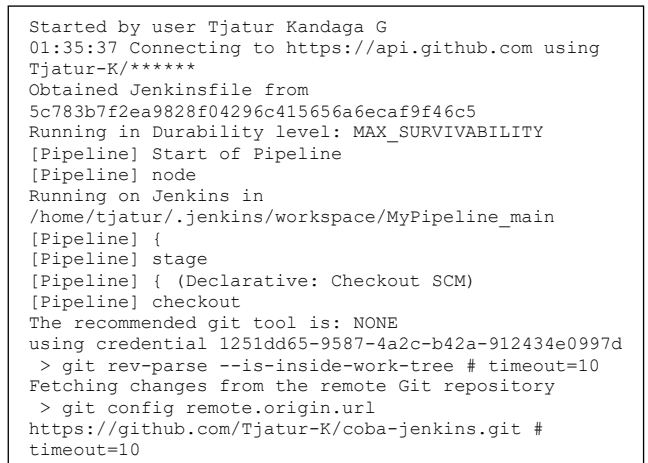


Figure 19. Actual console output (part 1)

```

Fetching without tags
Fetching upstream changes from
https://github.com/Tjatur-K/coba-jenkins.git
> git --version # timeout=10
> git --version # 'git version 2.20.1'
using GIT_ASKPASS to set credentials
> git fetch --no-tags --force --progress --
https://github.com/Tjatur-K/coba-jenkins.git
+refs/heads/main:refs/remotes/origin/main #
timeout=10
Checking out Revision
5c783b7f2ea9828f04296c415656a6ecaf9f46c5 (main)
> git config core.sparsecheckout # timeout=10
> git checkout -f
5c783b7f2ea9828f04296c415656a6ecaf9f46c5 # timeout=10
Commit message: "Ubah instruksi"
> git rev-list --no-walk
142f6c0dbbee3f2d9f87e6e80a938d978948101a # timeout=10
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // stage
[Pipeline] withEnv
[Pipeline] {
[Pipeline] stage
[Pipeline] { (build)
[Pipeline] sh+ ls -l
total 64
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 453 Feb 28 01:35
IMobil.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 140 Feb 28 01:35
IState.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 240 Feb 28 01:35
Jenkinsfile
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 11357 Feb 28 00:51 LICENSE
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 1308 Feb 28 01:35
Mobil.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 43 Feb 28 00:51
README.md
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 586 Feb 28 01:35
StateBengkkel.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 613 Feb 28 01:35
StateGedungOlahraga.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 544 Feb 28 01:35
StateKostTeman.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 555 Feb 28 01:35
StateMall.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 611 Feb 28 01:35
StateMaranatha.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 584 Feb 28 01:35
StatePomBensin.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 638 Feb 28 01:35
StateRumah.java
-rw-r--r-- 1 tjatur tjatur 493 Feb 28 01:35
TestMobil.java
[Pipeline] sh
+ javac IMobil.java IState.java Mobil.java
StateBengkkel.java StateGedungOlahraga.java
StateKostTeman.java StateMall.java
StateMaranatha.java StatePomBensin.java
StateRumah.java TestMobil.java
[Pipeline] sh
+ java TestMobil
S: dari rumah ke kost teman
U: dari kost teman ke rumah
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // stage
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // withEnv
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // node
[Pipeline] End of Pipeline
Could not update commit status, please check if your
scan credentials belong to a member of the
organization or a collaborator of the repository and
repo:status scope is selected

GitHub has been notified of this commit's build
result

Finished: SUCCESS
    
```

Figure 20. Actual console output (part 2)

Here is a presentation of an example of TeamCity experimentation: Firstly, TeamCity is invoked on the command line terminal, see Figure 21, when successful it shows start screen (Figure 22). In Figure 23 TeamCity shows the screen to connect to a database. In the next Figure 24, a TeamCity administrator account is created.

Figure 21. Invoke TeamCity via command line terminal

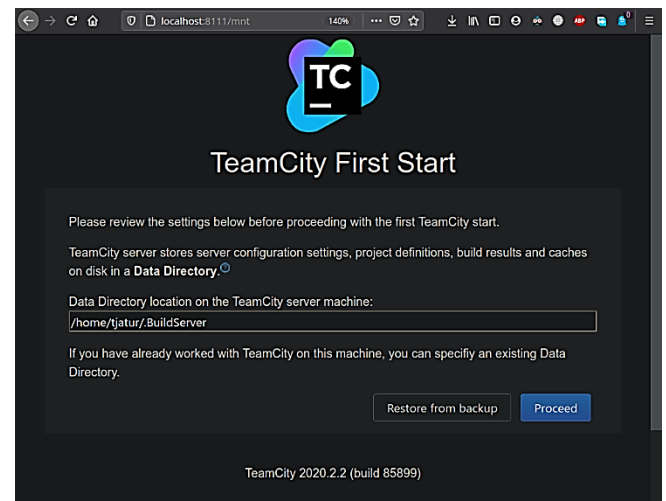


Figure 22. TeamCity start screen

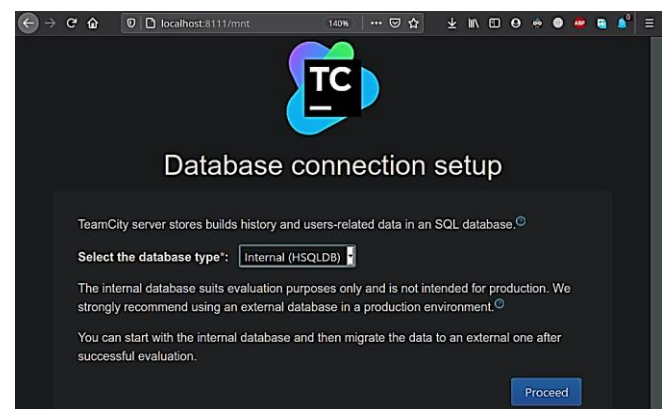


Figure 23. TeamCity database connection setup screen

When creating account is successful, then TeamCity is ready, as shown in Figure 25. A GitHub repository is used



in this experiment, see Figure 26. Next step is to create project on TeamCity, see Figure 27, then setup build configuration properly on general setting (Figure 28). Version control system (VCS) setting is also configured, see Figure 29. In Figure 30, we define the sequence of build steps to be executed. When everything is set, the build step sequence is executed, and Figure 31 shows the result of successful execution. Detailed statistics of the successful build is shown in Figure 32, and the overview of the successful build process is shown in Figure 33. A complete detailed log of the build process is created along the way of the process, see Figure 34.

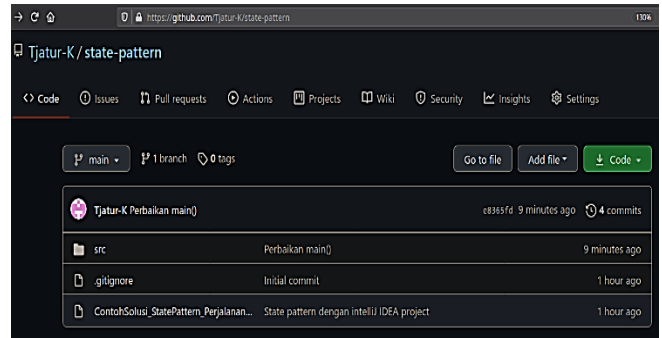


Figure 26. GitHub repository

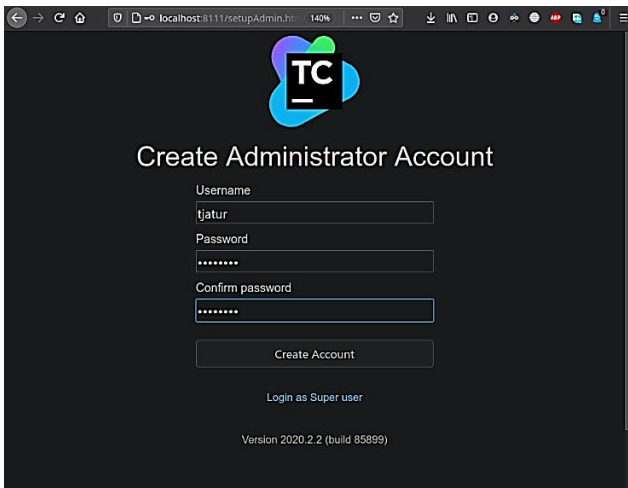


Figure 24. TeamCity screen to create an administrator account

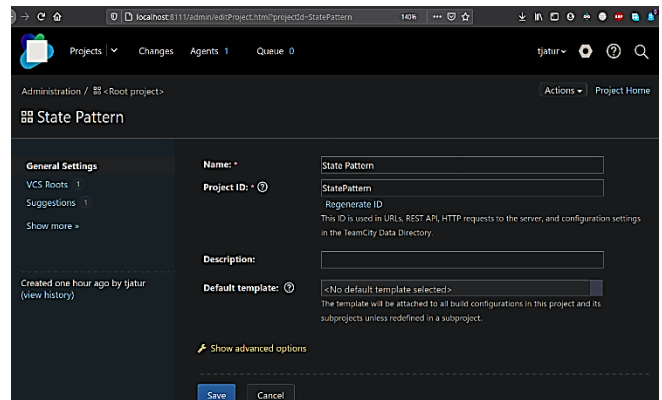


Figure 27. TeamCity screen to create project

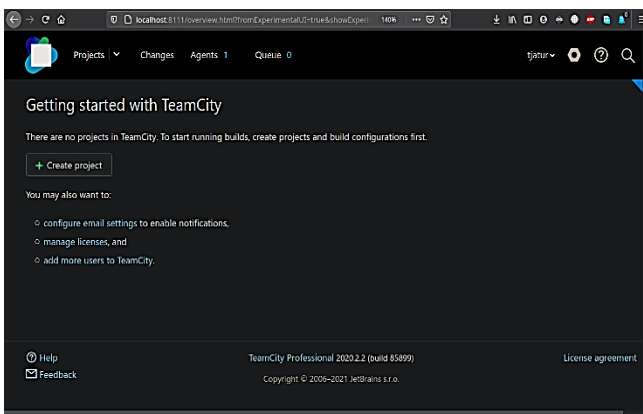


Figure 25. TeamCity is ready

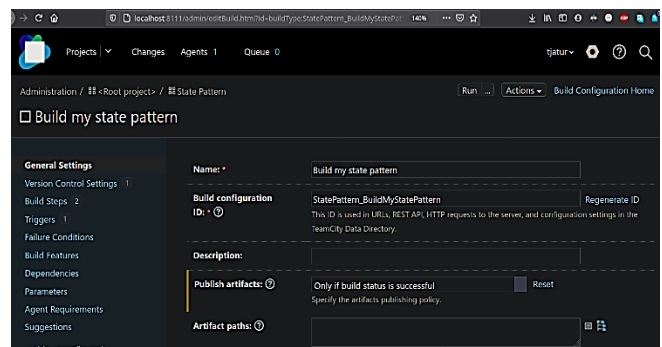


Figure 28. Build configuration setup on general setting

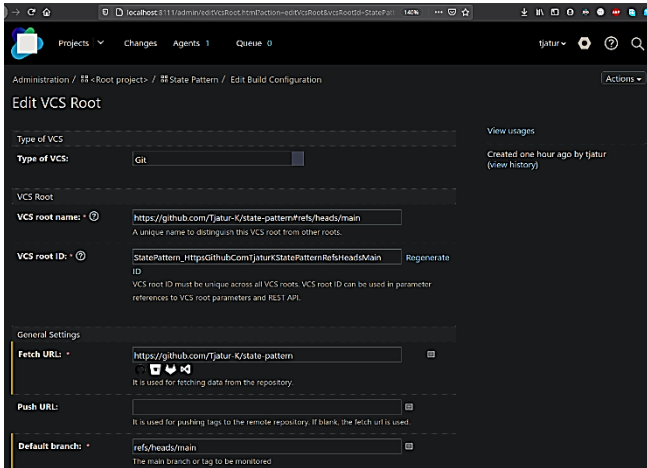


Figure 29. TeamCity build configuration version control system (VCS)

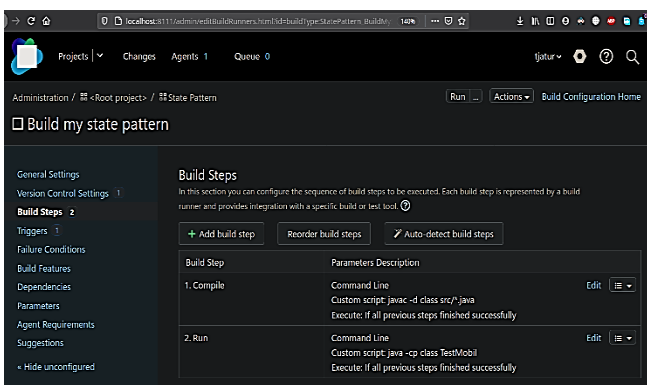


Figure 30. TeamCity configuration of sequence build steps to be executed

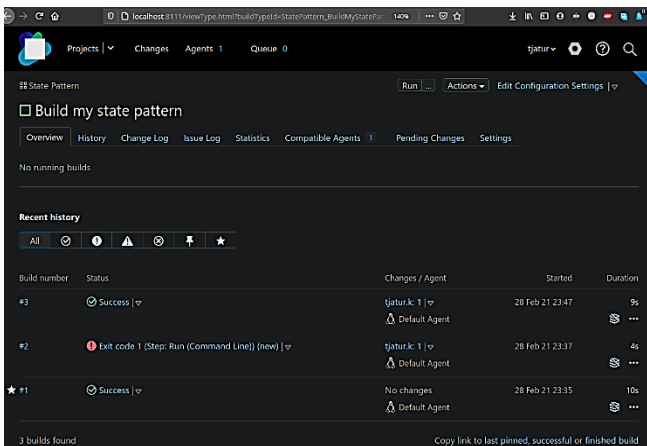


Figure 31. TeamCity build step sequence execution result overview

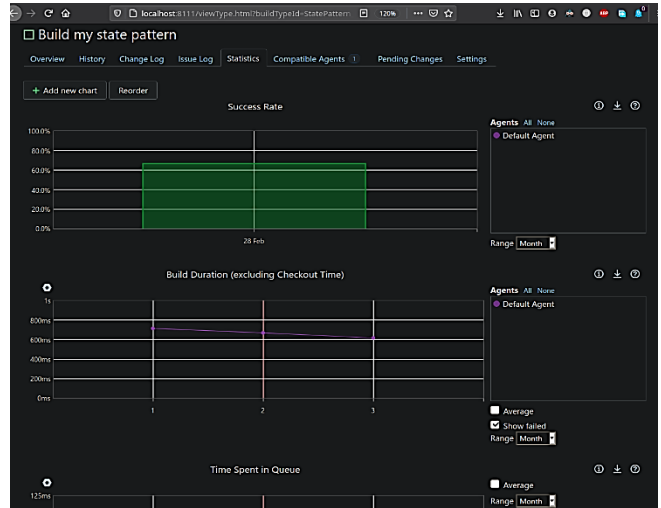


Figure 32. TeamCity shows statistics of build results

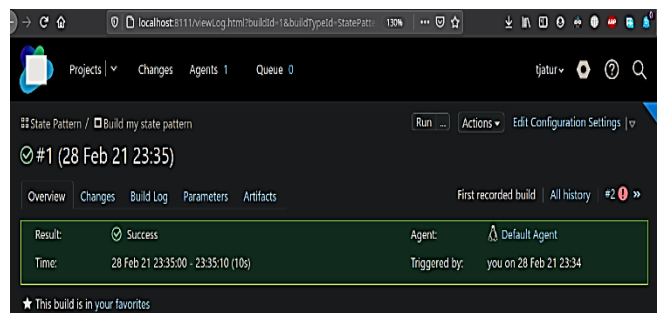


Figure 33. Overview of TeamCity success build process

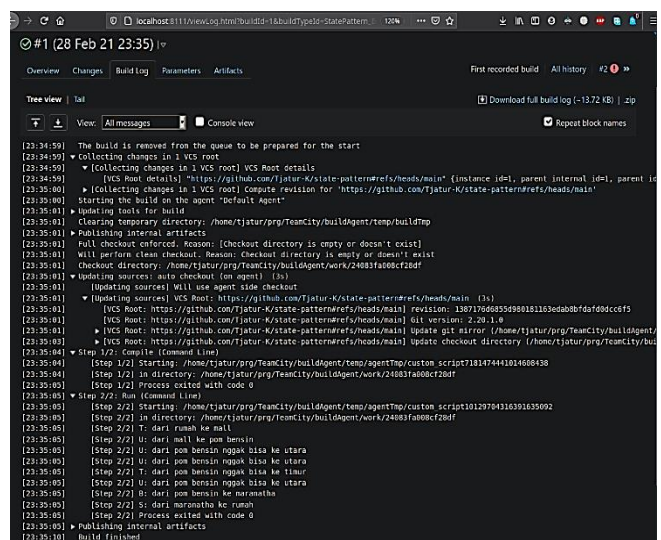


Figure 34. Build process log created by TeamCity

## V. DISCUSSION

CI/CD platform of software engineering and software project management using Jenkins and TeamCity is managed to work without any major problems. Experimentation was done for various cases including student projects. We managed to do a small survey which gives results of positive acceptance of this platform by users and students.

The results of our experimentations using Jenkins show that Jenkins significantly improves the performance of the CI/CD pipeline. Jenkins greatly reduces the time necessary to do the process. So far, we don't experience a slowdown caused by bottlenecking of the hardware, since our hardware is relatively powerful enough to handle the job. Furthermore, we experience similar performance and ease of TeamCity. There is no significant performance difference, in term of build process speed between Jenkins and TeamCity.

## VI. CONCLUSION

We managed to build a CI/CD platform of software engineering and software project management using Jenkins and TeamCity. The CI/CD platform provides pipelined processes necessary to a software development from source code coding process until product deployment, all in automatic fashion. Both tools feature product testing stages which assure the quality of the product.

Through our experimentations, we can conclude that Jenkins and TeamCity are similar in performance and ease, with assumption that both are installed in a "decent" good performance hardware. Therefore, the CI/CD platform using Jenkins and TeamCity is suitable for software project management in higher education, in particular for students majoring information technology.

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