Palestrante 1

So yes, so now we we are recording it.

Palestrante 2

All right.

Palestrante 1

So the first the first questions are more demographics, just to understand what you do, the your experience and so on. So what is your work, your current official position?

Palestrante 2

I am currently A-Team leads of one of the teams. One of the develop.

Palestrante 1

Your your own team lead nice. And how many years of experience do you have in this position?

Palestrante 2

I team leader just started a week ago. Before that it was just a software engineer for about 3 1/2 years now I think.

Palestrante 1

Oh, nice, nice. OK, OK. And in your current position, how what the day look like, like what are your daily activities in general?

Palestrante 2

It differs a bit, so there are a few components, so there are some talks with the team. Usually once every two weeks with everyone from the team. UM, it's some of the HR thingies like new people applying and talks with them. Software engineering is still there, so just product development working on the product and it's also a bit of consultancy with one of the clients. So they use our platform, but I'm available for support, so helping them getting started.

Palestrante 1

Right.

Palestrante 2

I'm sorry, is the main tasks I do.

Palestrante 1

Yeah. So you're still developing, but now you have more management, more management role, which which also includes for example, defining backlogs or prioritizing tasks. Or is it more related to the technical part of supporting the team?

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 2

Yeah. So we have a bit of a different structure. So refining the backlog is done by the product manager. So we have of both teams there as a product manager representing the team. So I'm not involved in that technical decisions directly. Of course, the team, the entire team weighs in with some of the decisions. But it's not. That's not part of. The role for me.

Palestrante 1

Good, good. Great. So in terms of of demographics, those were the questions. So now let's move to the showcase. I will share my screen with you and then present what the bot do.

Palestrante

So.

Palestrante 1

What about this actually? Good. So can you see the my screen?

Palestrante 2

Yeah, get it.

Palestrante 1

Great. So basically we planned the bot to operate on GitHub. Actually the initial plan was to have it for multiple platforms. So GitHub also, GitLab and JIRA if I'm not mistaken. But as a proof of concept, we decided to focus on GitHub at this moment and get it running and testing it and and then we can expand it later. So basically the the core functionality of the bot is.

Palestrante

OK.

Palestrante 2

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

It's. Taking a a an issue as an input so natural language text and then analyze such text and gives a label to that issue stating if technical data is present on that description or not.

Palestrante

MHM.

Palestrante 1

To use the bot, basically we. We go to GitHub marketplace. So let me just show you.

Palestrante 2

Can I ask questions in between by the?

Palestrante 1

Sure, sure, all the time you want, yes.

Palestrante 2

Way or should I? OK. I was wondering what exactly the definition of technical depth you're using for this.

Palestrante 1

Yes, that's that's a a good point, we.

Palestrante

So.

Palestrante 1

We use a very academic definition for technical that as as a metaphor, so we consider it bad decisions that leads to more effort. That's the definition of technical that we use. So, but basically as a concrete example, we identify problems in code, so bad quality code. As in, a cold smells are also an example of technical that we consider. Also lacking of tests or bad quality tests are also covered.

Palestrante 2

OK.

Palestrante 1

And and also lacking of documentation, those are the more concrete examples.

Palestrante 2

I see. And then the idea is that the issue gets in label. If you expect the issue to introduce technical. For depth.

Palestrante 1

Or report it either. Yeah, yeah, indeed. Indeed. Introduce it. Yeah.

Palestrante 2

OK. That makes sense. Thanks.

Palestrante 1

So if if we you go to marketplace then you're gonna find our bot here tag that. And basically we install it to our repository. And basically it's that it's running when we when we install it to the repository. So when we add it.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

To to your repository, we basically use it like it's it's running.

Palestrante 2

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

But but besides that, in the repository we can add. It's not mandatory, but we can add a folder called bot. And within such folder we have a config J. So this is kind of the brain of the bot. So all the execution is based on this config file. We have a configuration file locally, so running within the bot. So if the person does not want to have this in their repository. It's also fine. We have default opt. But if the person wants to make the bot more customizable, I mean make customizations on how the bot behaves, so then they can add this file to the folder to to the repository, and then the bot checks the file and acts how it how it should act. Like considering what the people we specified.

Palestrante

Here.

Palestrante 2

Right.

Palestrante 1

So basically we have a few different options here, but the core, the core functionality is here. So. We basically have an option for auto labeling issues, so if this is enabled in this case it's false, but if it's enabled every time a new issue is is created, the bot automatically analyzes the the issue and provides a a label for it.

Palestrante

MHM.

Palestrante 2

Right.

Palestrante 1

And the other option, which also plays a role here is the payload type. So basically issues are composed by 33 sections, so title, body and comment. In this case what we are telling to the board here is. Please have a look at the body of the issue and then check if technical that is reported on that section.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

We could change it to. To title and also both so we could check both of them. UM, well, that's the two main options we have for the labeling feature. We also have a notification feature which is which is based on these options here. And here you specify if you want to receive emails from the bot for any kind of notification you want. Not any kind. Sorry for some types of notification we make available here.

Palestrante

MHM.

Palestrante 1

And we have a few options to define when you when people are receiving notifications. So basically in this case, for every label the bot assigns to an issue. We are getting them. We are getting an e-mail but these can also be replaced for for example a specific label. Or for a certain time of inactivity in in the in the issues. Uh, then here you can specify the e-mail that we should the rest the the recipient. So to whom we are sending the the e-mail?

Palestrante

M.

Palestrante 1

Also the the the body of the the message which we also provide a few placeholders here that will be replaced with actual data from the issue.

Palestrante 2

Right.

Palestrante 1

And then that's basically.

Palestrante 2

OK.

Palestrante 1

Further configuration file then I will just open an issue here just to.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

To show how. How it works? Let me just open this documentation here because here we have a few examples. Yeah. This is the documentation of the bot, so it basically it summarizes the the information I gave you. So what is every every option in the configuration file? How to update? It what are the options for each one of the the fields and so? And here. So let's let's open an issue here. To show how it works. So if we go to new issue.

Palestrante

M.

Palestrante 1

Then here in the documentation we have. Actually, it's not a documentation, it's the. It's the quick start. Just a second man.

Palestrante

Yep.

Palestrante 1

Thank you, Dan. Wiki So yeah, so here we have a quick start which presents the more the most important information to to make the bot operational to make it run. And then here we have we have an example of issue that should.

Palestrante

Yep.

Palestrante 1

Contain technical depth, so you should put here.

Palestrante

Mm-hmm.

Palestrante 1

Then in that case Auto label is off. So when we submit the issue, the bot should present a welcome message because well. We configured to to present this this welcome message. But if we want to assign the label because auto label was disabled was false, we can use the tag D BOT label. And. Demands the bought for a label for the issue. So if I'm not mistaken, this label should be technical debt. But it classified as non-technical debt. Curious.

Palestrante

Umm.

Palestrante 1

Yeah, maybe. Well. Maybe it was the wrong the wrong issue. Anyways, the bot can also assign a label based on. A label the person provides so I can use for example tbot and and then I can tell. What label I want to assign so. For. Example, I can put the label to do for example and then if I provide this this comment then a label to do should be assigned to the. To to the issue so the bot can provide both generated labels, so labels based on the.

Palestrante

Right.

Palestrante 1

On the description and also provide and also assign labels that are statically defined that manually define it. So in terms of documentation we have this quick start so the quick start shows the main the main options we have and how to update them and how to change them. If if people want.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

And we also have a more complete documentation with Dan. All the options we have and all the possible configurations. We have and also examples of. Configuration files and so on. Well, I think that's basically it for for what the bot does. So core functionalities automatically assigning labels analyzing.

Palestrante 2

OK.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

The the the text of an issue and also submitting sending notifications either based in the time since an issue was opened or the the label assigned to that issue.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

OK. Do you have any questions? Did did you end up with any kind of doubt or something like that?

Palestrante 2

No, I think the main. Question for me, let's maybe I guess more general question is how it decides that something is. Introduces technical depth because it's yeah, maybe the broader discussion around the explainable AI, where you get the label, but. I think I would mostly be wondering, so I I created an issue. I think the issue is fine, but then it labels it as technical depth then. My main question would be why is this technical depth and I can imagine that's of course very hard to. Introduced or or gets more feeling for a more direction. But I think that would for me be the main question when when I would consider using this.

Palestrante 1

Do in your experience, do you guys have any different definition of technical depth than the one I gave you in the? Or it's it's more or less the same definition you guys use.

Palestrante 2

Yeah, I think it's more or less the same definition. So goat smells indeed or kind of app specific overrides where you where you have the same application for different clients, but you override the certain parts that. Can be technical that I think things like that's where you. Think in general it's maybe a hand WAVY definition, more of a feeling. Anything that's later in time introduces effort or time for fixing things or getting things back to. Yeah, more nicer states, something like that.

Palestrante 1

Nice. And as you mentioned, the more explainable reasons for what we are assigning labels do you see these as a factor that would make you use or not the bot?

Palestrante 2

I think if it was with an explanation that would make it much more likely for me to use it. But I think even without it I do see value in having a label that's kind of at least triggers a discussion or makes you a bit more aware of a look at this issue. Just reconsider whether you see this kind of use technical depth or not. So I do definitely see value on that part. Think if there was explanation with it that would make it even more valuable. That's how I. Look at it.

Palestrante 1

Great. Great. So somehow do you consider? These these labels and the bot itself could help you to prioritize the issues as you said, like raise awareness about the issue. Do you think it would help you to prioritize like to decide what to tackle first?

Palestrante 2

Good question. I think the workflow I imagine now with these labels is that this would mostly. Give me kind of a direction of maybe this issue should be redefined or maybe this should be done differently? So I think in terms of prioritization thing, in the end it's when I create issues, it's things I want in and prioritizing them depends more on maybe clients wishes or yeah the the company direction. That we want to go in. So I think that technical depth. Label will mostly help in the design phase more than prioritizing. That's how I think it it would work for me.

Palestrante 1

OK, great. Great. And do you think that using such labels would help you to identify the the technical that easier in your project? More easier.

Palestrante 2

Yeah, I think that relates to the explainable city part. I think without explanation it would help with. Making us more more aware to maybe reconsider the issue or look into it and and have a quick discussion about can this introduce technical depth. So I think there it it would help. But indeed if there was explanation then that would give much more direction. Because now it's still when you have the label up to the developer to figure out where the technical depth is introduced or why it got that label.

Palestrante 1

Great. Great. It makes it makes completely sense. May I get back? May I get one step back? You you mentioned in your previous answered and and I I think I didn't get completely we were just talking about the prioritization and then you mentioned something about design. Can you can you repeat it just just to make sure I understood. That I think it didn't hurt.

Palestrante 2

Yeah. So I think that my main message is that I think prioritization phase is. Before looking into technical depth in the sense that I look at what clients want, I look at what the company wants and make prioritization based on that. And then the label would help when working on the issue to figure out what would be the right design for this. So maybe it should be. Designed differently, maybe it should be implemented in a different way. Maybe the issue at all. Maybe it should not be implemented or I think questions like that think that's the phase where I would see the most value of the label.

Palestrante 1

Perfect. Perfect. I see. I see. So it's kinda using the label to look back on your design and see if not something has to be changed.

Palestrante 2

Yeah, exactly. Maybe even before the design, it helps towards a better design. So maybe I should design the solution differently so that no technical depth is introduced or. There is less technical depth introduced. I think that. That's where I would see most value.

Palestrante 1

Great, great. Thanks. Thanks. And with with the labels, do you think it would be with the labels and with the bot assigning the label automatically, do you think you would be able to manage more issues during the same time like in the same amount of time increasing your productivity, managing labels?

Palestrante 2

I am. It's a good question.

Palestrante 1

So.

Palestrante 2

Yeah, I think it's it's hard to say. I think just based on feeling, I would say it would not help in the shorter term, but maybe for the longer term because it helps you introduce less technical depth than. Instead of having time to. Yeah. Get back on your technical depth. You can use that time for development or. Other improvements? So I I think on the long term it would help, but I think. I would not directly see the productivity benefits.

Palestrante 1

Great. Great. And then moving to the ease of use perspective, so now we discuss a bit about these fullness of the pot and then going to the ease of use, ease of use. You saw the documentation, the quick start. Do you think it would be easier to learn how to operate the bot?

Palestrante 2

Yeah, I think the explanation you showed, I think the only thing I didn't see was the full installation process. I don't know if that's as easy as a few clicks, but if that's the case, then it looked really easy to get into and to start using it. So there, yeah, I definitely think it's easy to use.

Palestrante 1

Great. And a decision we made during the development was making possible to add that file that folder to the repository to make the bot more customizable. Do you think practitioners would be willing to do so, or would they prefer other types of configuration? Strategy to to configure the bond.

Palestrante 2

I think the idea of having a file for configuration that is quite useful and nice. Only thing I. Think it's suppose I want to use this bot for 10 repositories. Does that mean I need to maintain 10 different files or is there a way to have a single file and that be applicable to all 10 repos? That would be a question for. Me. I think if it's possible to have it that way that you have a single file which can be applicable to multiple repositories. That would be the nicest way I think.

Palestrante 1

OK, OK, answering your question so far we you would be you would need to maintain 10 different files, but that definitely is a very good feedback that we can. We can check how to do it.

Palestrante 2

Right.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

In the future, because maybe, maybe we can have a single file like the person submitting a file to our server and then we we handle this file there or something like that.

Palestrante 2

Yeah, exactly. I think that would be nice and maybe fine grain configuration possibilities in the sense that you have one global. But if in one reposter you want to overwrite the specific thing, then you can override the single configuration item, something like that. I think that would give the user the most. Flexibility to use it however they want.

Palestrante 1

That's a very good idea. That's that's very. UM. And do you think checking how the configuration file is? I mean you saw how the configuration file was structured. The examples of fields we have. Do you think people would remember the fields like what each field does? It would be easy to remember the the the functionality of each field.

Palestrante 2

I think so. Yes. I think most of the fields, the names are quite clear, especially if you already know the context of the books or if you have read the documentation ones. I do feel the configuration items in the structure of that file. That's really. Nice that that. That would be, yeah. Really workable for me.

Palestrante 1

Great. Great. And then finally, so yeah, so the last question would be if you if you consider the documentation easy to use. But but I think, yeah, I think you mentioned that in your previous answer. That yes, the the.

Palestrante

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

Was. Was easy to use. Good, good.

Palestrante 2

Yeah.

Palestrante 1

UM, that's great for the for the bot. I think that was it. Mark, I really appreciate your feedback. Thanks a lot.