The Great Migration



Homebrew's move to GitHub Packages with zero downtime

Mike McQuaid

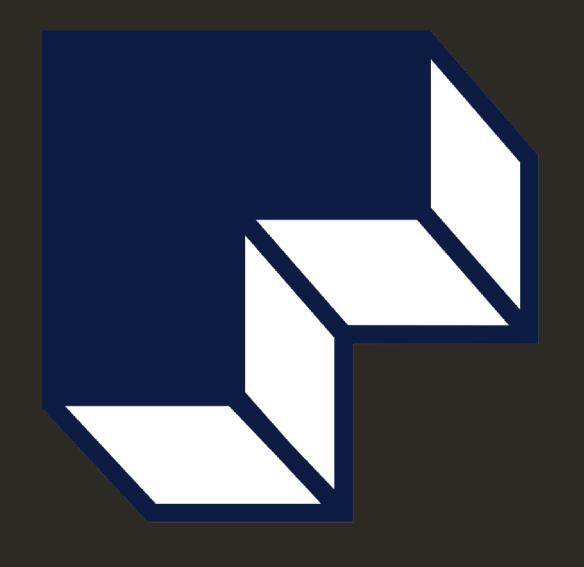
The Background

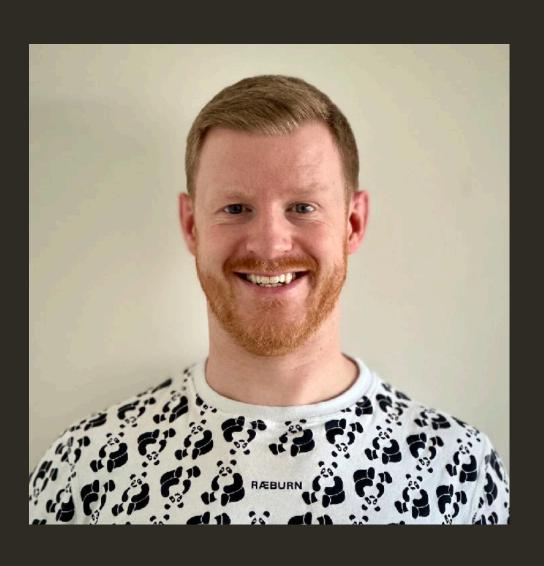














Mike McQuaid

https://github.com/MikeMcQuaid

https://mastodon.social/@mikemcquaid

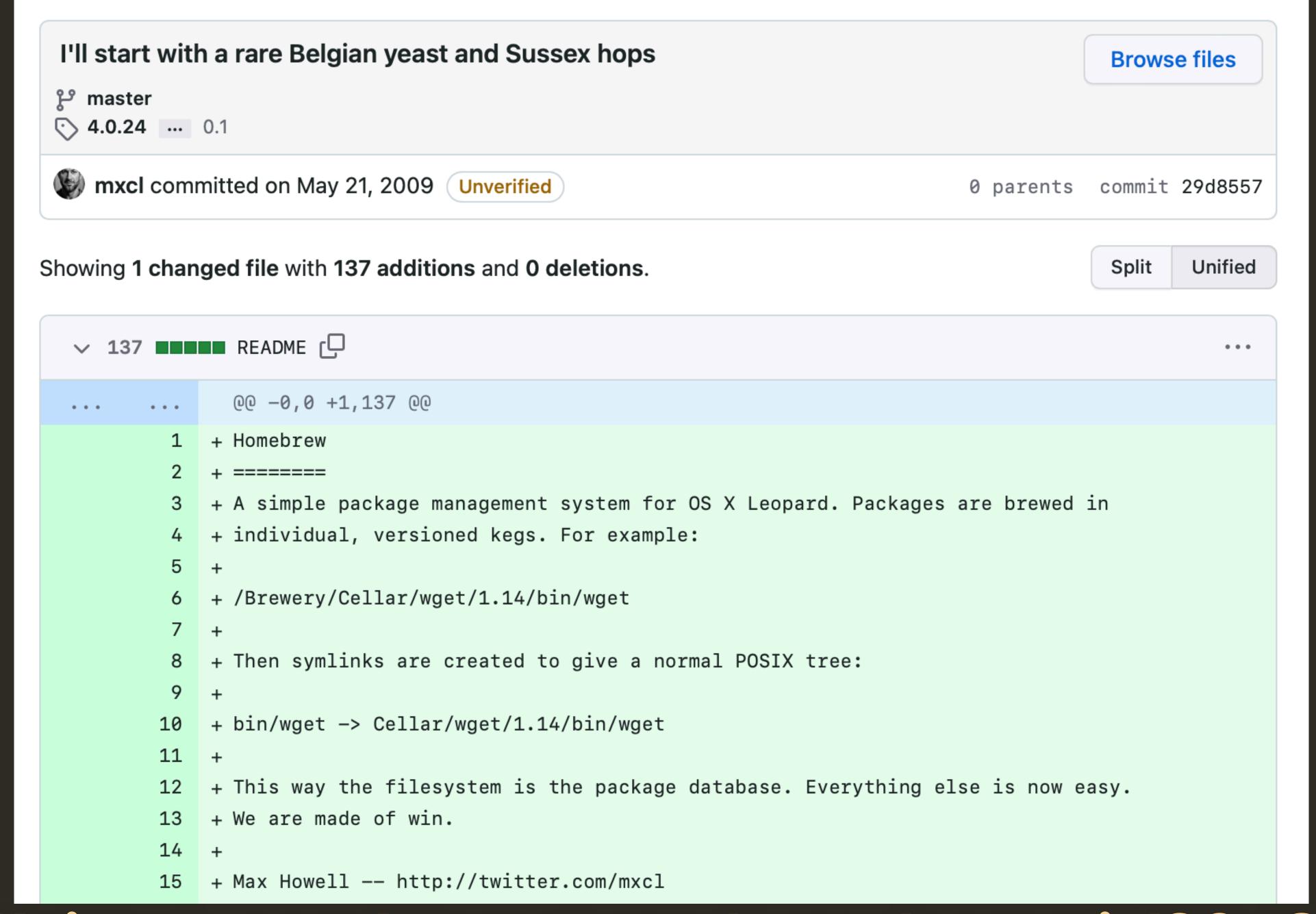
https://twitter.com/MikeMcQuaid

Why everything should have a URL

<u>TL;DR</u>: By naturally capturing and exposing process and sharing it as widely as is appropriate for the subject matter, URLs render organizational context time and location agnostic allowing knowledge to move more freely within an organization on an asynchronous, discoverable, and opt-in basis.

At GitHub, there's an ironically unwritten mantra that "everything must have a URL". While that's obviously a bit of a hyperbole, there's something to be said for preferring systems that naturally <u>capture and expose process</u>, and thus preferring systems that can render organizational context time and location agnostic.

You see, humans have a terrible fidelity for retaining historic context, deliberative process, and decision pedigree. As an organization works towards its mission—be it a three-person team or an entire company — discussions are held, decisions are made, and ideally, artifacts are created as a result. The problem is, most often, those decision artifacts focus on what decisions were made, not who made them, or more importantly why.



https://github.com/Homebrew/brew/commit/29d85578e

```
129
     + FAQ
130
131
     + Are you excessively interested in beer?
132
133
    + Yes.
134
135
     + Was Homebrew devised under the influence of alchohol?
136
137
    + Yes.
```

https://github.com/Homebrew/brew/commit/29d85578e



Google: 90% of our engineers use the software you wrote (Homebrew), but you can't invert a binary tree on a whiteboard so f k off.

6:07 PM · Jun 10, 2015

7,287 Retweets 583 Quotes 15K Likes 378 Bookmarks

https://twitter.com/mxcl/status/608682016205344768

Contributors 898























+ 887 contributors

Languages

- Ruby 90.6%
- Shell 6.2%

- Roff 2.4%
- HTML 0.6%
- - Swift 0.1% Dockerfile 0.1%

https://github.com/Homebrew/brew

Contributors 5,000+



















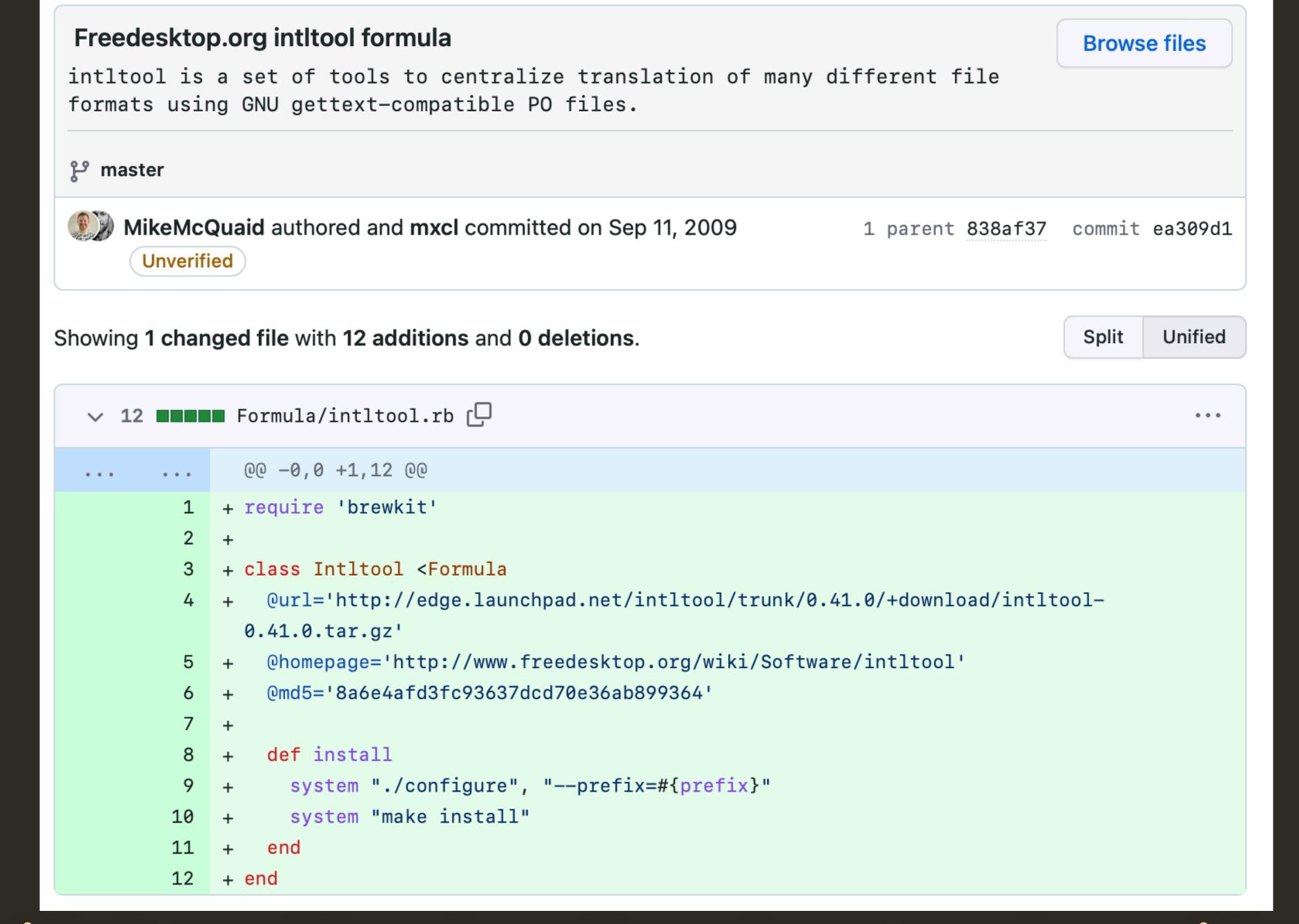


+ 10,104 contributors

Languages

Ruby 100.0%

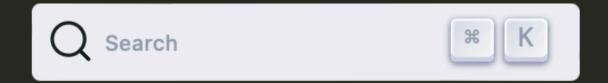
https://github.com/Homebrew/homebrew-core



https://github.com/Homebrew/homebrew-core/commit/ea309d16



Homebrew Documentation



Bottles (Binary Packages)

Bottles are produced by installing a formula with brew install —build—bottle <formula> and then bottling it with brew bottle <formula>. This generates a bottle file in the current directory and outputs the bottle DSL for insertion into the formula file.

Usage

When the formula being installed defines a bottle matching your system, it will be downloaded and installed automatically when you run brew install <formula>.

https://docs.brew.sh/Bottles

Bottle DSL (Domain Specific Language)

Bottles are specified in formula definitions by a DSL contained within a bottle do ... end block.

A simple (and typical) example:

https://docs.brew.sh/Bottles

The Crisis



Into the Sunset on May 1st: Bintray, GoCenter, and ChartCenter



By Stephen Chin February 3, 2021

O 4 min read



JFrog is making some important changes that will impact users of Bintray, JCenter (part of Bintray), GoCenter, and ChartCenter.

Bintray has provided the open source community a free, universal cloud platform for publishing and distributing binaries. Bintray helped JFrog support the Java community as the host of the JCenter repository for Java OSS libraries, packages and components. We launched GoCenter and ChartCenter to extend similar services to the Go and cloud-native communities.

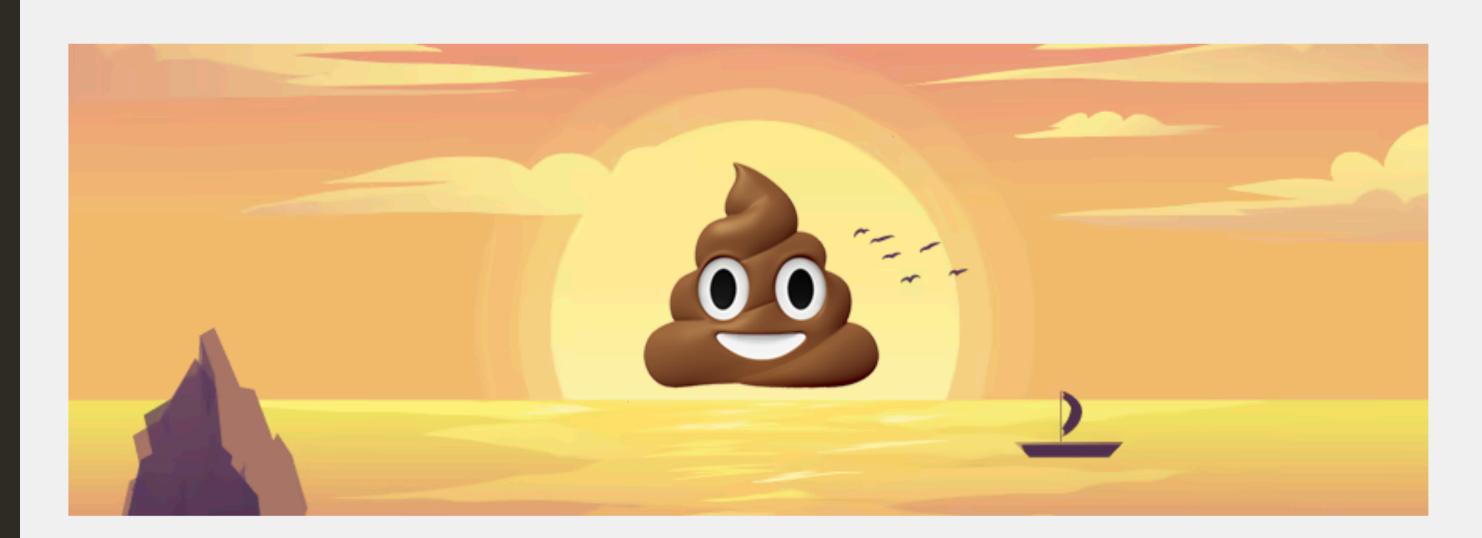
https://jfrog.com/blog/into-the-sunset-bintray-jcenter-gocenter-and-chartcenter/

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https://jfrog.com/blog/into-the-sunset-bintray-jcenter-gocenter-and-chartcenter/

Here are some answers to questions you're likely to have:

What happens after the sunset of Bintray?

On May 1, 2021, the sunset will impact all existing Bintray users. Bintray users will be blocked and will no longer be able to use the Bintray service. This includes existing software distribution, account administrative access, UI access, and the REST API.

What happens to my data after Bintray is sunset?

All of the data on Bintray is available for download through May 1st and we encourage you to transfer it out. JFrog will begin deleting data several weeks after the official sunset date and will not retain any Bintray data after that.

https://jfrog.com/blog/into-the-sunset-bintray-jcenter-gocenter-and-chartcenter/



https://www.amazon.co.uk/lts-Not-Fair-Anita-Harper/dp/1853408972



Edward Thomson 17:39

Hello! Curious - how does bintray shutdown affect homebrew?



Mike McQuaid 17:40

lol I've emailed them now

anything from "it doesn't" to "we should plan a migration" to "we're f

can talk more tomorrow



Edward Thomson • 17:40



haha ok

yeah feel free to grab some time

as someone who has a big cdn and is in the business of sending people packages, i wonder if i can help.





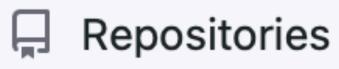


Homebrew

Q Type // to search



Overview









People

Sponsoring

51

Bintray shuts down #691



Answered by MikeMcQuaid

AlekSi asked this question in Everyday usage



AlekSi on Feb 4, 2021

https://jfrog.com/blog/into-the-sunset-bintray-jcenter-gocenter-and-chartcenter/

Will it affect Homebrew's bottles?









The Investigation





Mike McQuaid 15:16

well I'm currently talking with @ethomson and the NPM folks about building something to host all our binary packages before May so I may push on that first lest we get accused of asking for too much https://jfrog.com/blog/into-the-sunset-bintray-jcenter-gocenter-and-chartcenter/



JFrog

Into the Sunset: Bintray, JCenter, GoCenter, and ChartCenter

To streamline the productivity of the JFrog Platform we will be sunsetting Bintray (including JCenter), GoCenter, and ChartCenter services on May 1st, 2021.

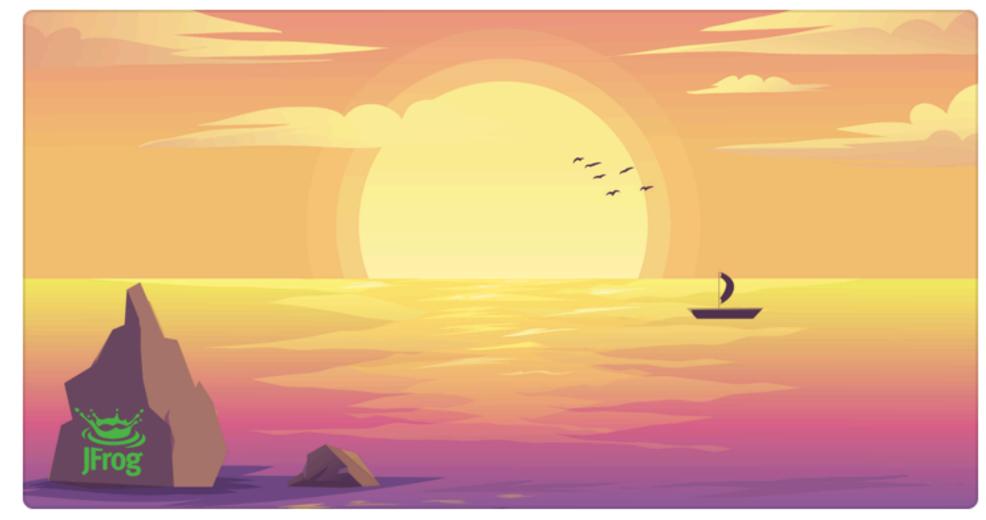
Written by

Est. reading time

giannit

3 minutes

3 Feb (70 kB) -







2 replies Last reply 2 months ago



Nat Friedman 15:17

I wish we would do that too

Bintray is going away and we need to figure out how to replace it. Bintray offered two services bundled in one that will need to be replaced: file storage and CDN. They will be discontinuing their services on May 1.

Our current requirements are:

- 2.5 TB storage (30% increase over last year)
- 450 TB monthly bandwidth (80% increase over last year)
- 30 million monthly requests (50% increase over last year)

Internet Archive

The Internet Archive are willing to store bottles for us. They already host bottles for tigerbrew and brewsci. There are some unresolved technical issues that would need to be figured out before we could fully commit to them. They have asked us to avoid putting all bottles in a single Archive Item due to load balancing concerns. This is an issue for us because we need to be able to ensure that we have some kind of namespace available for us to fill with arbitrary formula names. Some kind of mapping could be maintained but this would need to be explored. Misty and Shaun are working on figuring this part out.

One non-technical advantage of the Internet Archive over other providers is that it is another nonprofit like the Software Freedom Conservancy, our host organization.

GitHub

GitHub have privately suggested to us that they could help us out. It's not clear what kind of timeline they have for this given the hard deadline of May 1.

OCI Image Format Specification

build unknown

The OCI Image Format project creates and maintains the software shipping container image format spec (OCI Image Format).

The specification can be found here.

This repository also provides Go types, intra-blob validation tooling, and JSON Schema. The Go types and validation should be compatible with the current Go release; earlier Go releases are not supported.

Additional documentation about how this group operates:

- Code of Conduct
- Roadmap
- Releases
- Project Documentation

OCI Artifacts

So we now know what OCI images are, what are OCI Artifacts? The <u>Artifacts</u> initiative set out to make the registry format a bit more generic, to allow for users to store and distribute arbitrary files. We've already had blob storage and binary distribution systems for years, so why would we want to reuse a container format? Well, it turns out the container format has some really nice features that make it suitable for other environments (mostly the content addressable API).

It's also widely supported by platform vendors, and finally happens to be the only real dependency to bring up a production Kubernetes environment. You need to host the k8s images themselves somewhere. While it is possible to run a registry in a Kubernetes cluster, that starts to bring in some chickenand-egg problems.

https://dlorenc.medium.com/oci-artifacts-explained-8f4a77945c13



It's not clear what kind of timeline they have for this given the hard deadline of May 1.

I'm meeting with GitHub again today to discuss this. They are aware of the hard deadline. The CEO has said "we should be doing this".

That said, I understand that others will not have the degree of confidence I have in GitHub to deliver here (and, additionally, even I don't want to put all my eggs in the GitHub basket).

This is possible but unpleasant and we'd probably have to pay a maintainer to do this.

Running an anycast CDN is probably out of scope for Homebrew and is likely not possible in the timeline we have.

Agreed. I think it's worth discounting self-hosting out of hand entirely. We do not have the expertise to maintain this securely and effectively on our team.

Given @mistydemeo and @sjackman have built relationships and tooling already with the Internet Archive I'm tempted to suggest that this be our backup. They/we want to archive all old bottles anyway, we can put a CDN in front of them with little work/changes on our side so it's a nice fallback.

I'd suggest we push back on changing the URL scheme for our bottles for them, if they can. It's going to make our life a lot harder to do.

Assuming that GitHub comes through in time: we use that. That's my €£\$0.02





New items are in a single global namespace, so someone non-Homebrew could squat on an item name like say homebrew-core-gcc@11.

Although the Archive.org flat file structure currently being used by Linuxbrew-core and Brewsci/bio provide an URL that is compatible with HOMEBREW_BOTTLE_DOMAIN, they have asked us not to put all of the bottles in a single item.

This makes me really, really nervous. Personally, this mains the only selling point for the Internet Archive be "it is free". It's going to be way too simple for someone to upload something and make it look official.

We have enough money that I don't think we should be taking this risk. I'd suggest for an intermediate step we use e.g. an Amazon S3 bucket where we don't have any of these same requirements and we have enough money to pay for it until May without any problems.

I'd like to take this opportunity of migrating the bottles to a new provider to use two hyphens for remote bottle filenames as well.

This makes sense to me 👍





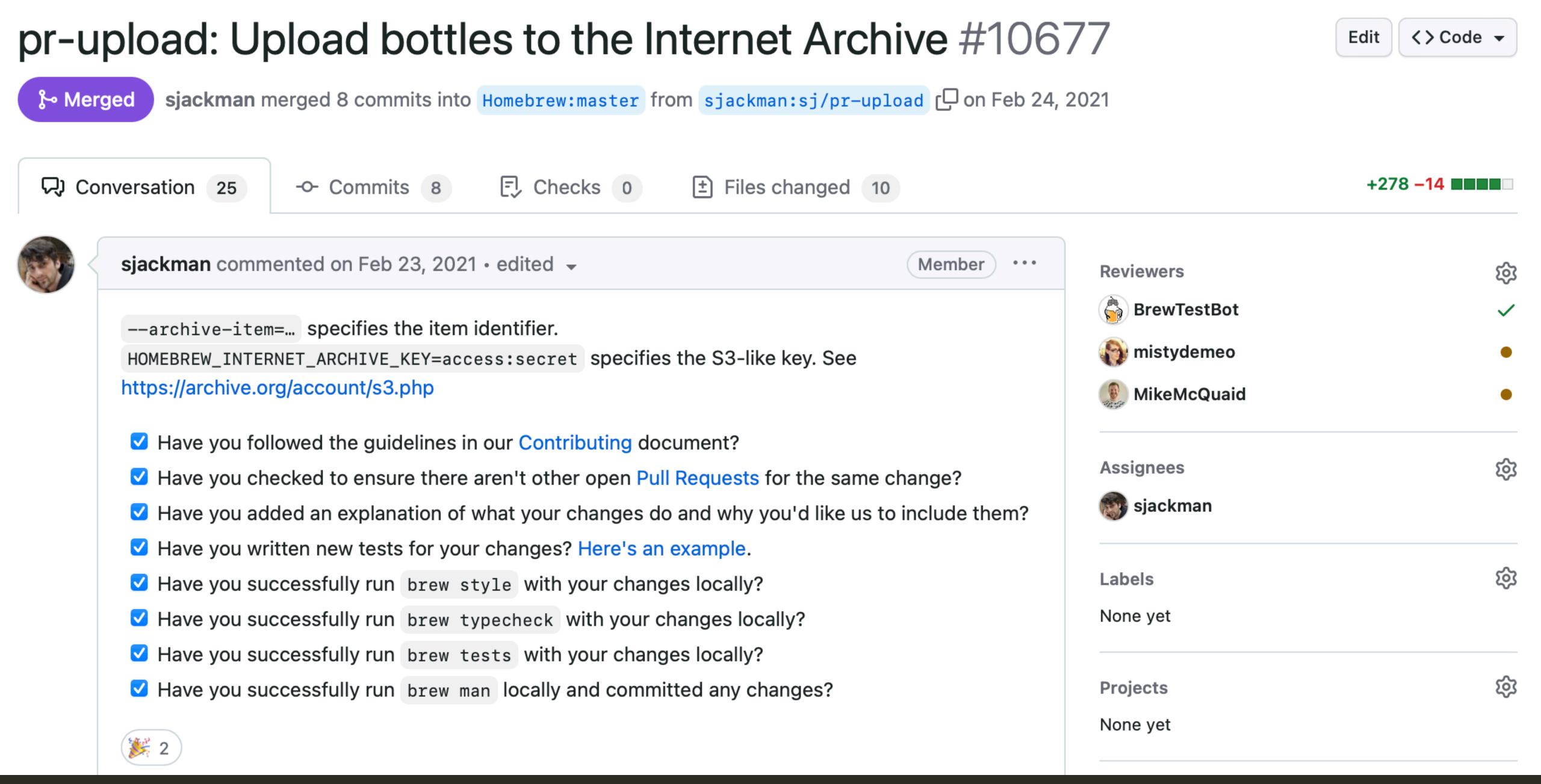


To me: these point towards GitHub Packages. That I'm employed by GitHub is irrelevant here; no-one internally has told me to work on any of this (and the fact that the project leader/maintainer is spending my work time on this and having management up to the CEO defending me from being reassigned to other work should be seen as a positive rather than negative). I am not going to propose to move Homebrew to a solution I think is technically inferior or going to cause us problems in the longer-term.

I have not criticized your capacity as a GitHub employee at all. I'd appreciate it if we could focus on the technical aspects of this rather than assuming that any of my arguments here are related to your employment relationship.

The Implementation





https://github.com/Homebrew/brew/pull/10677



MikeMcQuaid commented on Mar 12, 2021

Given that we already have code to upload bottles with an S3-compatible API like Internet Archive or Backblaze, and that downloading files from a URL is something that Homebrew already does, it would be a mistake to not explore simpler options for file storage.

GitHub's service is built and working for us to use

When Homebrew/brew#10835 lands (today, most likely) we'll have bottle upload and download working for GitHub Packages and could migrate immediately (with a few rough edges).

It's worth noting that for The Internet Archive: our uploader as-is does not upload into the locations that they want/need us to use.









My engineering experience on Homebrew, GitHub and elsewhere makes me tend towards systems with a few attributes:

- Reliant on as few external providers as possible (i.e. in this case just GitHub rather than GitHub and Bintray rather than GitHub and Internet Archive and CloudFlare). The more layers of providers, the greater chance that your downtime in either of them will result in downtime for the whole system.
- Prefer providers you and those building the systems already have experience with
- Prefer the solutions that end up with the most people gravitating towards them
- When there's existing solutions, prefer those where your load is not going to be the majority of that system

To me: these point towards GitHub Packages. That I'm employed by GitHub is irrelevant here; no-one internally has told me to work on any of this (and the fact that the project leader/maintainer is spending my work time on this and having management up to the CEO defending me from being reassigned to other work should be seen as a positive rather than negative). I am not going to propose to move Homebrew to a solution I think is technically inferior or going to cause us problems in the longer-term.







In the case where our storage provider already has a CDN, we wouldn't be using Cloudflare CDN, just their URL rewriting services and possibly DNS. I think Greg and Sam are working on the URL rewriting stuff.

I don't think we should be using their URL rewriting or DNS services if we are not using them as a CDN. They will become another point of complexity and failure. We do not have any issues with our existing DNS services (quite the contrary).

I don't think it's overkill if we are considering migrating our bottles to something where we are going to be the first users for github.

We're not going to be the first users. We're already using the same infrastructure for our Docker images.

I think it's fine to opt into beta features for less critical things like discussions or issue templates, but I am not confident in going all in on it for bottle storage.

This is not a beta feature. It's was in beta when released two years ago.

Given that we already have code to upload bottles with an S3-compatible API like Internet Archive or Backblaze, and that downloading files from a URL is something that Homebrew already does, it would be a mistake to not explore simpler options for file storage.

I have no objections with any exploration with the caveat that we're duplicating work to some extent and this is going to result in some code/explorations being thrown away.

I don't think a simpler option for file storage is an argument in favour of adopting another platform. For better or worse, Homebrew is incredibly tied in and reliant on GitHub. Having our packages hosted by the same provider as our source code seems like a logical move to me.

Pragmatically, GitHub has a few other things going for it:

- we have multiple GitHub employees who are Homebrew maintainers
- we have an existing relationship with GitHub outside of these Homebrew maintainers
- the GitHub CEO reached out to the Project Leader as soon as this incident occurred suggesting that it's something GitHub should do to help
- we have staff at GitHub working on helping us with this
- we have a \$1000/month sponsorship from GitHub

None of these apply to any other providers.

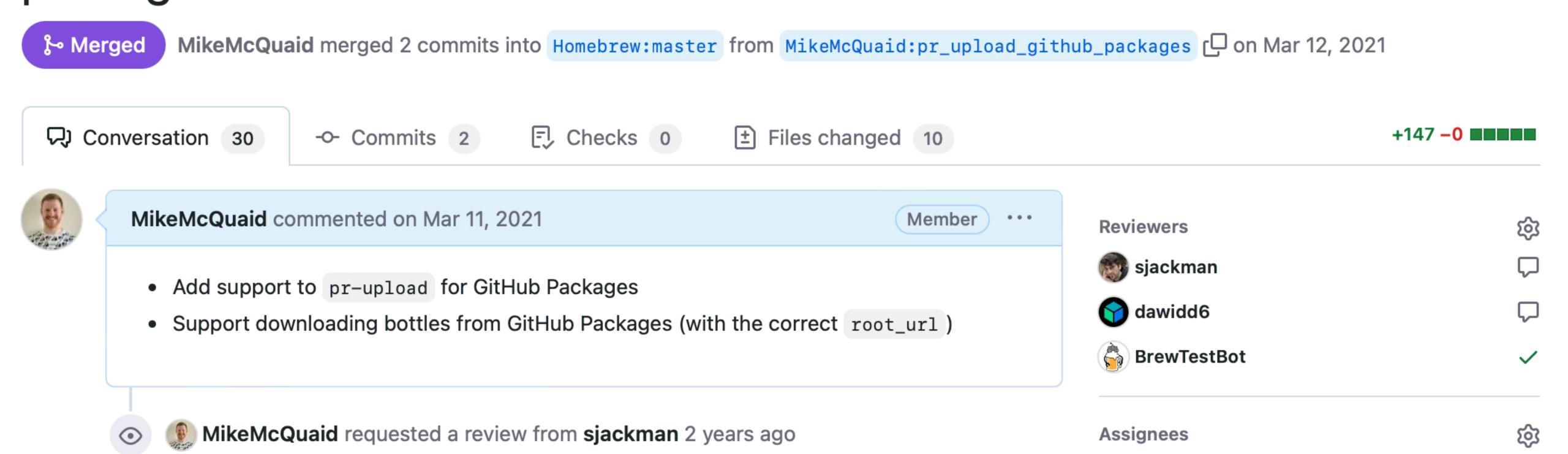
None of this is to say "don't investigate anything else" but: we're still several months away from the deadline and GitHub's service is built and working for us to use. We can investigate other options but I think it would be a mistake to plan on a move to Not GitHub Packages.





Support uploading and downloading bottles from GitHub packages #10835







Revert



MikeMcQuaid deleted the pr_upload_github_packages branch 2 years ago

Restore branch



MikeMcQuaid commented on Mar 12, 2021

Member

Author

Thanks for feedback @sjackman and @dawidd6! All but one comment addressed. Feel free to make more PRs to improve this code. Onwards and upwards! 🚀



sjackman commented on Mar 13, 2021

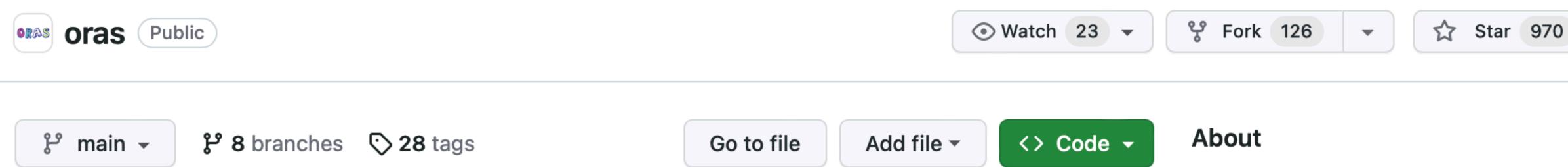
Member

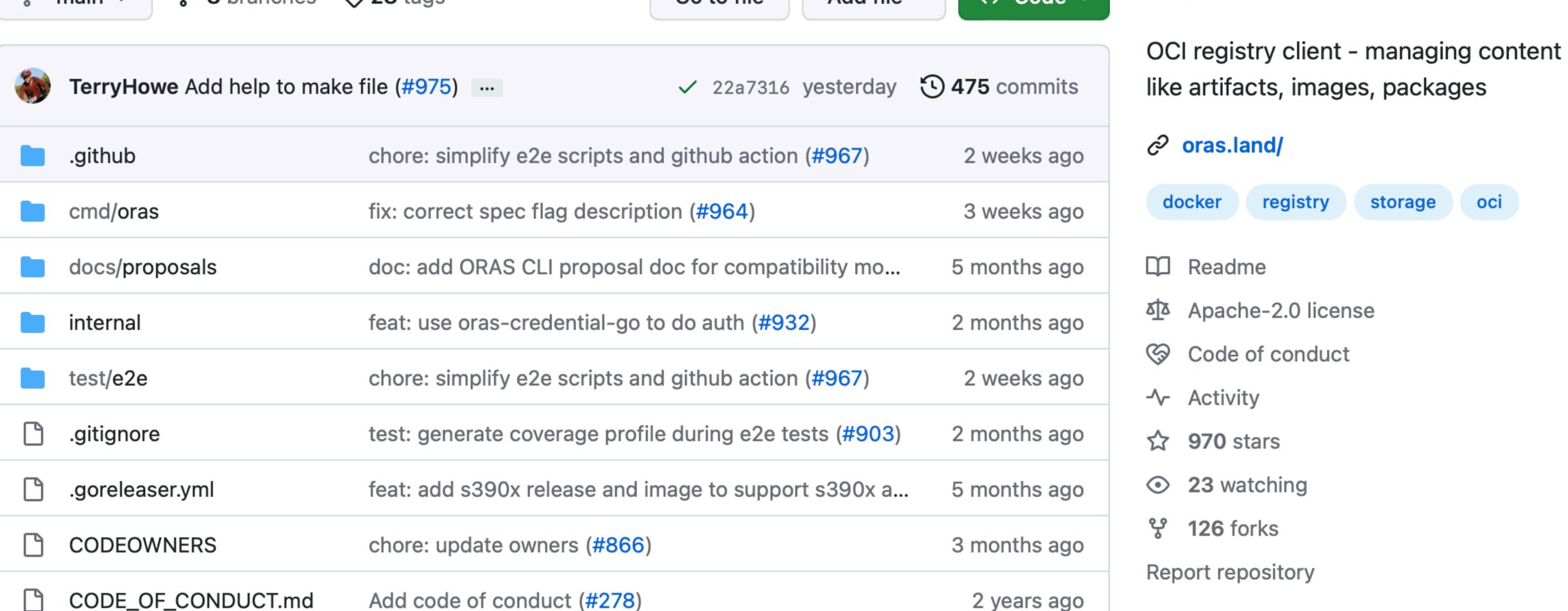
Cool to see the GitHub Packages UI supporting that multi arch stuff already 🎉

https://github.com/orgs/brewsci/packages/container/package/bio/ssm

I hadn't even noticed the OS / Arch tab. Cool!

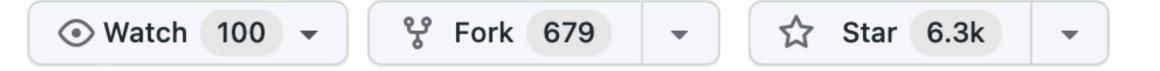
https://github.com/Homebrew/brew/pull/10835

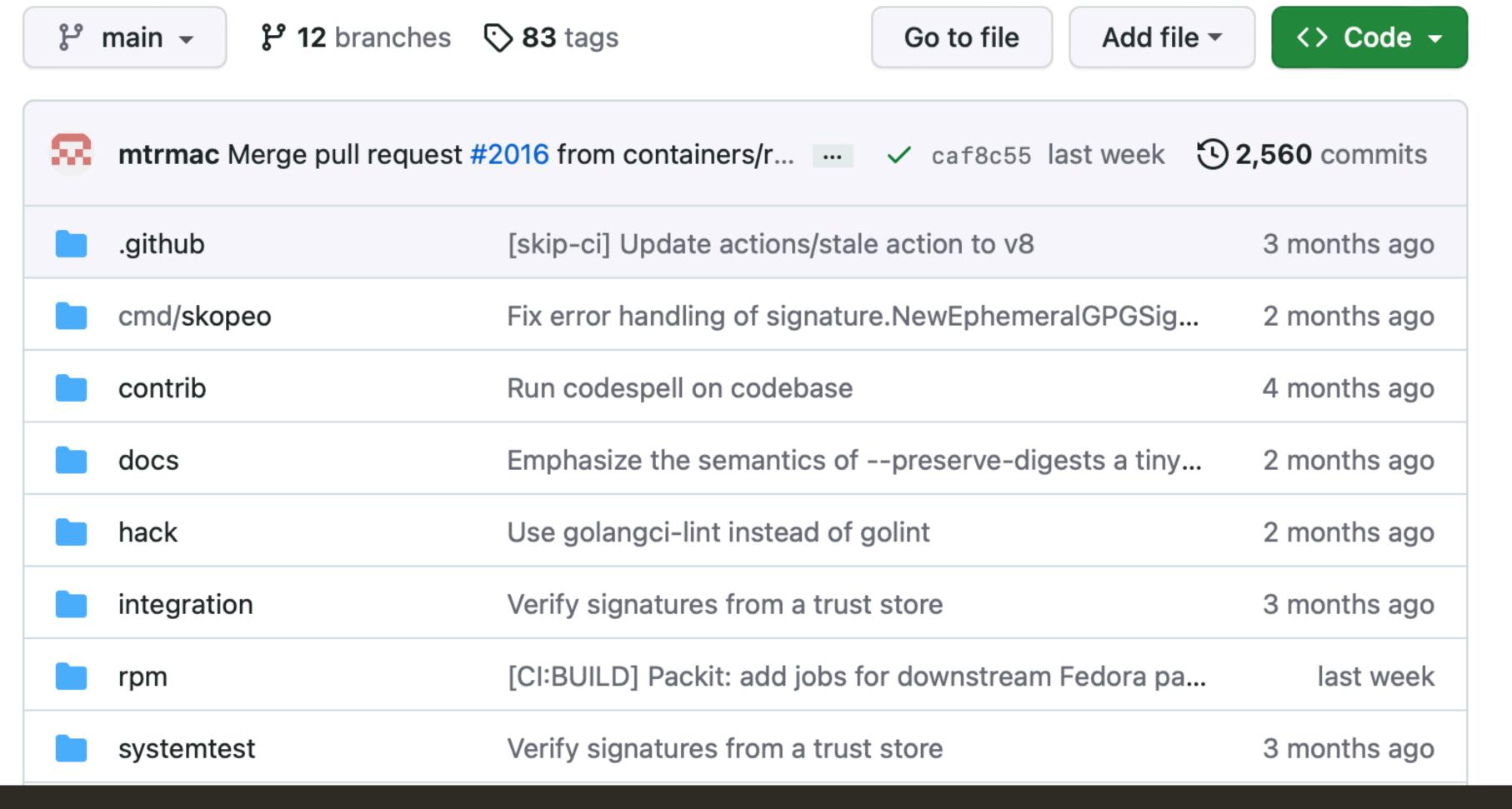




https://github.com/oras-project/oras







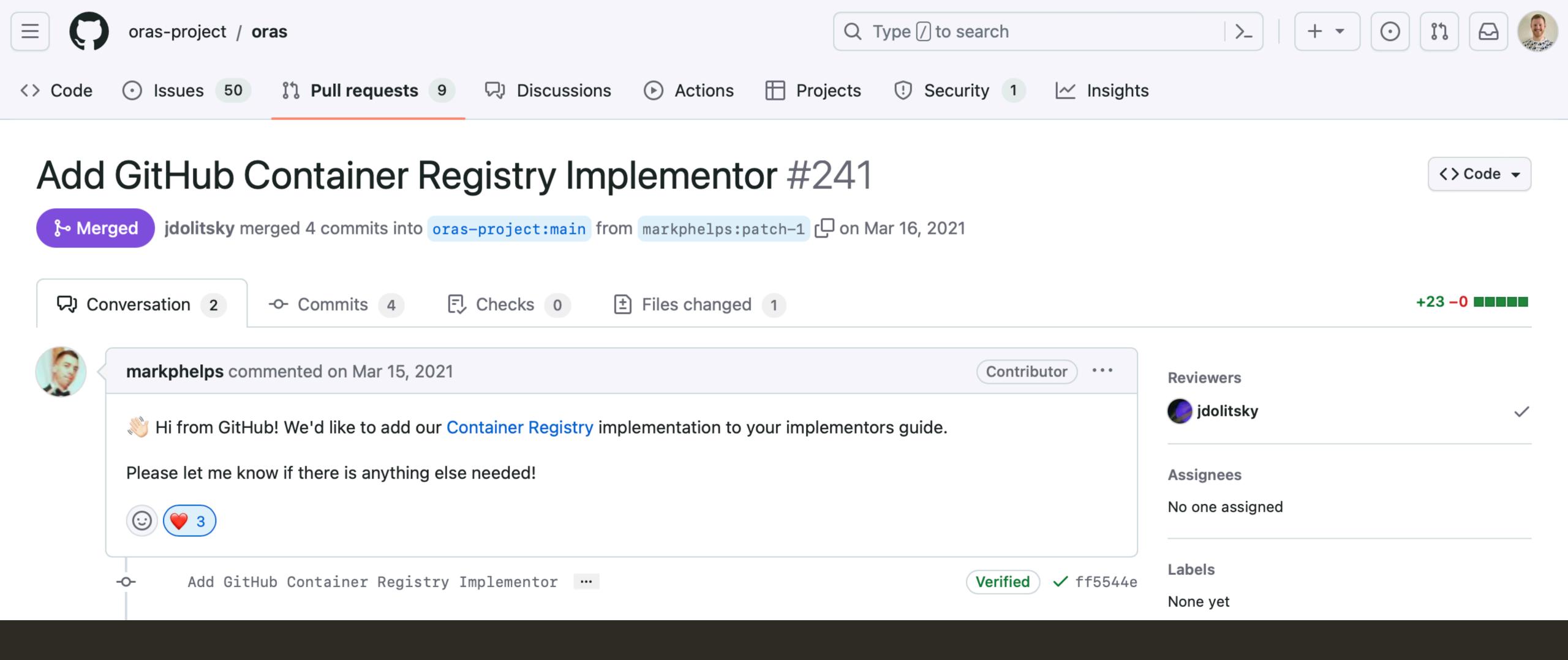
About

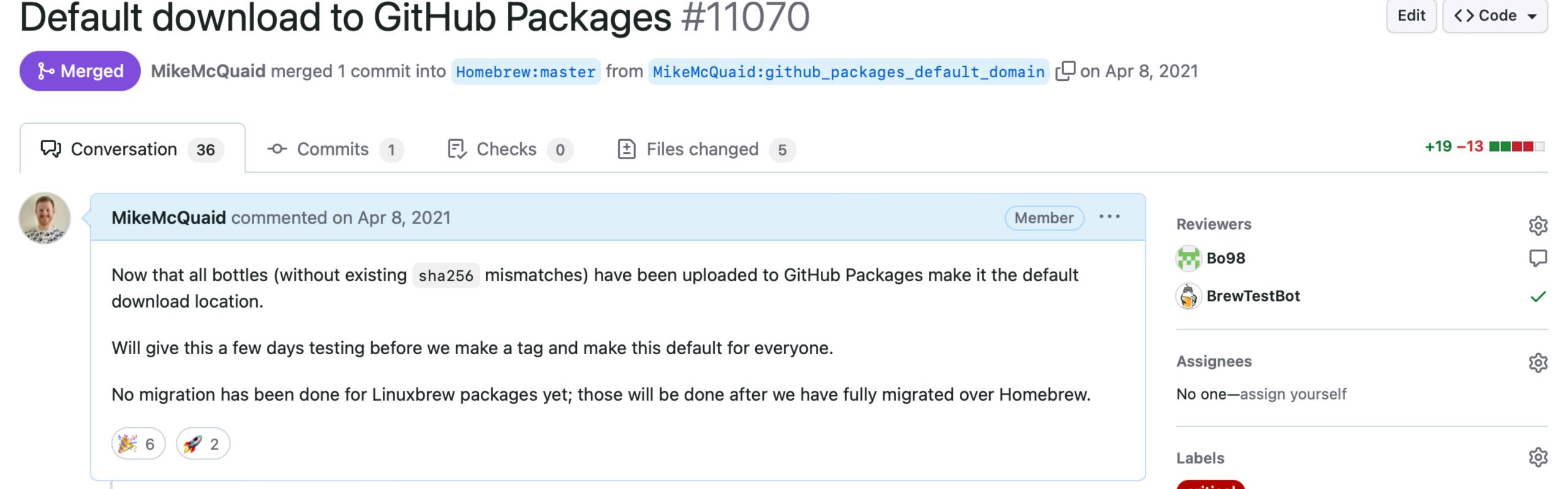
Work with remote images registries - retrieving information, images, signing content

- Readme
- Apache-2.0 license
- © Code of conduct
- Security policy
- -∿ Activity
 - 6.3k stars
- 100 watching
- **679** forks

Report repository

https://github.com/containers/skopeo





Bintray shuts down #691



Answered by MikeMcQuaid

AlekSi asked this question in Everyday usage



AlekSi on Feb 4, 2021

https://jfrog.com/blog/into-the-sunset-bintray-jcenter-gocenter-and-chartcenter/

Will it affect Homebrew's bottles?











Answered by MikeMcQuaid on Apr 8, 2021

I can confirm that we've migrated Homebrew's binary packages to GitHub Packages: https://github.com/orgs/Homebrew/packages

This will be the default download location as-of the next Homebrew stable release: Homebrew/brew#11070

View full answer ↓

https://github.com/orgs/Homebrew/discussions/691

• •

Now that we've officially moved to GitHub Packages (as of 3.1.0), separated the GitHub tokens, and configured commit signing, is there more to do here?





MikeMcQuaid commented on Apr 13, 2021

Now that we've officially moved to GitHub Packages (as of 3.1.0), separated the GitHub tokens, and configured commit signing, is there more to do here?

No, I don't think so . Great work everyone and a particularly shout-out to @sjackman and @Bo98 for GitHub Packages work and @nandahkrishna for the GPG signing work.

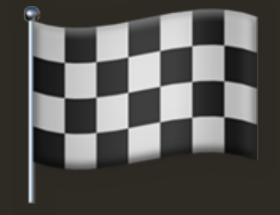


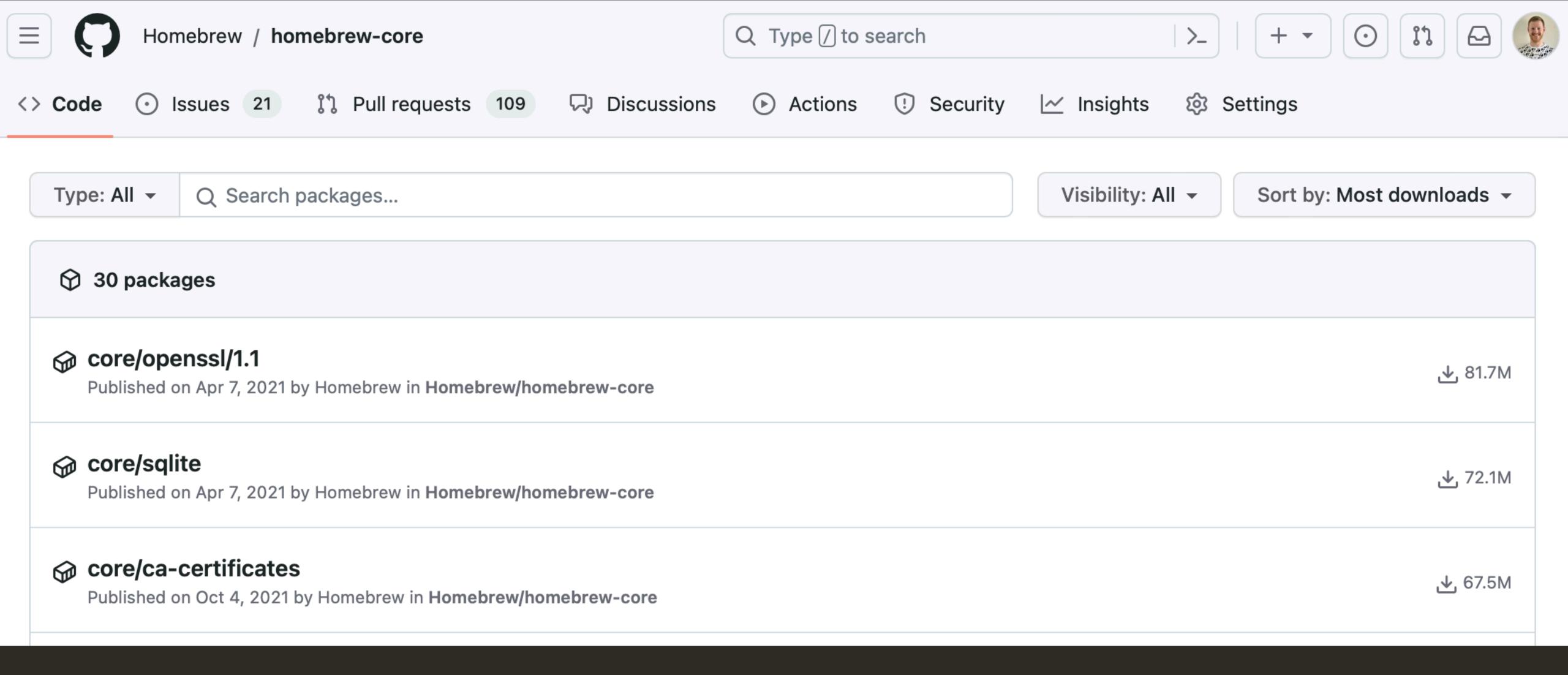






The Result

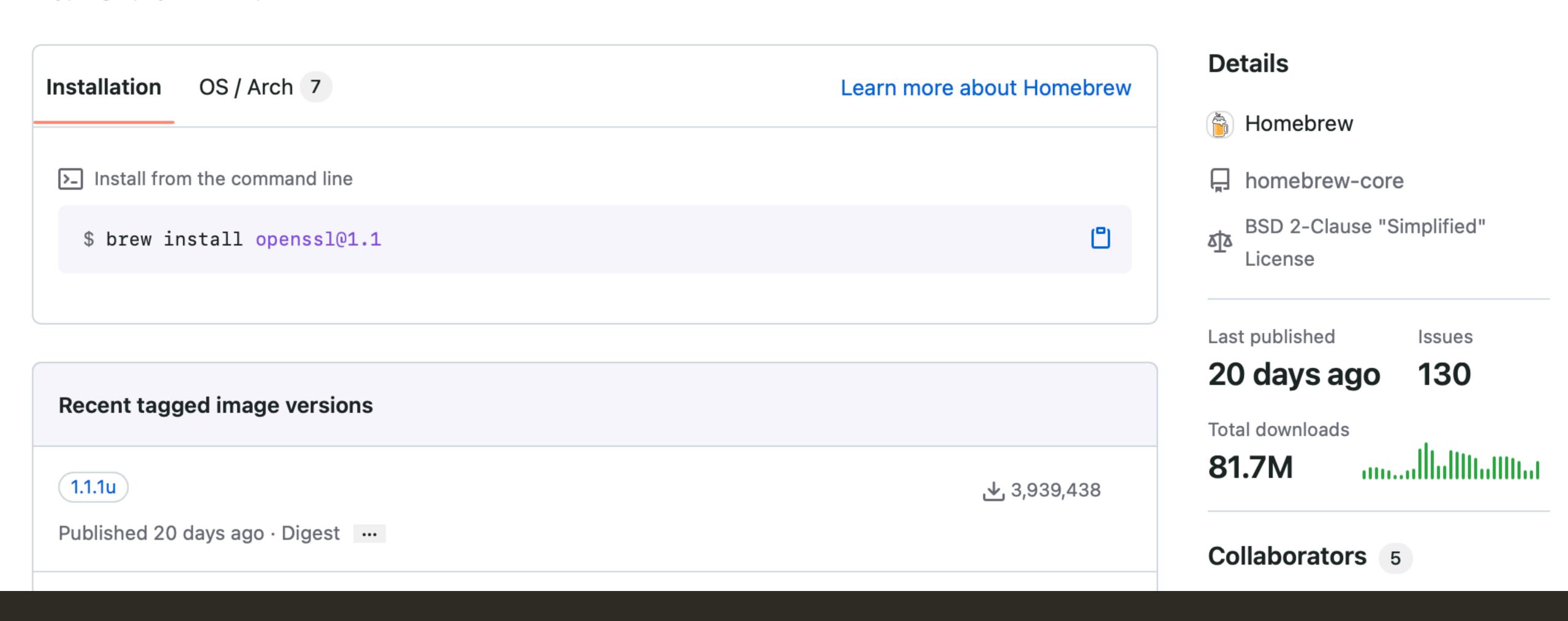




https://github.com/homebrew/homebrew-core/packages

core/openssl/1.1

Cryptography and SSL/TLS Toolkit



core/openssl/1.1

Cryptography and SSL/TLS Toolkit

OS / Arch 7 Installation Learn more about Homebrew darwin/macos 11.7/amd64 \$ docker pull ghcr.io/homebrew/core/openssl/1.1:1.1.1u@sha256:be88e83eef091328662d941b3755e9ed556c37 bafaf97e8133360f3d8e2fbd08 darwin/macos 11.7/arm64 \$ docker pull ghcr.io/homebrew/core/openssl/1.1:1.1.1u@sha256:0ac579641d625e58416bb53384eab0da738862 e785f435e17f171955e2ccf242









Last published

Issues

20 days ago 130

Total downloads



Collaborators 5

```
[mikebook # cat /opt/homebrew/opt/wget/INSTALL_RECEIPT.json | jq .
                                                                              (master) [~/OSS/Homebrew] ]
  "homebrew_version": "4.0.17-61-g5f2ccd2",
  "used_options": [],
  "unused_options": [],
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  "poured_from_bottle": true,
  "loaded_from_api": true,
  "installed_as_dependency": false,
  "installed_on_request": true,
  "changed_files": [],
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  "source_modified_time": 1683766951,
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  "aliases": [],
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      "version": "1.1",
      "declared_directly": false
    },
      "full_name": "gettext",
      "version": "0.21.1",
      "declared_directly": false
      "full_name": "libidn2",
      "version": "2.3.4",
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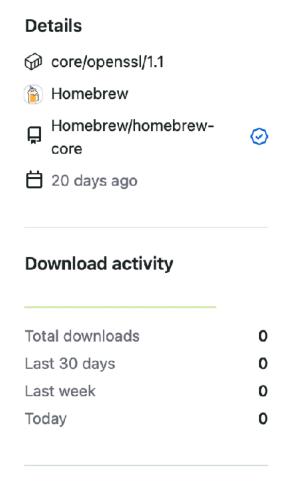


About this version

Cryptography and SSL/TLS Toolkit

Manifest

```
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},
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  "sh.brew.bottle.digest": "c1ad47b050b0e9459a70d567867435473a2a5cdb6810081a01afb9db6
  "org.opencontainers.image.revision": "eb02de1c01aeaa87a1e7a15ad4c8e192df4121ec",
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  "org.opencontainers.image.version": "1.1.1u",
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  "org.opencontainers.image.documentation": "https://formulae.brew.sh/formula/openss]
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  "sh.brew.bottle.size": "5325557",
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Reproducible builds are a set of software development practices that create an independently-verifiable path from source to binary code. (more)

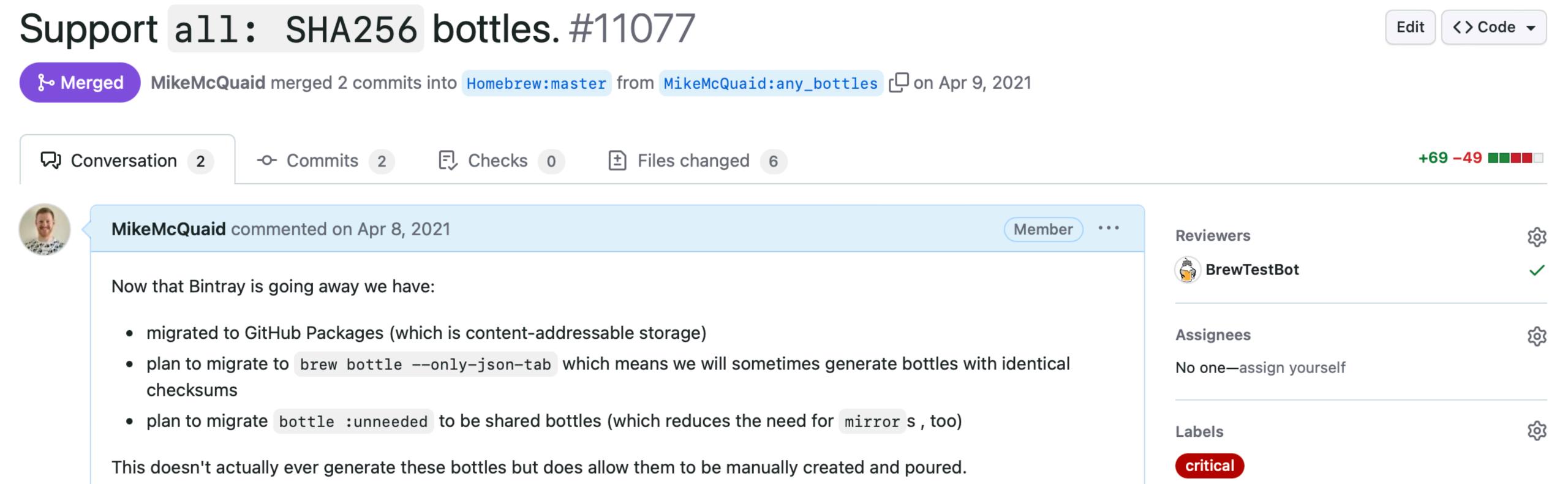
Home News Documentation Tools Who is involved? Talks Events

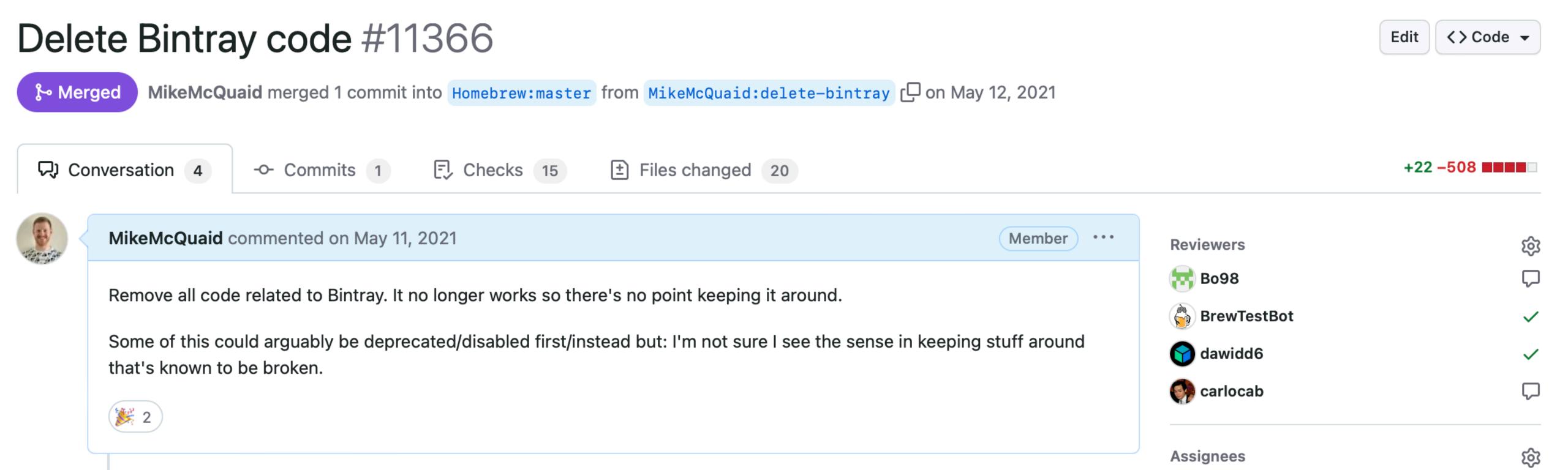
Continuous tests Contribute

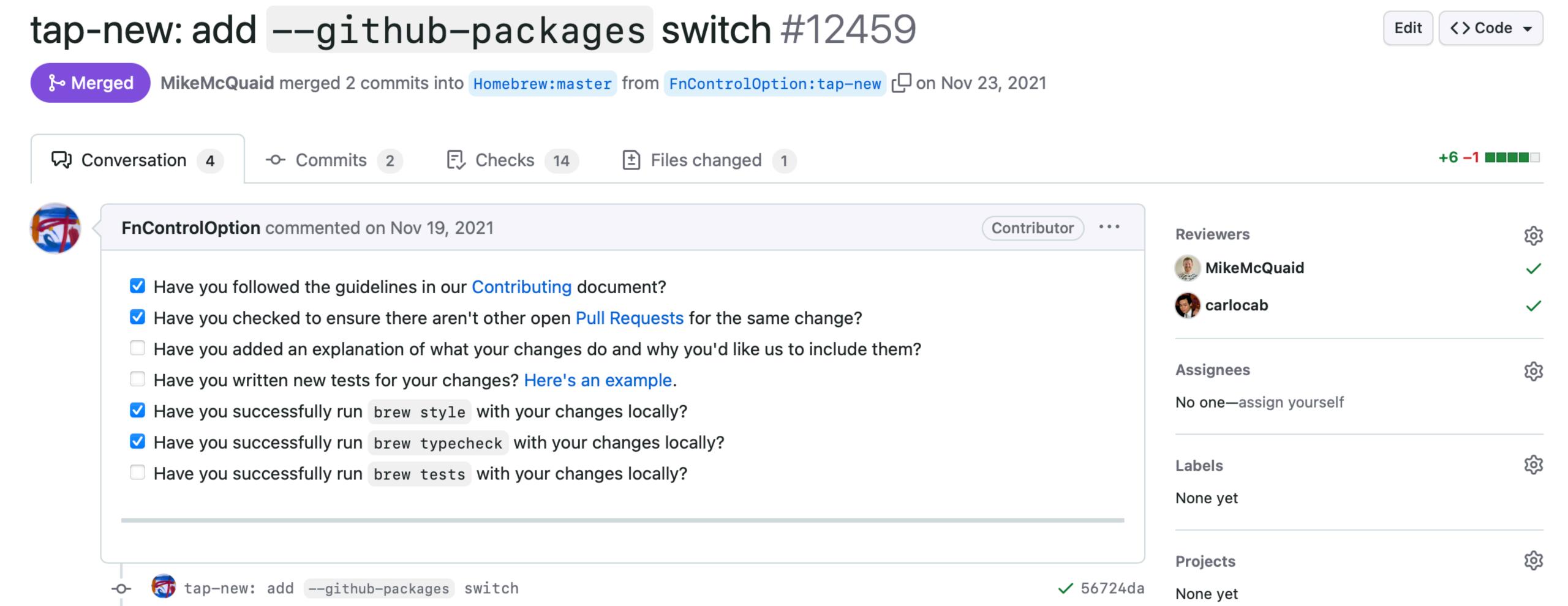
Why does it matter?

Whilst anyone may inspect the source code of free and open source software for malicious flaws, most software is distributed pre-compiled with no method to confirm whether they correspond.

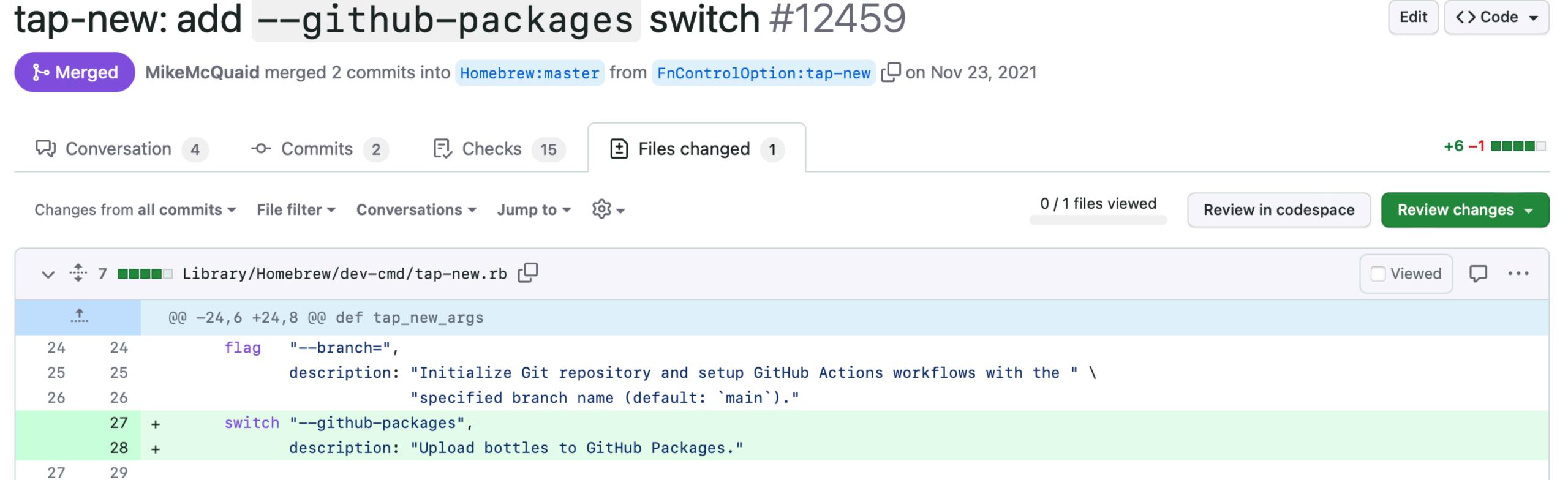
https://reproducible-builds.org

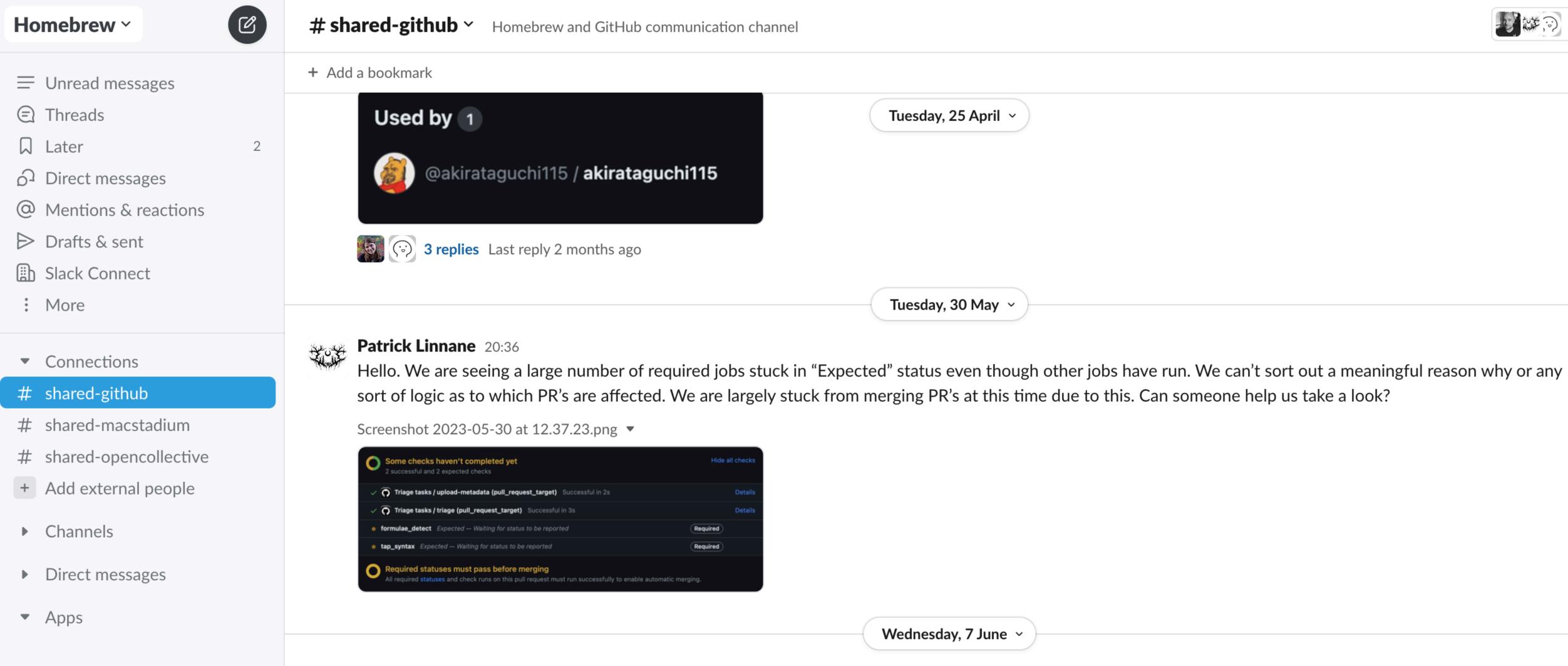


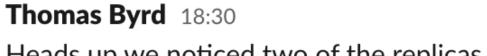




https://github.com/Homebrew/brew/pull/12459





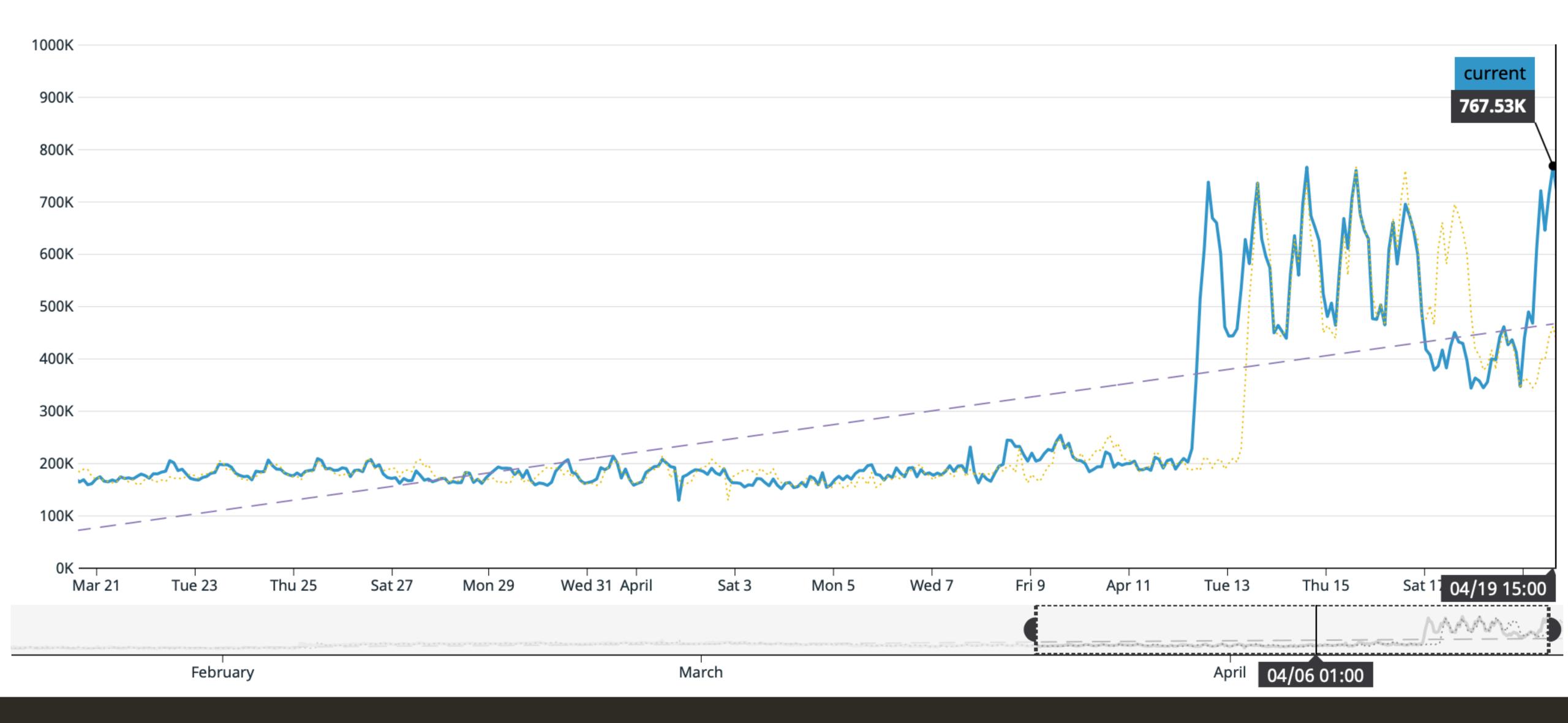


Heads up we noticed two of the replicas for formulae.brew.sh were in a bad state on pages and repaired them. This has been causing the scheduled builds to fail https://github.com/Homebrew/formulae.brew.sh/actions

₩, ⊙ 47

Get Manifest Successes





Don't just take our word for it

Many developers and organizations have started using the Container registry as a part of key workloads. We're excited to highlight a few stories of how developers are turning to the Container registry to solve their needs.

Homebrew now hosts all of their bottles on the Container registry. This was made possible because the Container registry supports OCI images. Homebrew can now distribute over a half a petabyte of binary packages to their users every month while surfacing them in GitHub search for improved discoverability. Shaun Jackman, a Homebrew maintainer, found the OCI support particularly useful and said, "GHCR's implementation of ORAS/OCI provides a standard API to query, upload, and download binary artifacts, so that Homebrew could use off-the-shelf compatible tools, easing our migration of bottle storage to GHCR."

The Aftermath

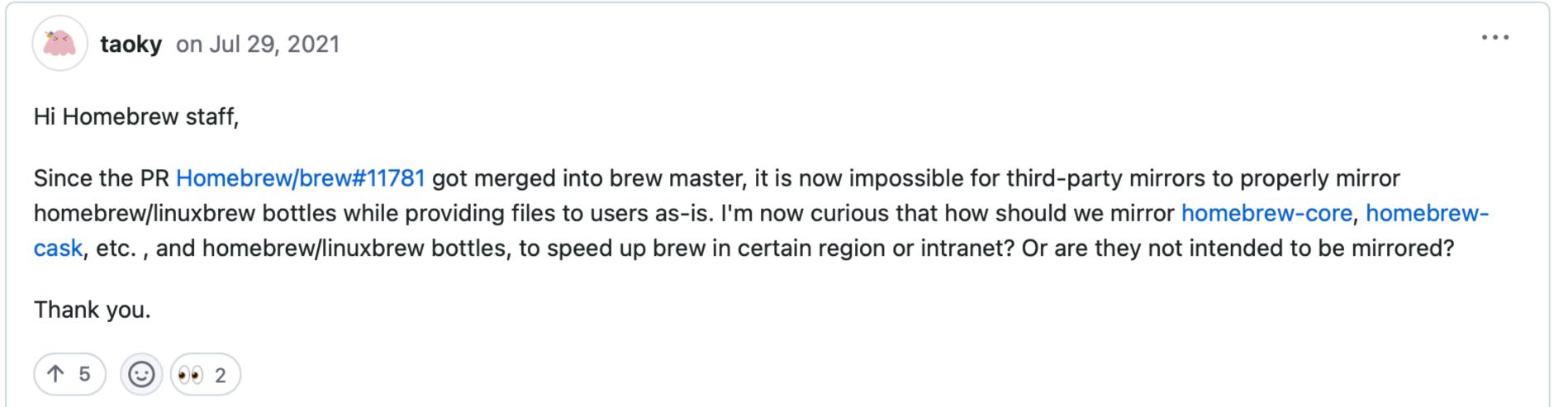


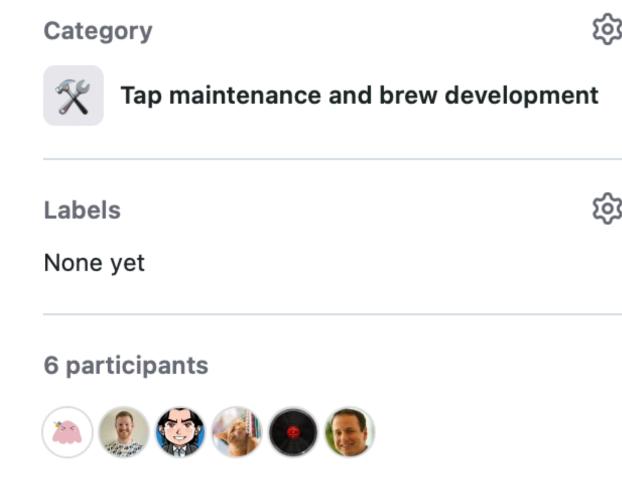
Questions on Homebrew's third-party mirroring policy #1906

Edit

Unanswered

taoky asked this question in Tap maintenance and brew development







MikeMcQuaid on Jul 29, 2021

Maintainer

@taoky It was not my intention to remove all support for mirroring homebrew-core binaries. Was HOMEBREW_BOTTLE_DOMAIN working with you before I removed it? If so, with what mirror/value (so I can test/verify it).

I removed it because we've had a bunch of reports of it being set and being broken.



Mark as answer





6 replies



taoky on Jul 29, 2021

Author

Hi,

https://github.com/orgs/Homebrew/discussions/1906

. . .

1. have a stable interface to users for configuring mirrors (e.g. not to change how config items like HOMEBREW_BOTTLE_DOMAIN work too frequently).

Agreed. Unfortunately we have the issue that many of the users of e.g. HOMEBREW_BOTTLE_DOMAIN in e.g. China do not seem to understand when it's a configuration issue, when it's a mirror issue and when it's a Homebrew issue. It's very hard for us to figure out and debug these problems when they occur hence, in this case, my assumption that this behaviour was entirely broken.

I agree that we want to and should maintain a stable interface here. I think what would help with that is:

- the creators of the mirror scripts to submit more regular bug reports to report regressions so we can fix/revert them
- the creators of the mirror scripts and/or Homebrew users in China to create more unit/integration tests so we can catch these regressions before they are merged
- the investigation of different technology solutions for mirroring e.g. Artifactory, Docker registries, etc.

How does that sound?

https://github.com/orgs/Homebrew/discussions/1906



ops@brew.sh APP 10:00

Thursday, 27 April ~

Email address ▼

GitHub Incident - Incident with Packages - 27 April 2023

27 Apr

From GitHub Status Incident with Packages New incident: Investigating We are inve...



Mike McQuaid 10:07

can reproduce. bottle downloads hanging



ops@brew.sh APP 10:24

Email address <

GitHub Incident - Incident with Packages - 27 April 2023

27 Apr

From GitHub Status Incident with Packages An update has been posted Packages is ...



ops@brew.sh APP 10:31

Email address ▼

GitHub Incident - Incident with Packages - 27 April 2023

27 Apr

From GitHub Status Incident with Packages An update has been posted We have ide...



ops@brew.sh APP 10:56

Email address ▼

GitHub Incident - Incident with Packages - 27 April 2023

27 Apr

From GitHub Status Incident with Packages Incident resolved This incident has been...

Thanks!

mike@brew.sh