

# A new CI server for the Groovy project

## A new continuous integration server for Groovy

The Groovy project currently makes use of the Codehaus architecture (Bamboo) for continuous integration. Unfortunately, this infrastructure isn't sufficient for our needs: in order to further assess and improve the quality of Groovy, we need to test builds on various systems (GNU/Linux, Windows, Mac OS), multiple JDKs (from 1.5 to 1.8) and numerous branches, and the current infrastructure is neither fast and responsive enough, nor it allows us to test and build Groovy in a sufficient number of different configurations and settings.

After having looked at various solutions (including famous CI server vendors and online services, which were either too slow or not supporting what we need), we settled our mind on having a dedicated continuous integration server. More precisely, we want to host a [TeamCity](#) build server. For the rationale of choosing TeamCity, you can take a look below.

## Looking for a sponsor

Basically, the **Groovy development team is looking for a sponsor for such a server**. The server will host several build agents itself, so it needs both enough memory (8G to 16G) and a fast CPU (not overloaded). Our idea is also to **make possible for people to contribute build agents**, significantly improving the number of environments we will be able to test. This means the build server will host a lot of build results, so at least 1TB of storage is mandatory.

An example of suitable server can be found here: <http://www.online.net/fr/serveur-dedie/dedibox-lt> (~50€/month). (For administration, it is strongly preferred if the server is hosting GNU/Linux)

If you or your company is willing to sponsor such a configuration, please contact [Guillaume Laforge](#) or [Cédric Champeau](#).

## Why TeamCity?

After having looked at various continuous integration servers, we found that TeamCity had several advantages for our needs:

- straightforward setup
- immediate support for multi-branches builds
- easy "conditional" builds (environment based)
- out-of-the-box support for Gradle and Gradle Wrapper
- immediate feedback of failures
- support for pre-tested commits
- very slick UI
- JetBrains provided us with a free OSS licence

But more importantly, we plan to open the CI server to contributors, by allowing them to run build agents on their idle systems. The idea is that people would be able to run build agents on their computer, so that we have an increasing number of environments available. One for example could run an agent on Windows, running JDK 8, while another would have Java 7 on Mac OS, ...

TeamCity makes it very easy to distribute and contribute such agents, making "hardware" contributions simple to the user and very interesting for us.