

Ten Years Of Asking Questions On Code Review



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ZEST: Zurich Empirical Software engineering Team



<http://zest.ifi.uzh.ch>
zest@ifi.uzh.ch

Research

- Software quality
 - Peer code review
 - Software testing
 - Software security
- Fundamentals of Data Science for Software Engineering
 - Predictive Analytics
 - Data-driven Tools

Education

- Software Design & Construction
- Software Testing
- Software Analytics
(aka Data Science for S.E.)

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- Fundamentals of Data Science for Software Engineering
 - Predictive Analytics
 - Data-driven Tools



Empirical Software Engineering?

Empirical software engineering involves the scientific use of quantitative and qualitative data to understand and improve software product, software development process and software management.

Empirical software engineering **starts with a good question:**

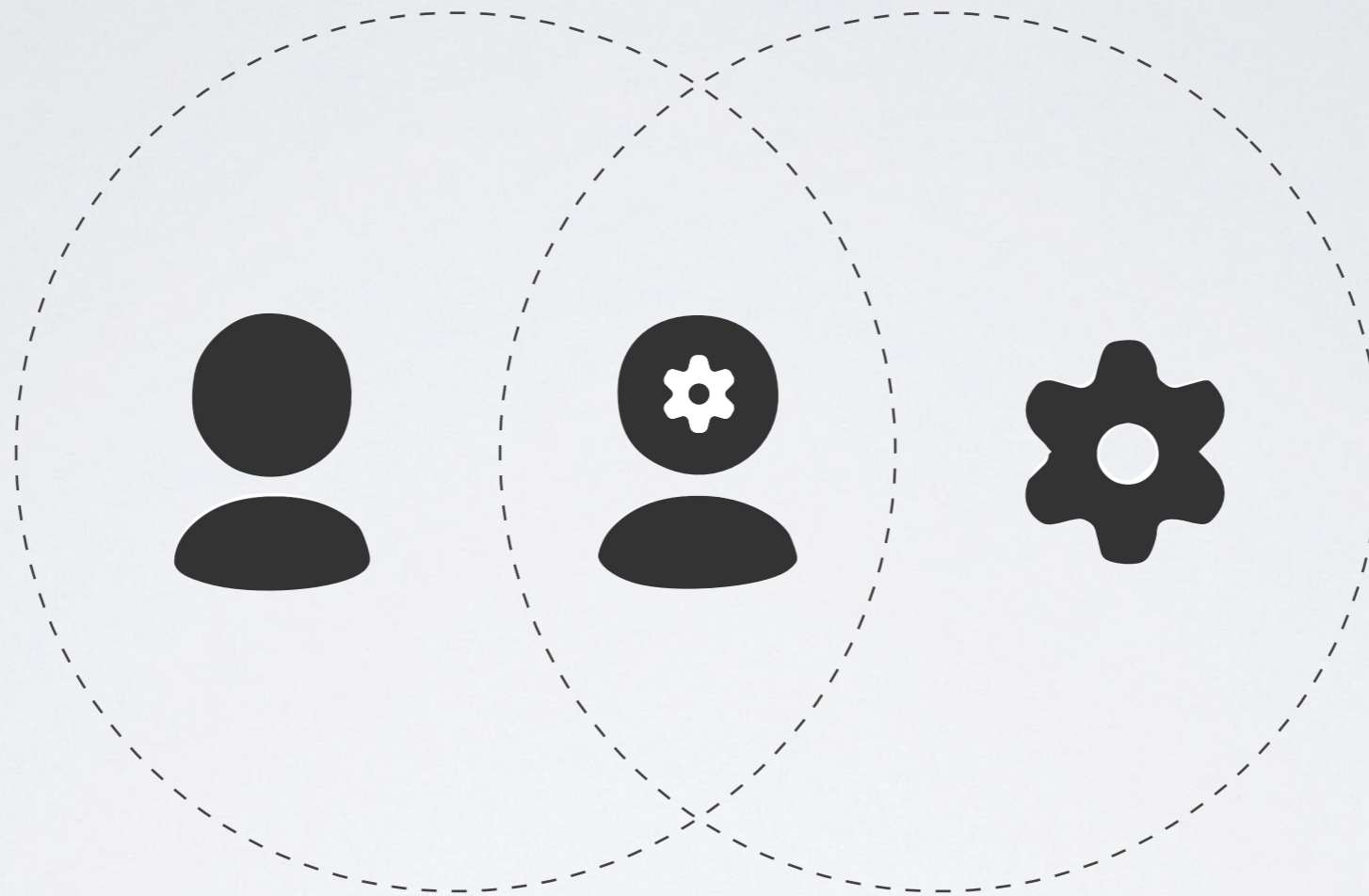
- Does pair programming work?
- Is static typing really good?
- What are the advantages of properly following continuous integration?
- How does using GitHub influence open-source projects?

Empirical software engineering **leads to actionable results:**

- The creation of new tools
- The improvement of existing tools
- The improvement of existing development and engineering processes
- More questions :)

Software Engineering as a Socio-Technical Space

**human / social
aspects**

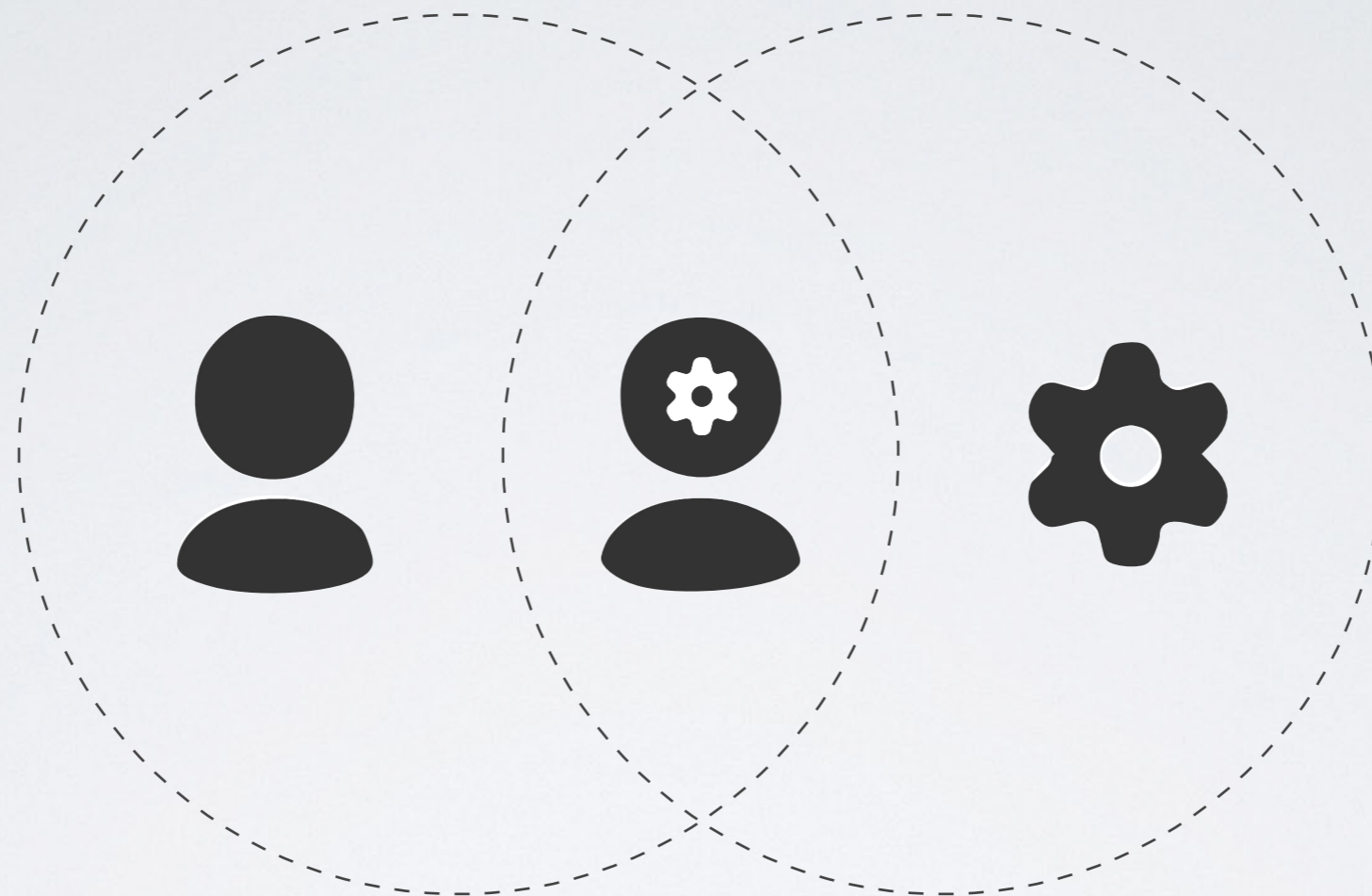
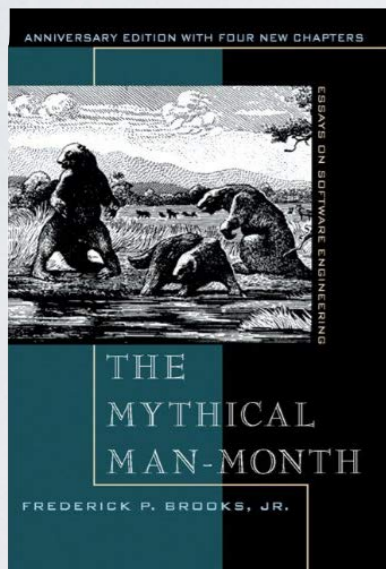


**technical
aspects**

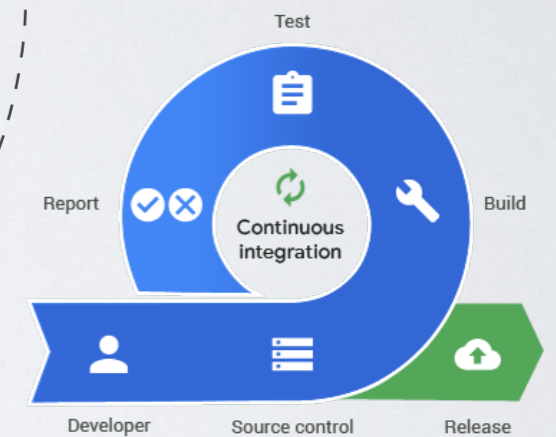
**socio-technical
aspects**

Software Engineering as a Socio-Technical Space

human / social

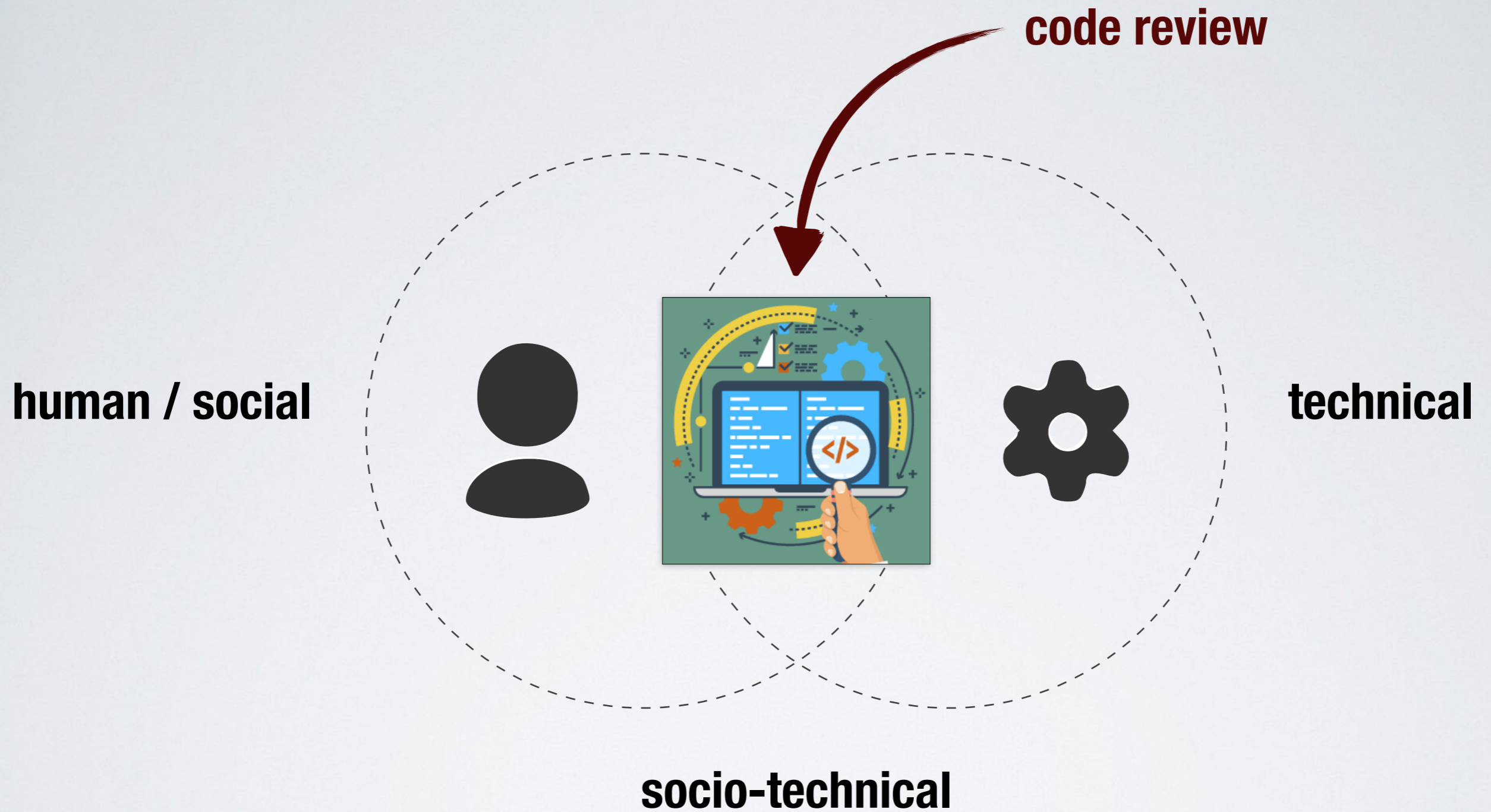


technical



socio-technical

Joint Space — Code Review



Joint Space — Code Review

```
apps/downloads/models.py
from django.db import models

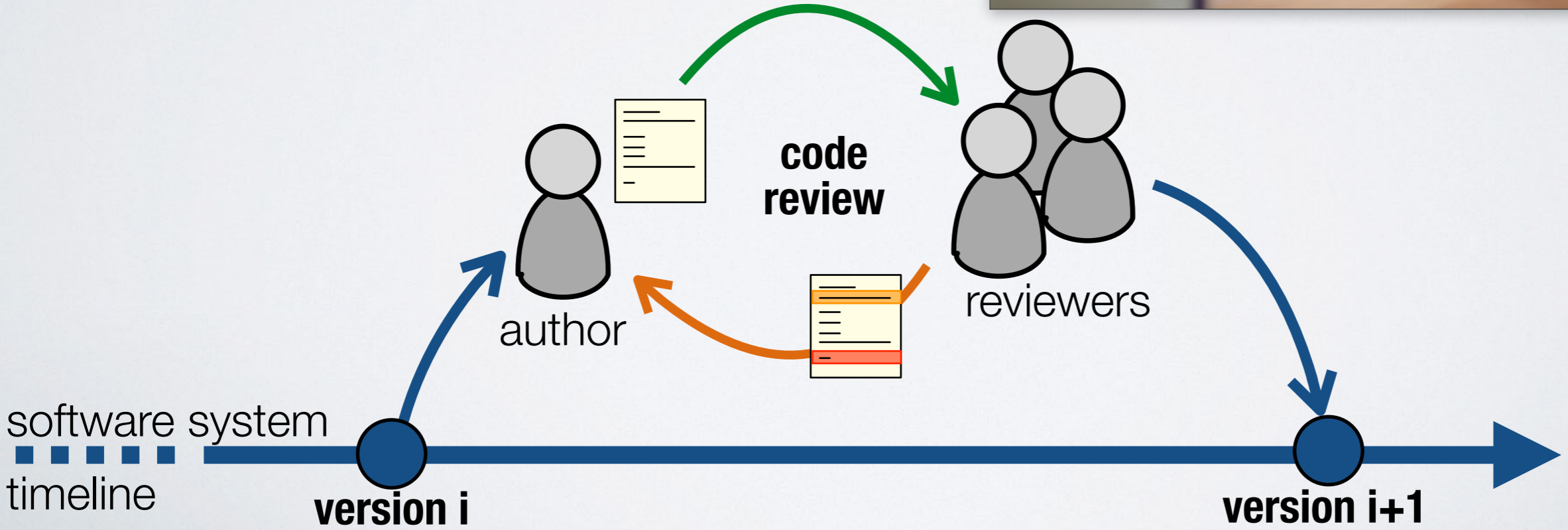
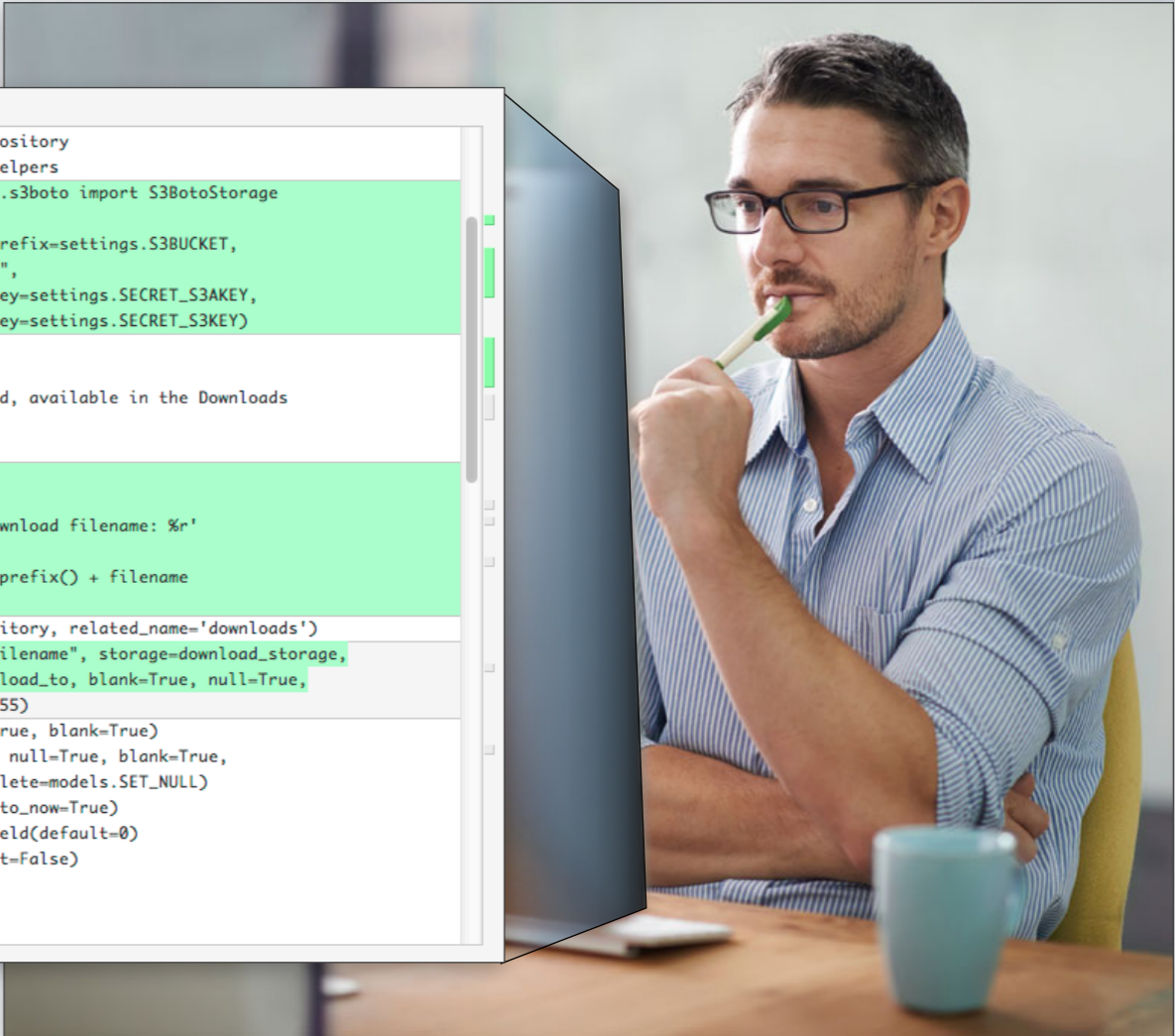
from bitbucket.apps.bb.cname import cpermlink
from bitbucket.apps.bb.models import Repository
from bitbucket.apps.downloads import s3helpers

class Download(models.Model):
    """Represents a user-created download, available in the Downloads
    tab.
    """
    repository = models.ForeignKey(Repository, related_name='downloads')
    filename = models.CharField(max_length=255)
    size = models.BigIntegerField(null=True, blank=True)
    created_by = models.ForeignKey(User, null=True, blank=True,
        on_delete=models.SET_NULL)
    created_on = models.DateTimeField(auto_now=True)
    download_count = models.BigIntegerField(default=0)
    deleted = models.BooleanField(default=False)

    class Meta:
        app_label = 'bb'

    def _tokenized_url(self):
        """
        If a 'Repository' is private, we can't use the public
        URL, as it will be restricted. This generates and caches
        tokens for 30 minutes. Used in 'get_download_url'.
        """
        ck = 'downloadtoken:%d' % self.id
        cached = cache.get(ck)
        if not cached:
            key = s3helpers.get_key(self.filename)
            7
            8
            9
            10
            11
            12
            13
            14
            15
            16
            17
            18
            19
            20
            21
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            28
            29
            30
            31
            32
            33
            34
            35
            36
            37
            38
            39
            40
            41
            42
            11 from bitbucket.apps.bb.models import Repository
            12 from bitbucket.apps.downloads import s3helpers
            13 from bitbucket.apps.lib.storage.backends.s3boto import S3BotoStorage
            14
            15 download_storage = S3BotoStorage(bucketprefix=settings.S3BUCKET,
            16 bucket="",
            17 access_key=settings.SECRET_S3AKEY,
            18 secret_key=settings.SECRET_S3KEY)
            19
            20 class Download(models.Model):
            21 """Represents a user-created download, available in the Downloads
            22 tab.
            23 """
            24
            25 def upload_to(self, filename):
            26 if not filename:
            27 raise ValueError('Invalid download filename: %r'
            28 % filename)
            29 return self.repository.download_prefix() + filename
            30
            31 repository = models.ForeignKey(Repository, related_name='downloads')
            32 file = models.FileField(db_column="filename", storage=download_storage,
            33 upload_to=upload_to, blank=True, null=True,
            34 max_length=255)
            35
            36 size = models.BigIntegerField(null=True, blank=True)
            37 created_by = models.ForeignKey(User, null=True, blank=True,
            38 on_delete=models.SET_NULL)
            39
            40 created_on = models.DateTimeField(auto_now=True)
            41 download_count = models.BigIntegerField(default=0)
            42 deleted = models.BooleanField(default=False)

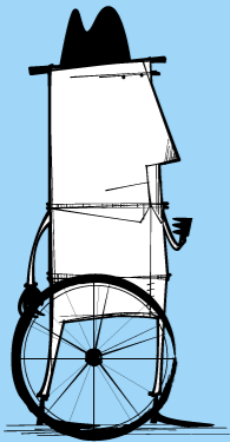
            class Meta:
                app_label = 'bb'
```



Why research on code review?

ERRR...

CAN'T STOP.
TOO BUSY!!



THE ORIGINAL CURE ALL

RELIEVES
INSTANTANEOUSLY

And Cures: Headaches,
Nuralgia, Cough, Cold,
Sneezing, Hiccups,
Goat, Sonorrhea, Dyptheria,
Dampiang, Mumps,
Measles, Whooping cough,
Tuberculosis, And even
Bowden's Malady.

MITCHELL'S
SNAKE OIL
101 PROOF
CURE ALL
AND
LINAMENT

Providing the Finest in do-it-
yourself health care
since 2366

FOR BLINDNESS TRY OUR RATTLESNAKE OIL!

Code review “best practices”

Let's look for “code review best practices” on Google...

11 proven practices for more effective, efficient peer code review - IBM

<https://www.ibm.com › Learn › Rational> ▼

25 Jan 2011 - Aim for an inspection rate of fewer than 300–500 LOC per hour. Establish quantifiable goals for **code review**, and capture metrics so you can improve your processes. Verify that the defects are actually fixed. Foster a **good code review** culture in which finding defects is viewed positively. Beware of the Big Brother ...

Code Review Best Practices - Kevin London's blog

<kevinlondon.com/2015/05/05/code-review-best-practices.html> ▼

5 May 2015 - I think it's a **good** idea to crystalize some of the things I look for when I'm doing **code reviews** and talk about the **best** way I've found to approach ...

Best practices for effective code reviews - WillowTree Apps

<https://willowtreeapps.com/ideas/best-practices-for-effective-code-reviews> ▼

27 Oct 2016 - Today, I'd like to share our process and some **best practices** we follow when conducting **code reviews**. The process. The **code review** process ...

Effective Code Reviews: Code Review Best Practices

<https://nyu-cds.github.io/effective-code-reviews/02-best-practices/> ▼

What are some **best practices** for **code reviews**? Objectives. Learn about effective practices for **code reviews**. Learn what makes reviews work better and what ...

7 best practices for doing code reviews - The Asana Blog

<https://blog.asana.com/2016/12/7-ways-to-uplevel-your-code-review-skills/> ▼

20 Dec 2016 - The Asana engineering team shares **code review best practices** that will help you become a better reviewer. Learn how Asana reviews code.

Code Review in Agile Teams - part II - Atlassian Blog

https://www.atlassian.com/blog/archives/code_review_in_agile_teams_part_ii ▼

8 Mar 2010 - Ready to try adopting **code review** within your team or across your reveal a few **best practices** around **code review** that evolved at Atlassian.

Best Practices: Code Reviews - MSDN - Microsoft

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb871031.aspx> ▼

Code review “best practices”

Two examples

11 PROVEN PRACTICES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT CODE REVIEW

- Review **fewer than 200–400 lines** of code at a time
- Aim for an inspection rate of **fewer than 300–500 LOC per hour**
- Take enough time for a proper, slow review, but **not more than 60–90 minutes**
- Be sure that **authors annotate source code before the review** begins
- Establish **quantifiable goals** [...] and capture metrics [to] improve your processes
- **Use checklists**, because they substantially improve results
- **Verify** that the defects are actually fixed
- Foster a **good code review culture** in which finding defects is viewed positively
- Beware of the **Big Brother effect**
- **Review at least part of the code**, even if you can't do all of it, [for] The Ego Effect
- **Adopt lightweight, tool-assisted code reviews**

7 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CODE REVIEW SKILLS

- **Prioritize the goals** of code reviews with your team
- **Run the app** and try playing with the feature
- Visualize **method call hierarchies**
- Do code reviews **as soon as you see the request**
- **Imagine** how you would make this change before you read it
- Read the change in a **realistic development environment**
- **Always give approval**, unless you can prove that there is a bug

Code review “best practices”

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Ten Years Of Asking Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review



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But.. why are we doing code review at all?

Why are managers and developers employing code review?

Microsoft
Research



Dr. Christian Bird

Modern code review @ Microsoft



Modern code review @ Microsoft



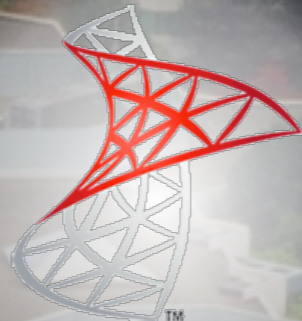
Excel



**Visual
Studio**



XBox

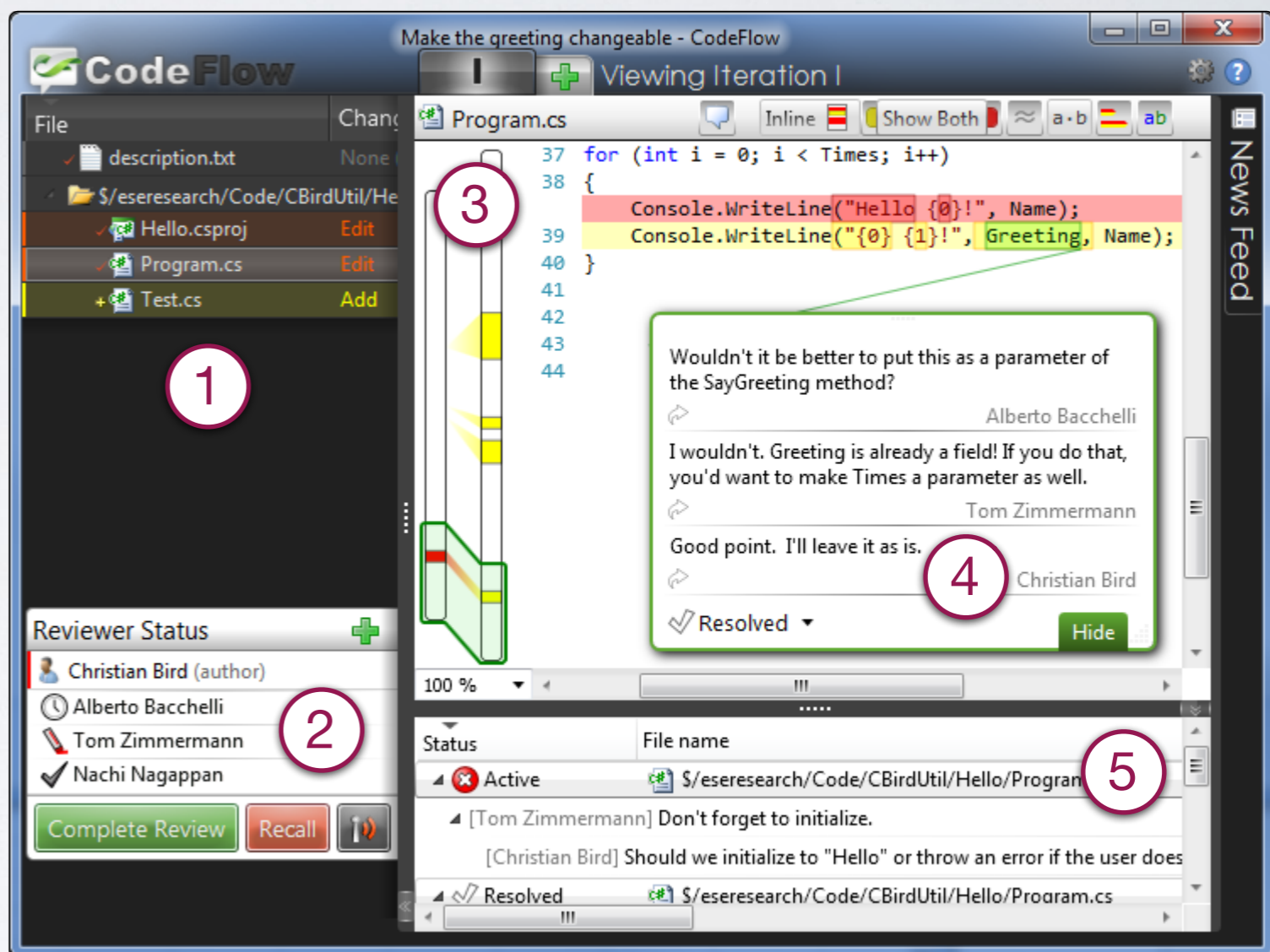
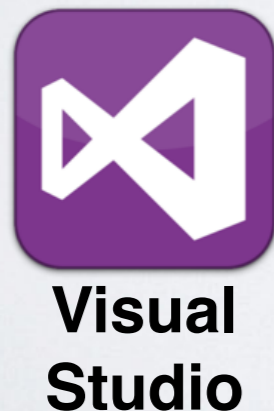


SQL Server

....

CodeFlow review tool

Used across all Microsoft product teams by more than 70,000 developers, so far.



The screenshot shows the CodeFlow review tool interface. At the top, the title bar reads "Make the greeting changeable - CodeFlow". The main window is titled "Viewing Iteration 1" and shows a code editor for "Program.cs". The code is as follows:

```
37 for (int i = 0; i < Times; i++)
38 {
39     Console.WriteLine("Hello {0}!", Name);
40     Console.WriteLine("{0} {1}!", Greeting, Name);
41 }
42
43
44
```

Annotations are present in the code editor:

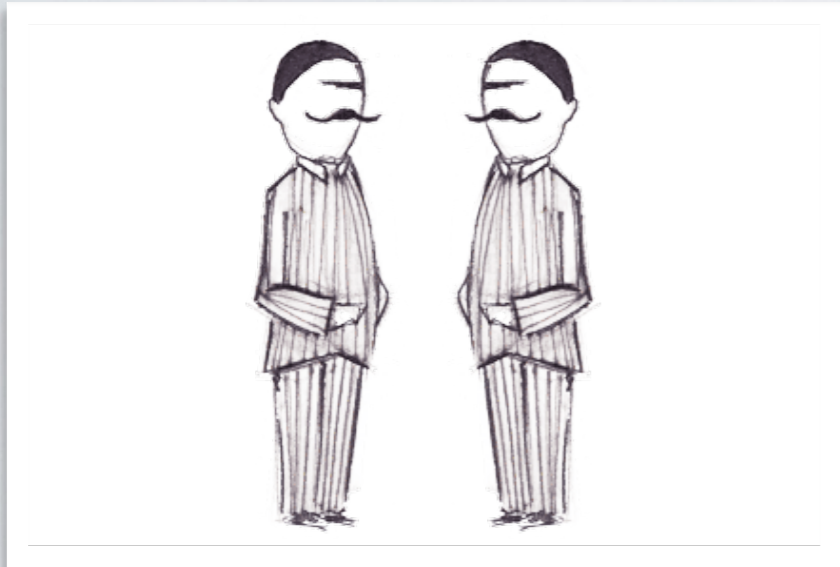
- Annotation 1: A red circle with the number "1" is placed over the file explorer on the left, which lists files like "description.txt", "Hello.csproj", "Program.cs", and "Test.cs".
- Annotation 2: A red circle with the number "2" is placed over the "Reviewer Status" section, which lists reviewers: "Christian Bird (author)", "Alberto Bacchelli", "Tom Zimmermann", and "Nachi Nagappan".
- Annotation 3: A red circle with the number "3" is placed over the code editor, pointing to the first line of the loop.
- Annotation 4: A red circle with the number "4" is placed over a comment box that says "Good point. I'll leave it as is." by Christian Bird.
- Annotation 5: A red circle with the number "5" is placed over the "Active" status in the bottom right pane, which shows a list of review items with their status and file names.



observations



18-20 interviews



survey to 165 managers

List of motivations for doing code review

**Alternative
Solutions**

**Avoid Build
Breaks**

**Code
Improvement**

**Team
Assessment**

**Share Code
Ownership**

Team Awareness

**Knowledge
Transfer**

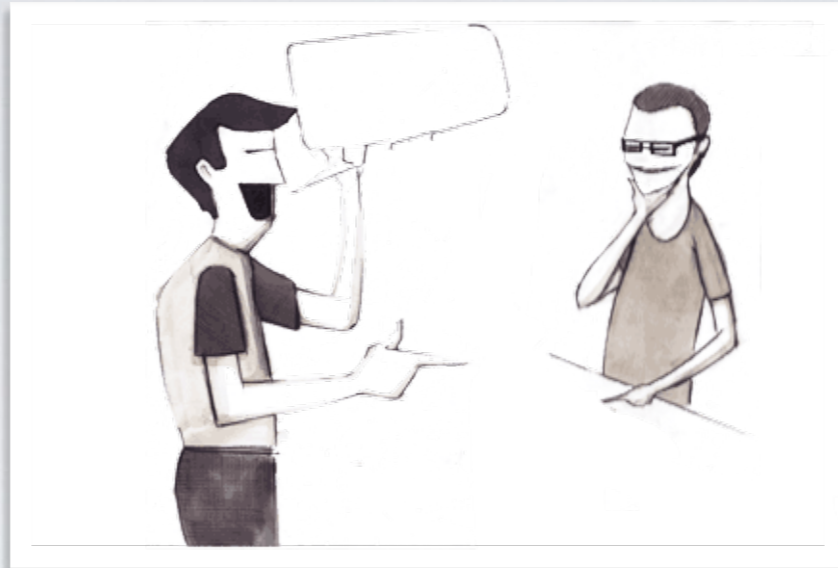
**Improve
Dev. Process**

Track Rationale

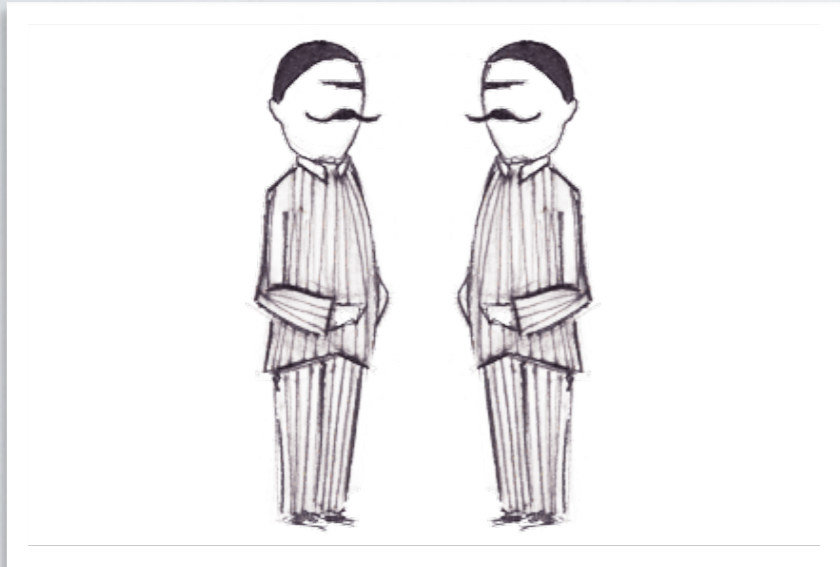
Finding Defects



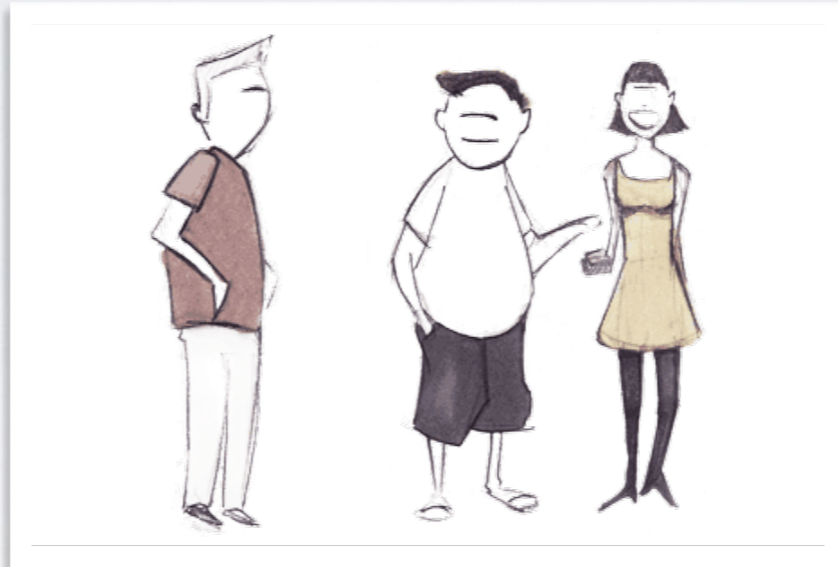
observations



18-20 interviews

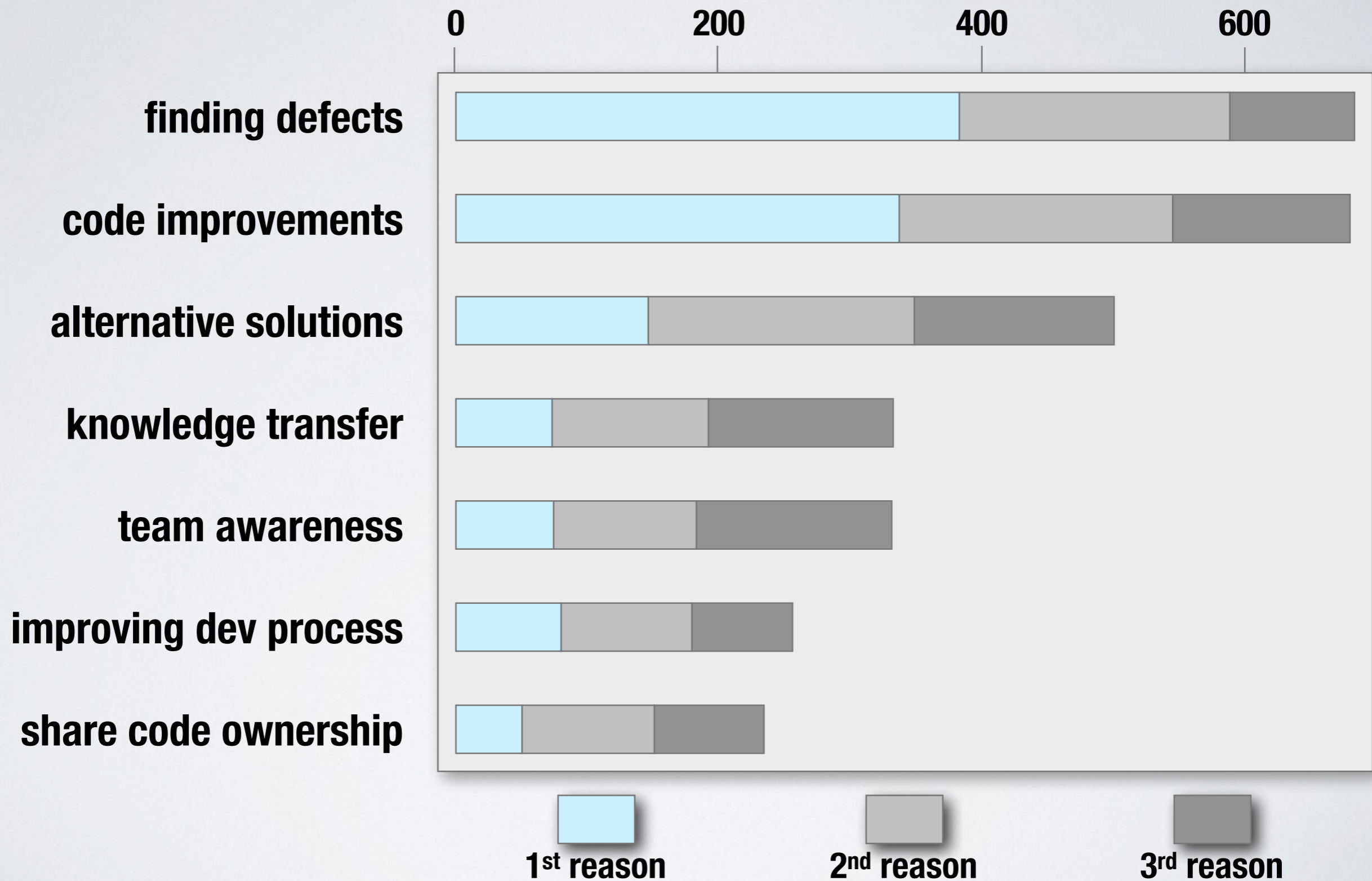


survey to 165 managers

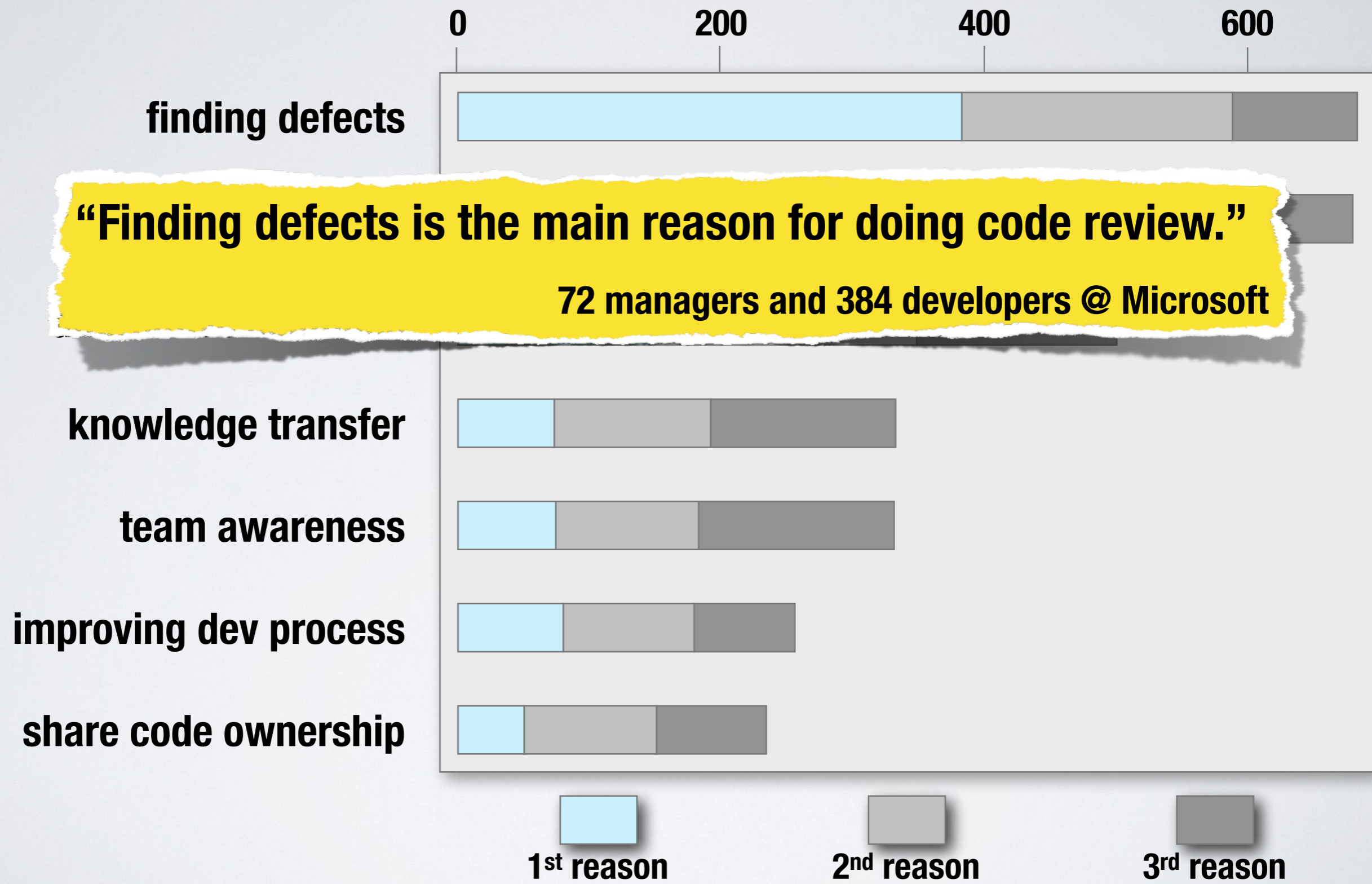


survey to 873 developers

Why do Microsoft developers do code reviews?



Why do Microsoft developers do code reviews?



What is the outcome of code review at Microsoft?



What is the outcome of code review at Microsoft?

The screenshot shows the CodeFlow application interface. At the top, the window title is "Make the greeting changeable - CodeFlow". The main area is split into several sections:

- File Explorer (Left):** Lists files like `description.txt`, `Program.cs`, and `Test.cs` with their respective change status (None, Edit, Add).
- Code Editor (Center):** Displays the code for `Program.cs`. Lines 38-39 are highlighted in red and yellow, indicating changes. The code is:

```
37 for (int i = 0; i < Times; i++)
38 {
39     Console.WriteLine("Hello {0}!", Name);
40     Console.WriteLine("{0} {1}!", Greeting, Name);
41 }
42
43
44
```
- Comment Thread (Right):** A comment box is open over the code. It contains a question from Alberto Bacchelli: "Wouldn't it be better to put this as a parameter of the SayGreeting method?". Tom Zimmermann replies: "I wouldn't. Greeting is already a field! If you do that, you'd want to make Times a parameter as well." Christian Bird replies: "Good point. I'll leave it as is." The comment is marked as "Resolved".
- Reviewer Status (Bottom Left):** A list of reviewers: Christian Bird (author), Alberto Bacchelli, Tom Zimmermann, and Nachi Nagappan. There are buttons for "Complete Review" and "Recall".
- Review Log (Bottom Right):** A table showing the status of reviews for the file `Program.cs`.

Status	File name
Active	<code>\$/eseresearch/Code/CBirdUtil/Hello/Program.cs</code>
[Tom Zimmermann] Don't forget to initialize.	
[Christian Bird] Should we initialize to "Hello" or throw an error if the user does	
Resolved	<code>\$/eseresearch/Code/CBirdUtil/Hello/Program.cs</code>

Recorded code review comments

The screenshot shows the CodeFlow interface for a code review session. The window title is "Make the greeting changeable - CodeFlow". The main editor displays the code for Program.cs, with lines 37-44 visible. A comment box is overlaid on the code, containing the following text:

Wouldn't it be better to put this as a parameter of the SayGreeting method?
Alberto Bacchelli

I wouldn't. Greeting is already a field! If you do that, you'd want to make Times a parameter as well.
Tom Zimmermann

Good point. I'll leave it as is.
Christian Bird

Resolved [dropdown] Hide

Below the comment box, a list of reviewer comments is shown:

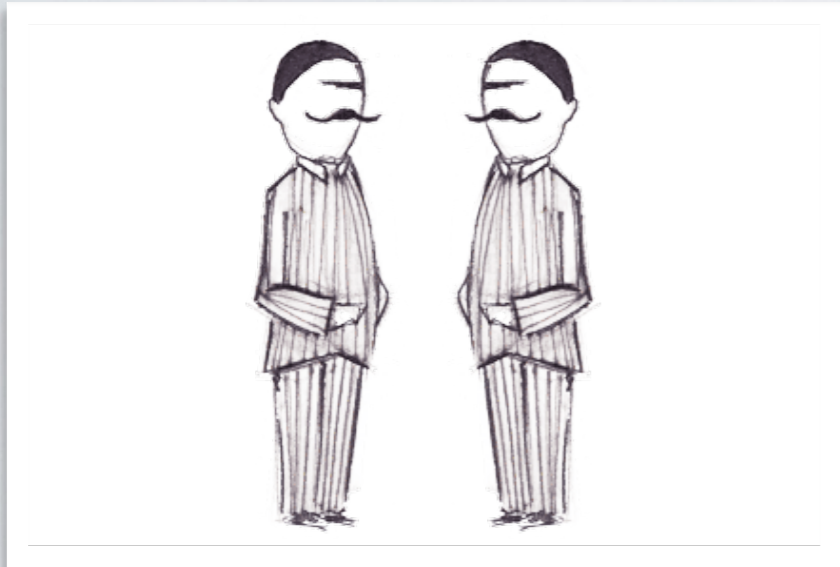
Status	File name
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Resolved	\$/esereseach/Code/CBirdUtil/Hello/Program.cs



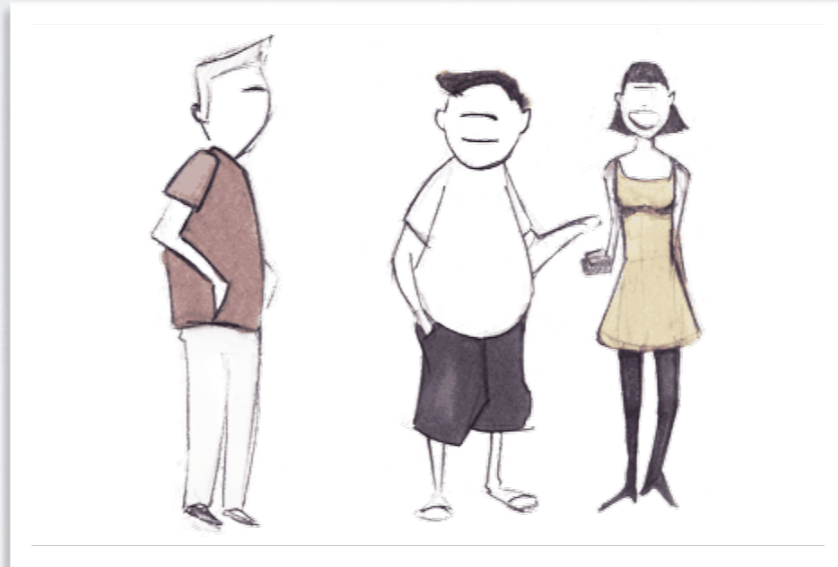
observations



18-20 interviews



survey to 165 managers

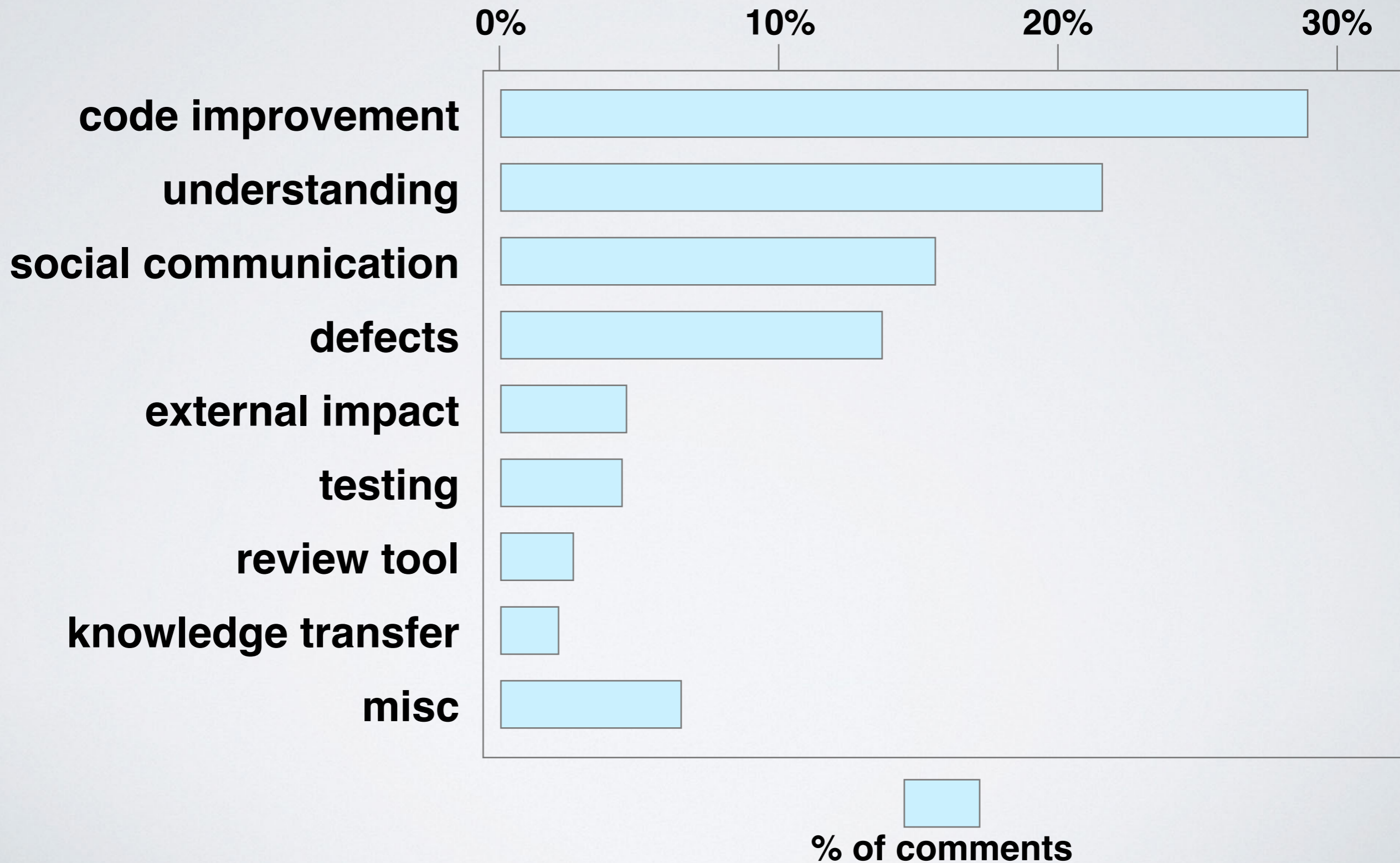


survey to 873 developers

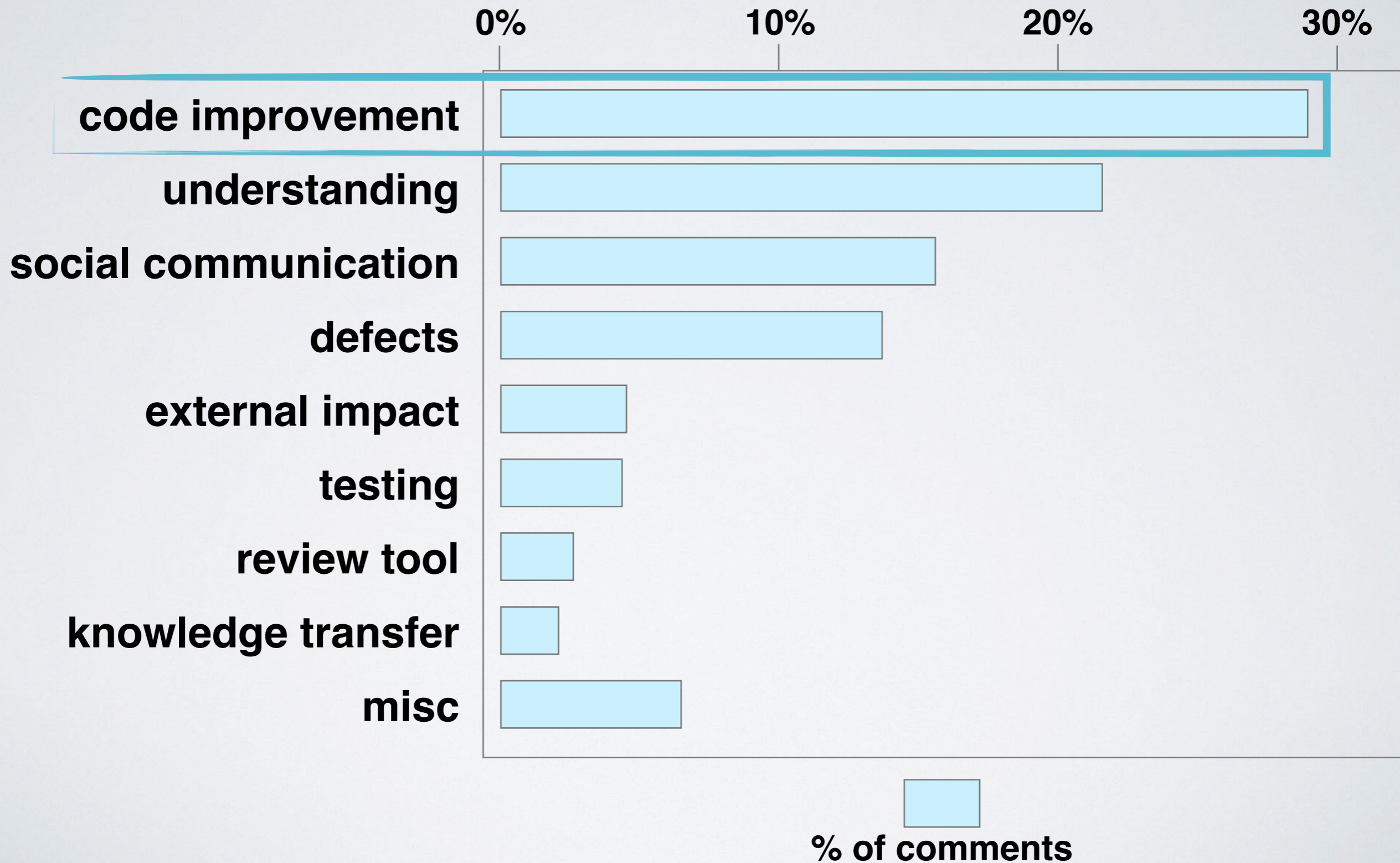
**classification of
570 review comments**



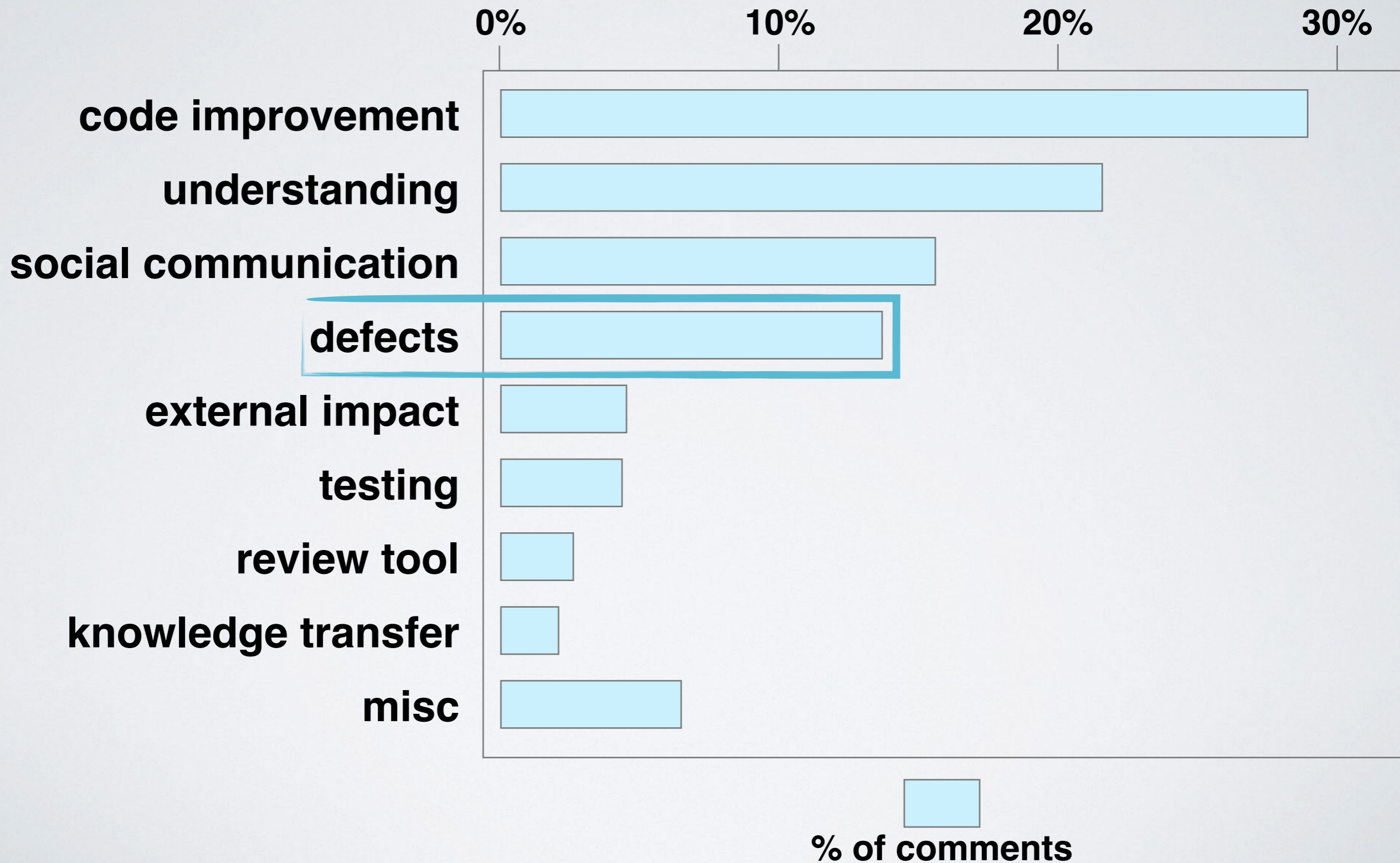
Results of review comments' analysis



Results of review comments' analysis



Results of review comments' analysis



Results of review comments' analysis

“what if they are all used?”

“is it possible that this statement never match?”

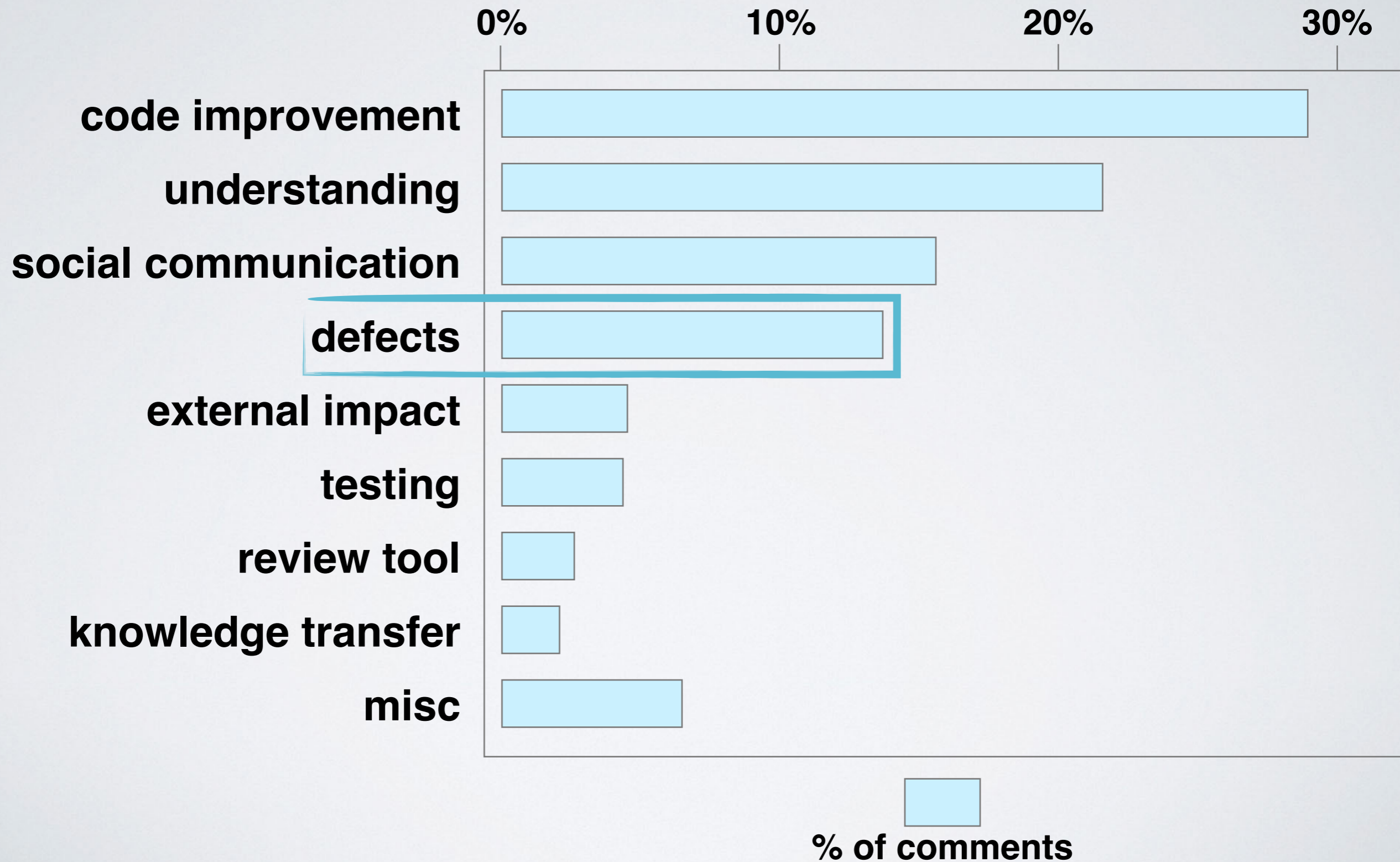
“should this end date be current date?”

“does it work if you put 0 here?”

“any doubt about the precedence here?”


“should be &&?”

Results of review comments' analysis




hot chocolate

If you want to use any Software Engineering process **PROPERLY**, you need to evaluate it and reflect on it. Even if you are Microsoft.



expectation



reality

Asking Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review

But.. why are we doing code review at all?

Our code review tools are great! Aren't they?

Modern code review tools: Microsoft CodeFlow

The screenshot shows the Microsoft CodeFlow interface for a code review session. The window title is "Make the greeting changeable - CodeFlow". The main area displays a code file named "Program.cs" with the following code:

```
37 for (int i = 0; i < Times; i++)
38 {
39     Console.WriteLine("Hello {0}!", Name);
40     Console.WriteLine("{0} {1}!", Greeting, Name);
41 }
42
43
44
```

Callout 1 points to the file explorer on the left, showing a project structure with files like "Hello.csproj", "Program.cs", and "Test.cs".

Callout 2 points to the "Reviewer Status" panel at the bottom left, which lists reviewers: Christian Bird (author), Alberto Bacchelli, Tom Zimmermann, and Nachi Nagappan. It includes buttons for "Complete Review" and "Recall".

Callout 3 points to the code editor, where a yellow highlight is on line 39. A comment box is open over this line, containing the text: "Wouldn't it be better to put this as a parameter of the SayGreeting method?" by Alberto Bacchelli. A response from Tom Zimmermann says: "I wouldn't. Greeting is already a field! If you do that, you'd want to make Times a parameter as well." A response from Christian Bird says: "Good point. I'll leave it as is." The comment is marked as "Resolved".

Callout 4 points to the comment box.


Callout 5 points to the "Active" status in the bottom panel, which shows the file name "\$/eseresearch/Code/CBirdUtil/Hello/Program.cs" and a list of comments: "[Tom Zimmermann] Don't forget to initialize." and "[Christian Bird] Should we initialize to 'Hello' or throw an error if the user does".


Callout 6 points to the window title bar, which includes the text "Viewing Iteration 1".


Modern code review tools: Gerrit


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[Open](#) [Merged](#) [Abandoned](#)

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open source project

[Browse Repositories](#) 

Change-Id:	I28cd0da83acc9df2162b6ec6174fc25712f68de2 
Owner	jp abgrall
Project	kernel/common
Branch	android-3.4
Topic	
Uploaded	Feb 25, 2013 10:05 PM
Updated	Feb 25, 2013 10:12 PM
Status	Merged

Commit Message[Permalink](#) 

sock_diag: Fix out-of-bounds access to sock_diag_handlers[]

Userland can send a netlink message requesting SOCK_DIAG_BY_FAMILY with a family greater or equal then AF_MAX -- the array size of sock_diag_handlers[]. The current code does not test for this condition therefore is vulnerable to an out-of-bound access opening doors for a privilege escalation.

Signed-off-by: Mathias Krause <minipli <at> googlemail.com>

Reviewer	Code-Review	Verified
jp abgrall	✓	✓
Nick Kralevich	+1	

► [Included in](#)

► [Dependencies](#)

Old Version History:

▼ **Patch Set 1** [26cd0da83acc9df2162b6ec6174fc25712f68de2](#) [\(gitiles\)](#)

Author	Mathias Krause <minipli at> Feb 23, 2013 12:13 PM
Committer	JP Abgrall <jpa@google.com> Feb 25, 2013 9:57 PM
Parent(s)	1a6c74e0d58f6ca028f36c3d794fecff8543bbfb gpu: ion: Add support for sharing buffers with dma buf kernel handles

checkoutcheckoutpullcherry-pickpatch

Modern code review tools: GitHub Pull Requests

Sending a pull request #248

Open cameronmcefee wants to merge 1 commit into `octocat:master` from `cameronmcefee:master`

Conversation 5 Commits 1 Files Changed 1

4

cameronmcefee commented 2 years ago

I made some changes. Please review.

cameronmcefee added a commit 2 years ago

Made some changes for a pull request [a4610fa](#)

octocat commented 2 years ago

Awesome, thanks!

cameronmcefee commented 2 years ago


Why yes, of course.

cameronmcefee closed the pull request 2 years ago

Labels
None yet

Notifications ?
[Subscribe](#)

4 participants



Modern code review tools: Atlassian Crucible

Code review tools are all very similar and basically only help with the logistics of the review, not with the review task itself!

The screenshot shows the Atlassian Crucible interface for a code review session. The top left corner displays the Crucible logo and the session ID 'CR-FE-8851' with a '109' indicator. Below this, there are tabs for 'Details', 'Objectives', and 'General Comments'. A summary states 'Number of files included: 28'. The main area on the left is a file tree for 'FE-git', showing a directory structure with folders like 'src', 'main', and 'java/com/atlassian/crucible/plugins/br', and various Java files such as 'BranchReviewInfoAO.java', 'BranchReviewInfo.java', 'BranchReviewStore.java', and 'TrackedBranchRest.java'. On the right side, there is a discussion thread with four messages from Piotr Swiecicki and Cezary Zawadka. The messages discuss reviewPermaId, precondition failures, and handling null values. At the bottom right, a snippet of Java code is visible, showing a class definition for 'TrackedBranchesSearchCriteriaBuilder' with a 'reviewPermaId' attribute.

Piotr Swiecicki
providing null/empty reviewPermaId results in criteria matching all reviews, I'd rather expect precondition failure in such circumstances
Add to favourites · Create issue · 27 Aug 14


Cezary Zawadka
Null is ok as we search for all tracked branches regardless review - auto update feature
However non null perma id means we should return empty list if there is no review with the perma id - changed to be handled at ReviewPropertiesManager level
Create issue · 29 Aug 14

Piotr Swiecicki
fine for reviewPermaId property, but if client calls withReview method to build criteria, I'd assume he wanted to filter by particular perm id and was not expecting to pass null.
Create issue · 29 Aug 14

Cezary Zawadka
My mistake - for withReview() precondition makes sense
Create issue · 29 Aug 14

```
37     }
38
39     public static class TrackedBranchesSearchCriteriaBuilder {
40         private String reviewPermaId;
```

Modern code review tools: Atlassian Crucible



CR-FE-8851 109

[Details](#)
[Objectives](#)
[General Comments](#)
Number of files included: 28

FF-git

- src
 - bundled-plugins/bundled/crucible-branch-review
 - src
 - main
 - java/com/atlassian/crucible/plugins/br
 - model
 - ao
 - BranchReviewInfoAO.java
 - BranchReviewInfo.java (1)
 - BranchReviewStore.java (1)
 - rest
 - BranchReviewRestResource.java
 - TrackedBranchRest.java (8)
 - TrackedBranchRestBuilder.java
 - trackedbranch
 - impl
 - DefaultTrackedBranchesManager.java
 - TrackedBranchJson.java
 - TrackedBranchSerializer.java
 - TrackedBranch.java (1)
 - TrackedBranchBuilder.java
 - TrackedBranchesManager.java
 - TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria.java- resources

← → Prefs Filter 1h 55min

/src/.../trackedbranch/TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria.java Added 4 FishEye File Outdated

e0a7a4c

```
32         return new TrackedBranchesSearchCriteriaBuilder();
33     }
34
35     public static TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria withReview(String reviewPermaId) {
36         return builder().reviewPermaId(reviewPermaId).build();
```

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providing null/empty reviewPermaId results in criteria matching all reviews, I'd rather expect precondition failure in such circumstances
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39     public static class TrackedBranchesSearchCriteriaBuilder {
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```

Modern code review tools: Alphabetical Ordering Of Files

The screenshot displays the Crucible web interface for a code review session. On the left, a file tree is visible, showing a directory structure under 'src' with sub-directories like 'bundled-plugins', 'main', and 'trackedbranch'. The 'trackedbranch' directory contains several Java files, including 'TrackedBranchSearchCriteriaBuilder.java', which is currently selected. The right side of the interface shows a code diff for this file, with line numbers 32 through 40. A yellow callout box is overlaid on the code diff, containing the text: 'Most developers start with the tool order when inspecting code under review.' Below the code diff, there are several review comments from users like Piotr Swiecicki and Cezary Zawadka, discussing the handling of null/empty reviewPermaId results and the use of the withReview() precondition.

Most developers start with the tool order when inspecting code under review.

Modern code review tools: Alphabetical Ordering Of Files

The screenshot shows the Crucible interface for a code review. On the left, a file tree is visible, with the file `TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria.java` highlighted. The main area shows a diff for this file, with a red circle indicating a change at line 32. The code snippet is as follows:

```
32     return new TrackedBranchesSearchCriteriaBuilder();
33 }
34
35 public static TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria withReview(String reviewPermaId) {
36     return builder().reviewPermaId(reviewPermaId).build();
```

Below the code, there are comments from reviewers:

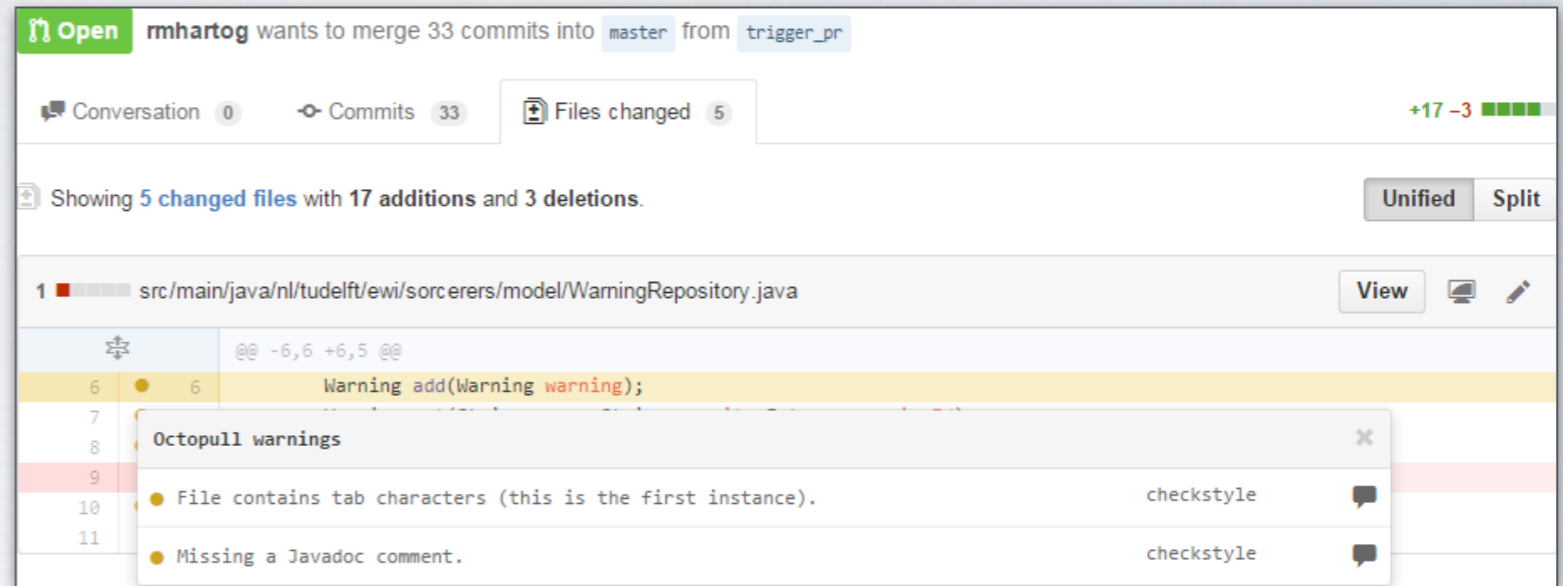
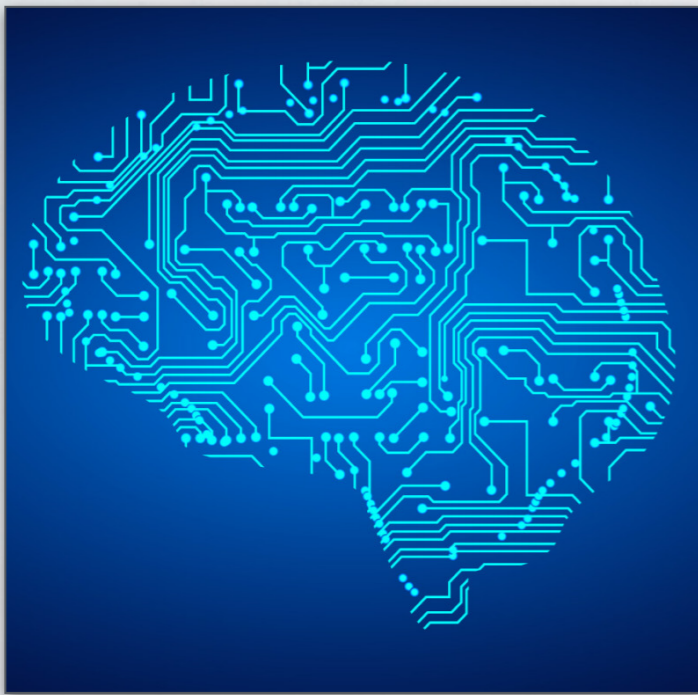
- Piotr Swiecicki**: providing null/empty reviewPermaId results in criteria matching all reviews, I'd rather expect precondition failure in such circumstances. (27 Aug 14)
- Cezary Zawadka**: Null is ok as we search for all tracked branches regardless review - auto update feature. However non null perma id means we should return empty list if there is no review with the perma id - changed to be handled at ReviewPropertiesManager level. (29 Aug 14)
- Piotr Swiecicki**: fine for reviewPermaId property, but if client calls withReview method to build criteria, I'd assume he wanted to filter by particular perm id and was not expecting to pass null. (29 Aug 14)
- Cezary Zawadka**: My mistake... (29 Aug 14)

Instead start reviewing the tests, to:

1. understand what the code really **does**,
2. have higher quality tests,
3. and find **more bugs!**

Next generation code review tools: Risk-guided Code Review

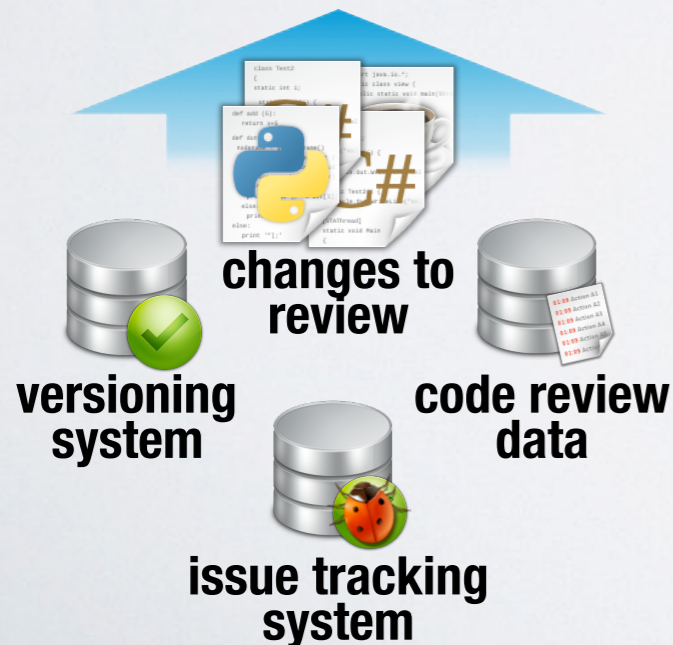
risk detector



In-line warnings



Re-ordered files



Next generation code review tools: Code Change Visualization

Projects Groups More

Administrator scout Merge Requests !19

Open Opened 2 months ago by Administrator Edit Close merge request

Test mr

Overview 0 Commits 4 Pipelines 1 Changes 4

Changes between latest version and master

```
scout.client/src/main/java/ch/uzh/scout/client/helloworld/HelloWorldForm.java 15 2
```

Show unchanged lines

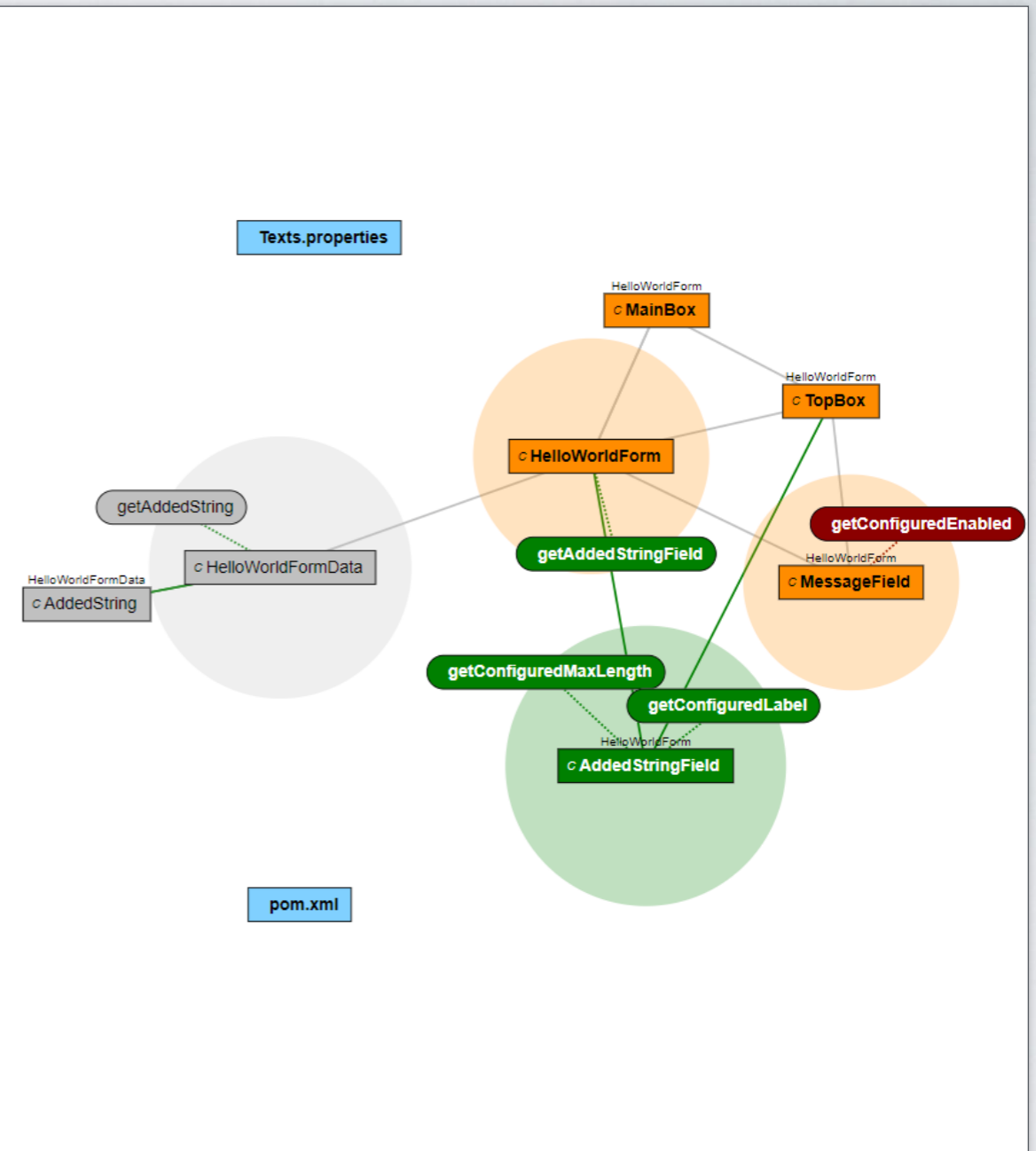
```
14 14 import ch.uzh.scout.client.helloworld.HelloWorldForm.MainBox.TopBox.MessageField;
15 15 import ch.uzh.scout.shared.helloworld.HelloWorldFormData;
16 16 import ch.uzh.scout.shared.helloworld.IHelloWorldService;
17 17 + import ch.uzh.scout.client.helloworld.HelloWorldForm.MainBox.TopBox.AddedStringField;
18 18
19 19 /**
20 20  * @author kingj
```

Show unchanged lines

```
44 45         return getFieldByClass(MainBox.class);
45 46     }
46 47
48 48 +     public AddedStringField getAddedStringField() {
49 49 +         return getFieldByClass(AddedStringField.class);
50 50 +     }
51 51 +
47 52     public TopBox getTopBox() {
48 53         return getFieldByClass(TopBox.class);
49 54     }
```

Show unchanged lines

```
74 79         protected String getConfiguredLabel() {
75 80             return TEXTS.get("Message");
76 81         }
82 82 +     }
83 83 +
84 84 +     @Order(2000)
```



Next generation code review tools: Code Change Visualization

Overview 0 Commits 4 Pipelines 1 Changes 4

Changes between latest version and master

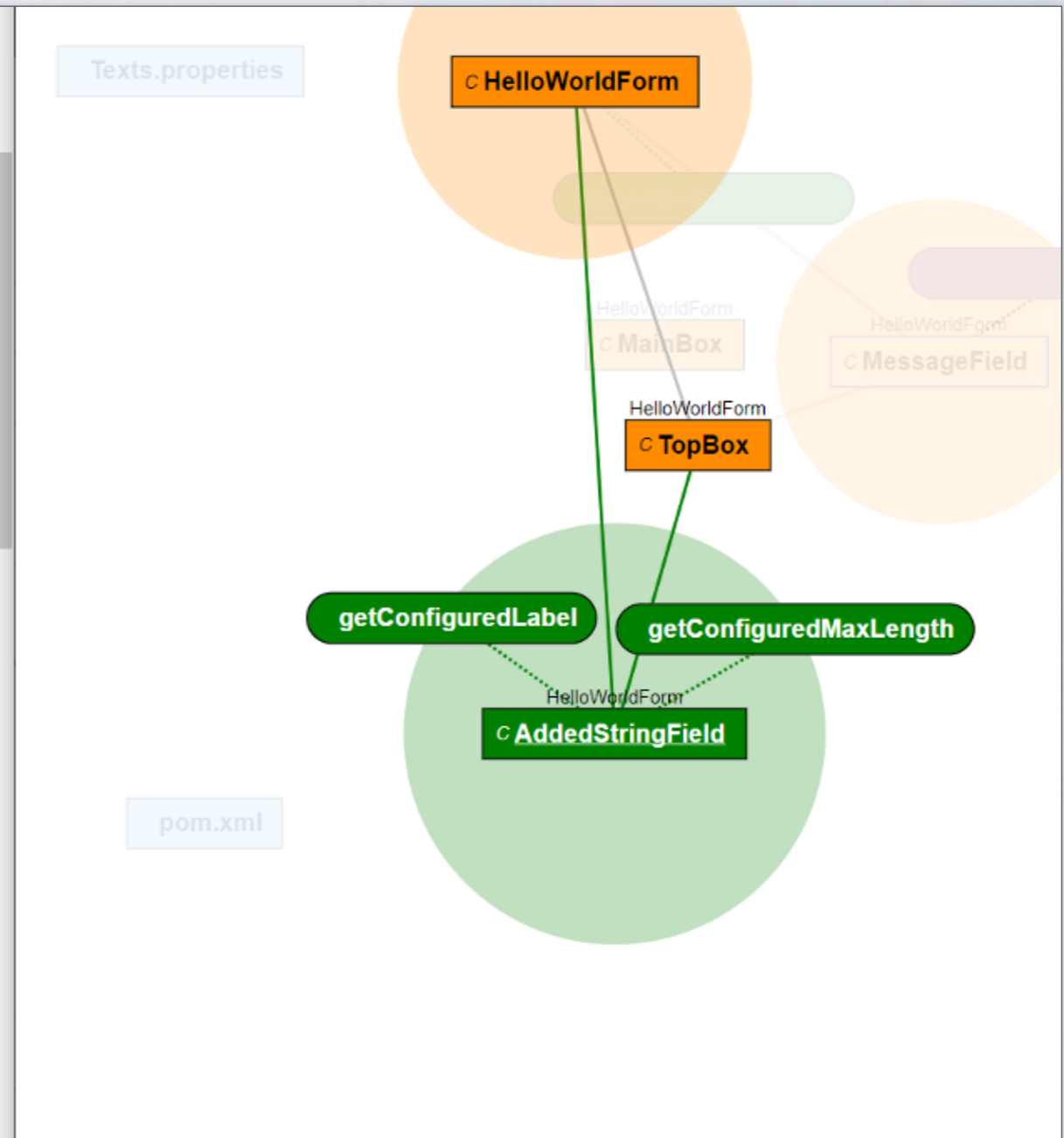
```
scout.client/src/main/java/ch/uzh/scout/client/helloworld/HelloWorldForm.java
15 2

45 46 }
46 47 }
48 + public AddedStringField getAddedStringField() {
49 +     return getFieldByClass(AddedStringField.class);
50 + }
51 + }
47 52 public TopBox getTopBox() {
48 53     return getFieldByClass(TopBox.class);
49 54 }

Show unchanged lines

74 79 protected String getConfiguredLabel() {
75 80     return TEXTS.get("Message");
76 81 }
82 + }
83 +
84 + @Order(2000)
85 + public class AddedStringField extends AbstractStringField {
86 +     @Override
87 +     protected getConfiguredLabel() {
88 +         return TEXTS.get("AddedStringFieldText");
89 +     }
77 90
78 91 @Override
79 - protected boolean getConfiguredEnabled() {
80 -     return false;
92 + protected int getConfiguredMaxLength() {
93 +     return 128;
81 94 }
82 95 }
83 96 }
```

scout.shared/src/generated/java/ch/uzh/scout/shared/helloworld/HelloWorldFormData.java
9 0



Next generation code review tools: Code Change Visualization

The image displays a code review interface with two panels. The left panel shows code changes for two files:

- scout.client/src/main/java/ch/uzh/scout/client/helloworld/HelloWorldForm.java**: Shows changes to the `getConfiguredEnabled()` method (lines 78-80) and the `getConfiguredMaxLength()` method (lines 92-93).
- scout.shared/src/generated/java/ch/uzh/scout/shared/helloworld/HelloWorldFormData.java**: Shows several new methods and classes, including `getAddedString()`, `getMessage()`, and `AddedString` and `Message` classes.

The right panel shows a class diagram with nodes for `HelloWorldForm`, `MainBox`, `TopBox`, and `MessageField`. A red callout box highlights the `getConfiguredEnabled` method in the `MessageField` class, with a hand cursor pointing to it. A black arrow points from this callout to the corresponding code change in the left panel.

Current code review tools are only scratching the surface of what can be done to support reviewers.


Asking Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review

But.. why are we doing code review at all?

Our code review tools are great! Aren't they?

Are we really in this together?

Who should review a change?



CR-FE-8851 109

← → Prefs Filter 1h 55min

`/src/.../trackedbranch/TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria.java` Added 4 FishEye File Outdated

e0a7a4c

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35     public static TrackedBranchesSearchCriteria withReview(String reviewPermaId) {
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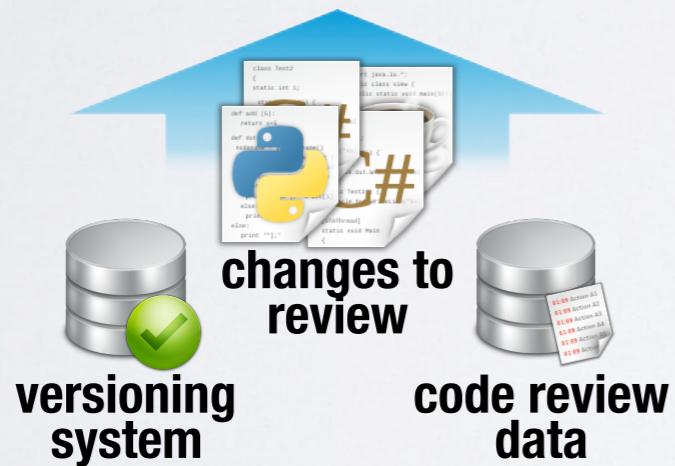
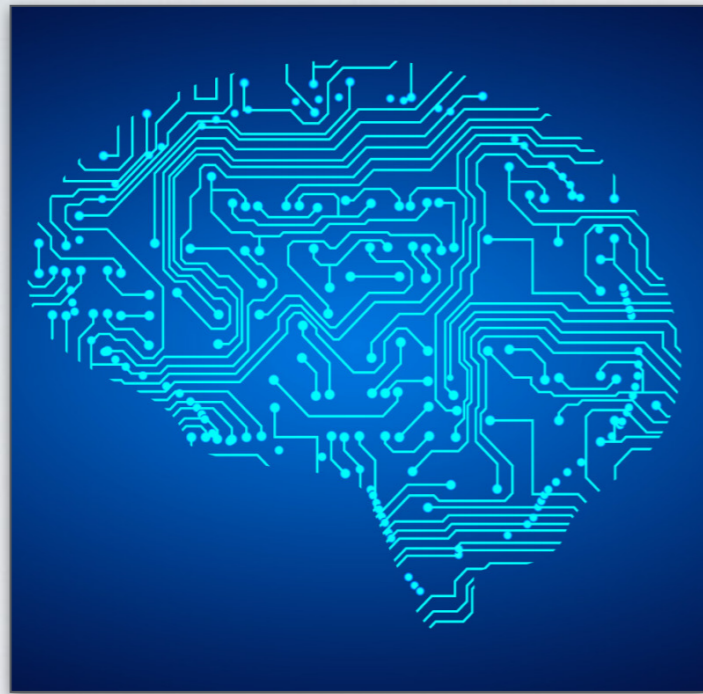
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```
37     }
38
39     public static class TrackedBranchesSearchCriteriaBuilder {
40         private String reviewPermaId;
```

Who should review the change? Reviewer recommender

reviewer recommender



most appropriate reviewer #1



most appropriate reviewer #3

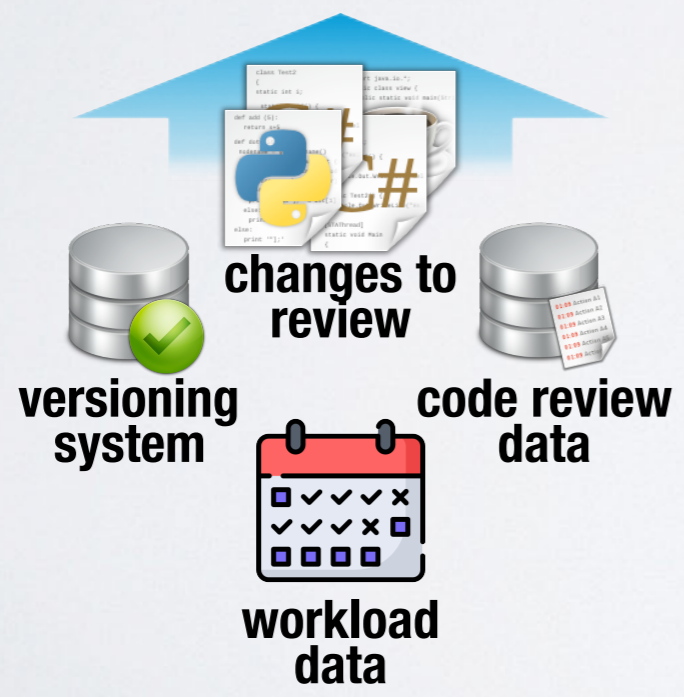
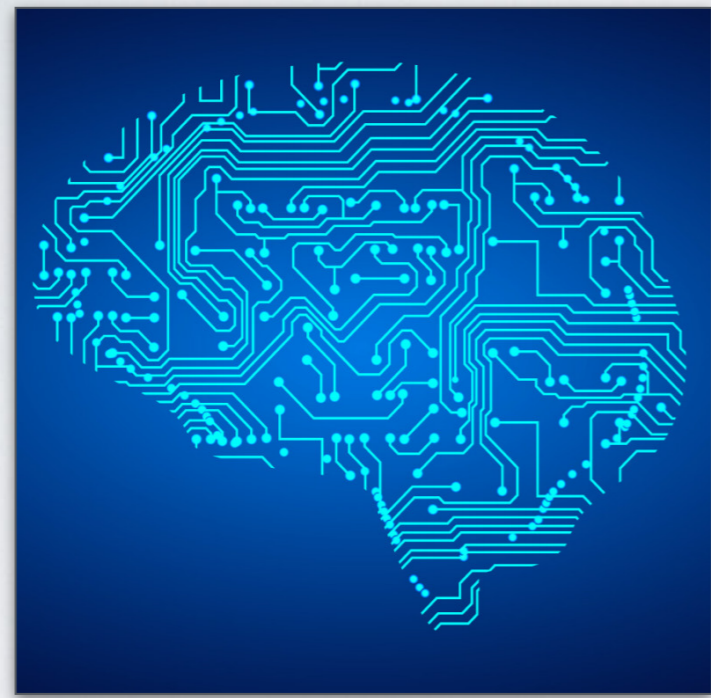


most appropriate reviewer #2

- mostly developers do not need it
- always the same people are recommended
- workload is not considered
- diversity is not considered

Who should review the change? Reviewer recommender

reviewer recommender



most appropriate reviewer #1



most appropriate reviewer #3



most appropriate reviewer #2

Tools and teams should be more mindful and supportive when it comes to reviewing code.

Asking Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review

But.. why are we doing code review at all?

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Are we really in this together?

Can we find security problems in code review?

Can we find security problems in code review?

Code to Review

We are now going to show you the code changes to review.

Instructions

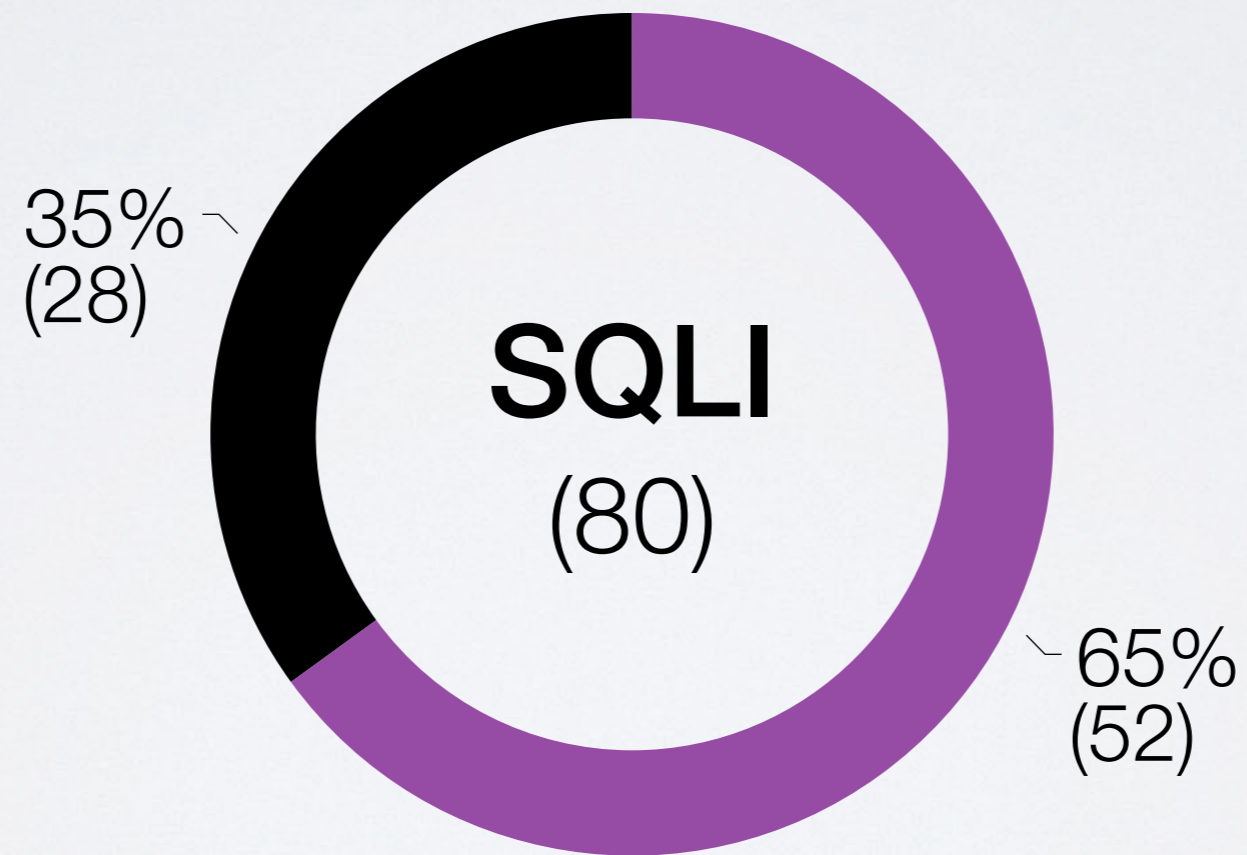
- Take the review task **very seriously** (this is critical for the scientific validity of this experiment).
- The old version of the code is on the left, the new version is on the right.
- Assume that the code compiles and that all tests pass.
- **Review comments**
 - To **add** a review comment, click on the corresponding line number.
 - To **modify/delete** a review comment, click on the corresponding line number again and modify/delete the comment's text

Can we find security problems in code review?

```
22     /**
23     * Get the level for an employee, given their employee ID
24     *
25     * @param employeeID
26     * @return the current level of the specified employee
27     * @throws SQLException in case of persistence-related issues (e.g., employee not
found)
28     */
29     protected int getEmployeeLevel(String employeeID) throws SQLException {
30         String query = "SELECT * FROM tblemployees WHERE employeeID='" + employeeID +
'''";
31
32         CWE-89: SQL Injection: Here there is a risk of SQL injection when, for example, an employeeID "' or '1'='1'" is
33 used. There are 2 conditions in the query. (1) employeeID = "': It will be evaluated to false as there is no empty
34 employees in the table. (2) '1'='1': It will be evaluated to true as this is static string comparison. Now combining all 2
35 conditions i.e. false or true => Final result will be true.
36
37         int employeeLevel = rs.getInt("employeeLevel");
38         rs.close();
39         return employeeLevel;
40     }
```

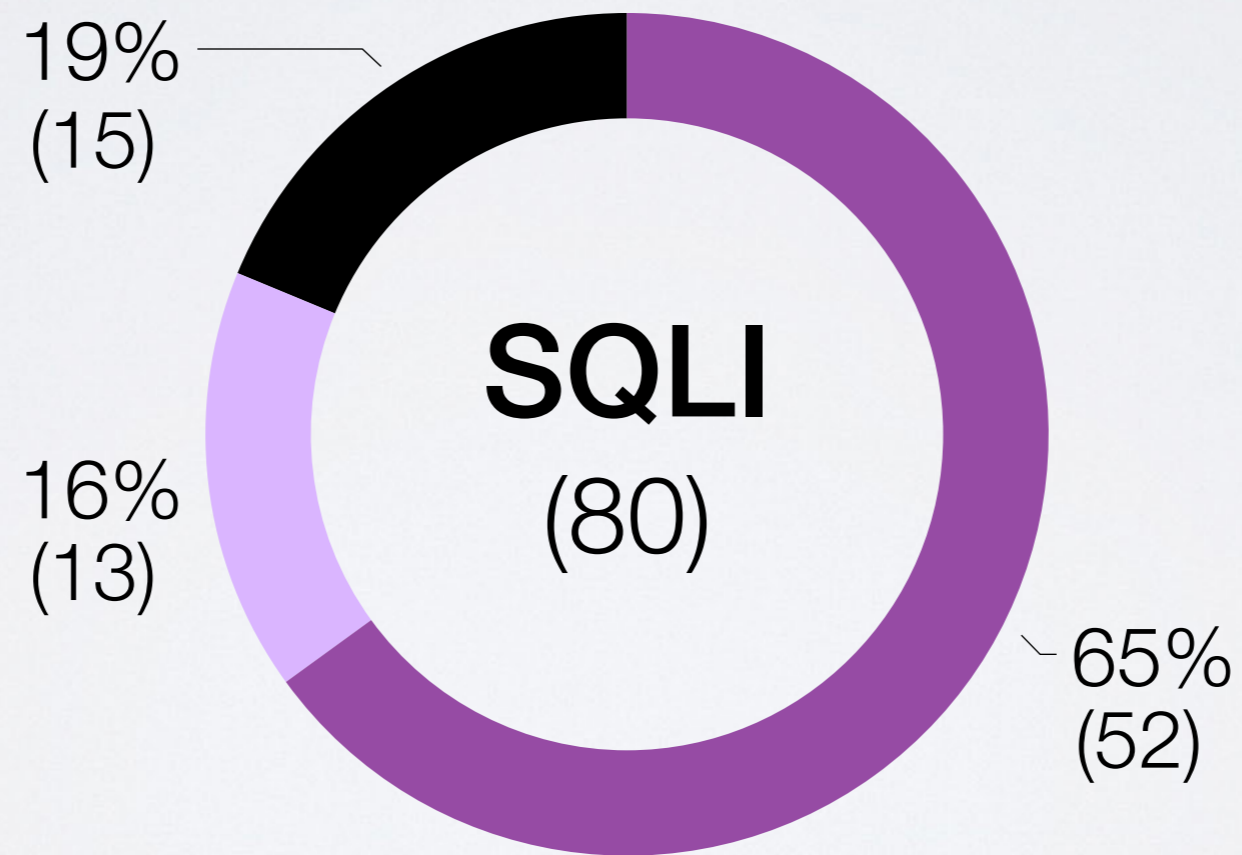
Can we find security problems in code review?

- Not found
- Found



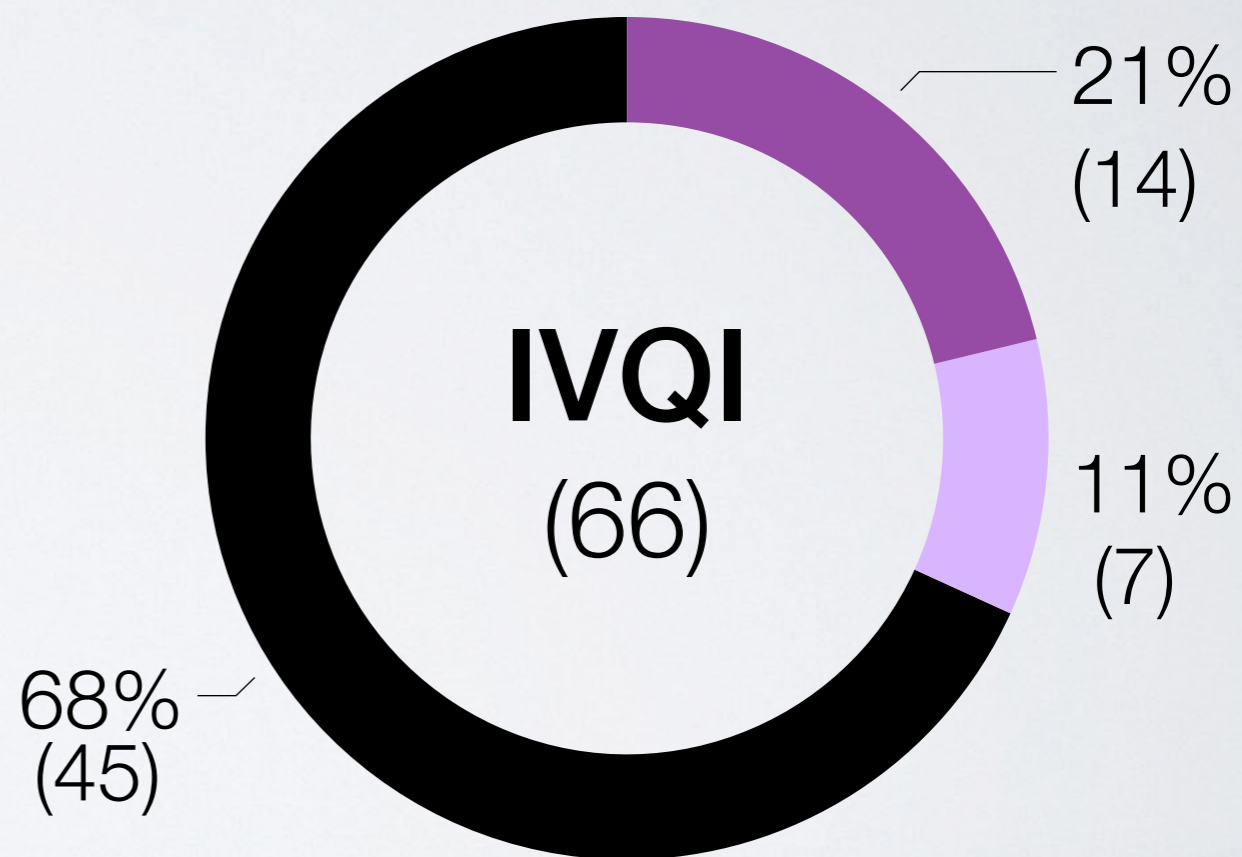
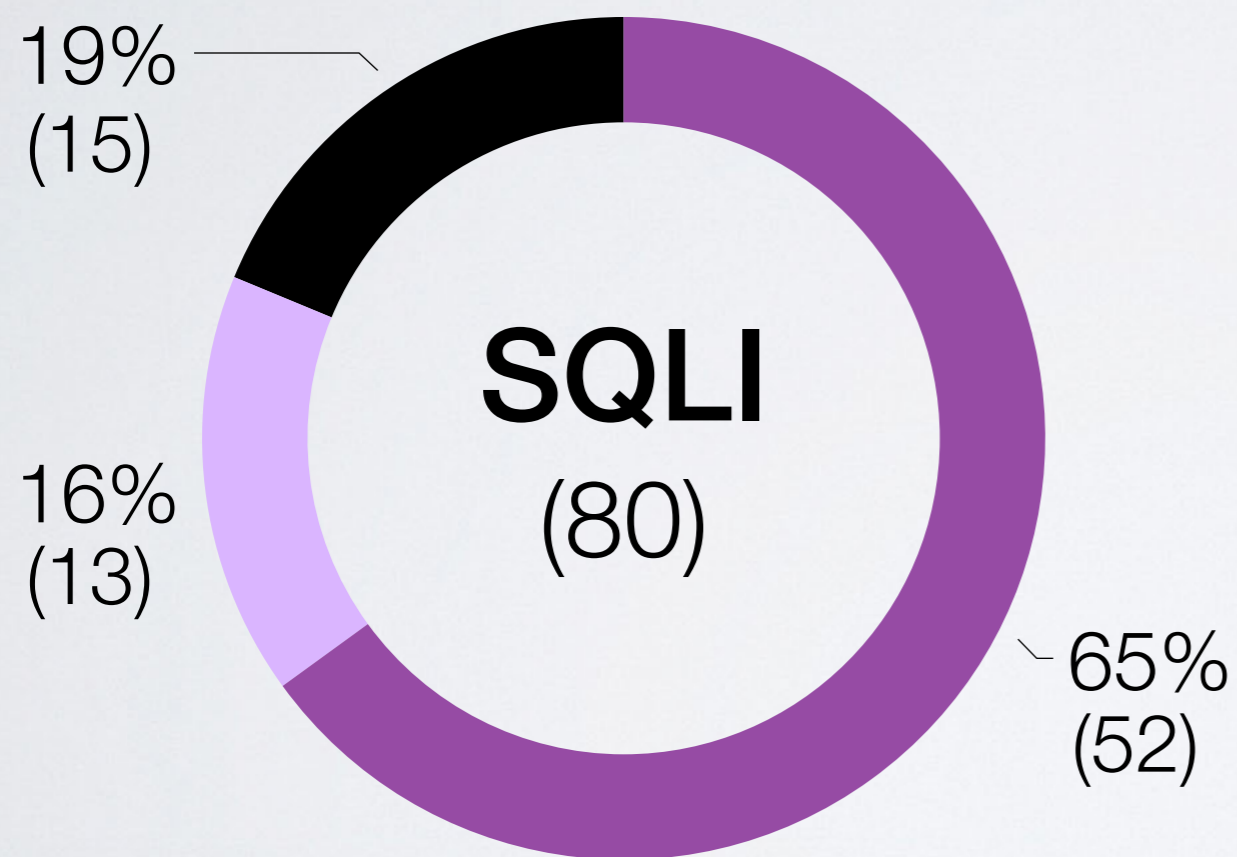
Can we find security problems in code review?

- Not found
- Found in the first review
- Found after the warning



Can we find security problems in code review?

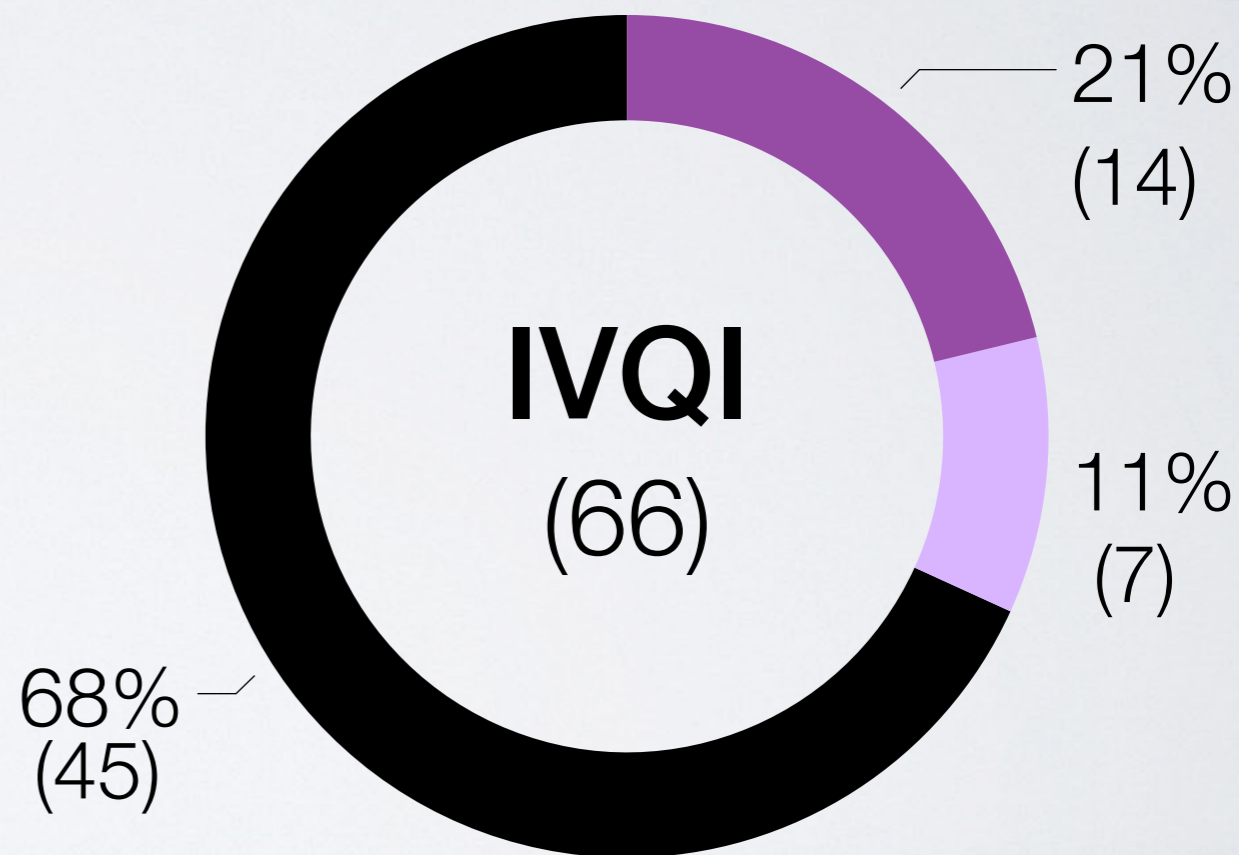
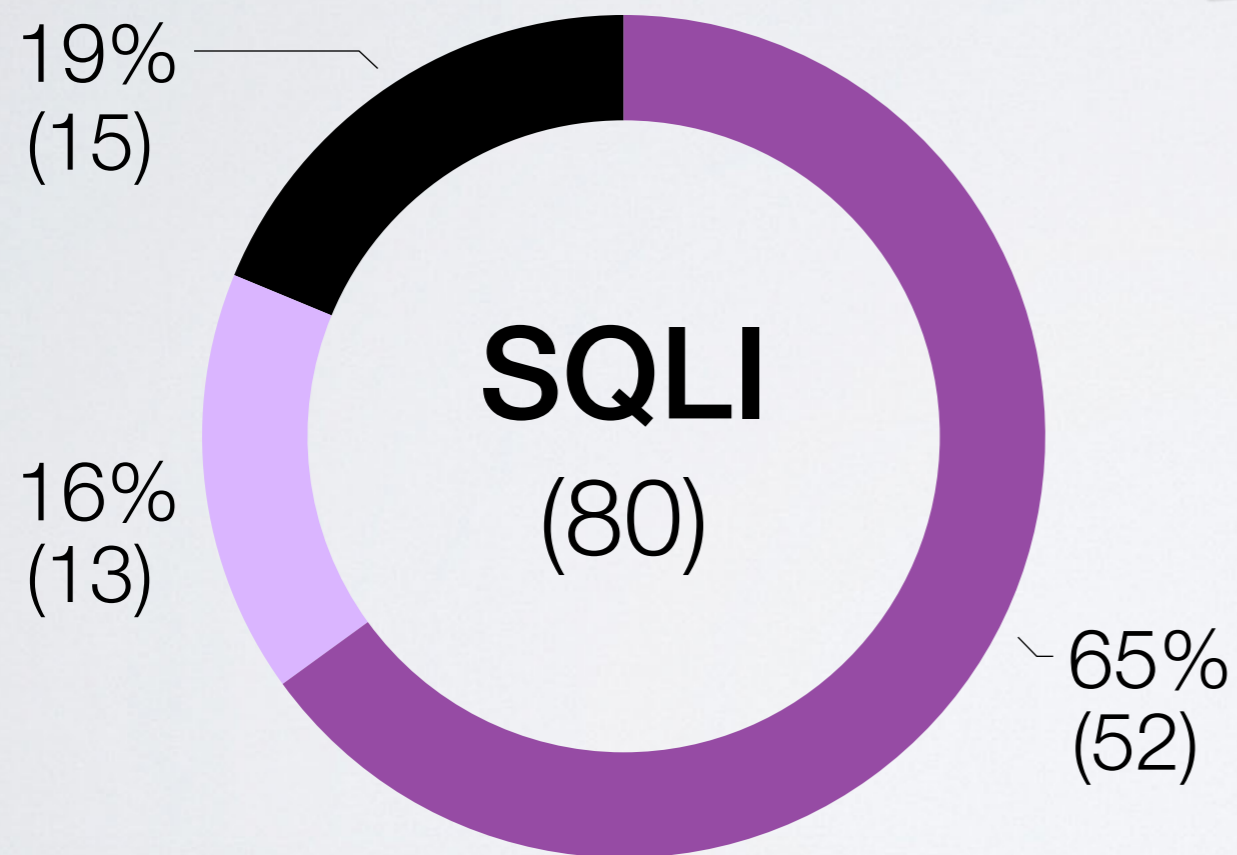
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Can we find security problems in code review?

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- Found after the warning

Most factors related to low knowledge and practice contribute to missing vulnerabilities during code review, also after prompting.



Other Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review We Are Investigating

How should a change be **split for review**?

Can we **measure the effect** of code review?

What **cognitive biases** are influencing our review?

How do **top reviewers** go about reviewing code?

...

ZEST: Zurich Empirical Software engineering Team



Research

- Software quality
 - Peer code review
 - Software testing
 - Software security
- Fundamentals of Data Science for Software Engineering
 - Predictive Analytics
 - Data-driven Tools

Education

- Software Design & Construction
- Software Testing
- Software Analytics (aka Data Science for S.E.)

Empirical Software Engineering?

Empirical software engineering involves the scientific use of quantitative and qualitative data to understand and improve software product, software development process and software management.

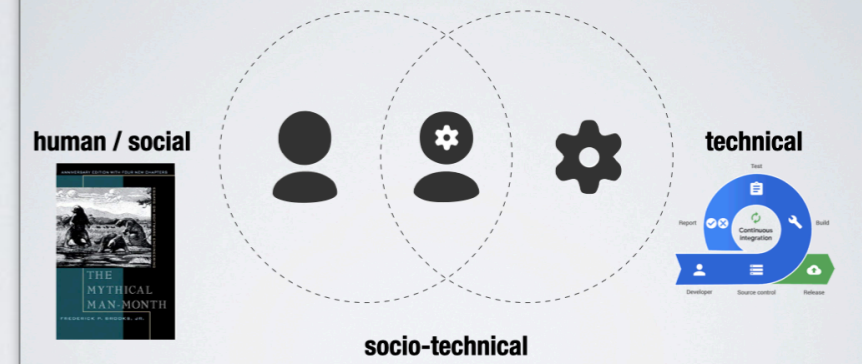
Empirical software engineering **starts with a good question:**

- Does pair programming work?
- Is static typing really good?
- What are the advantages of properly following continuous integration?
- How does using GitHub influence open-source projects?

Empirical software engineering **leads to actionable results:**

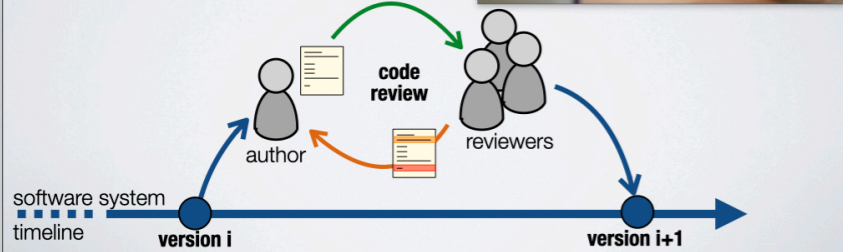
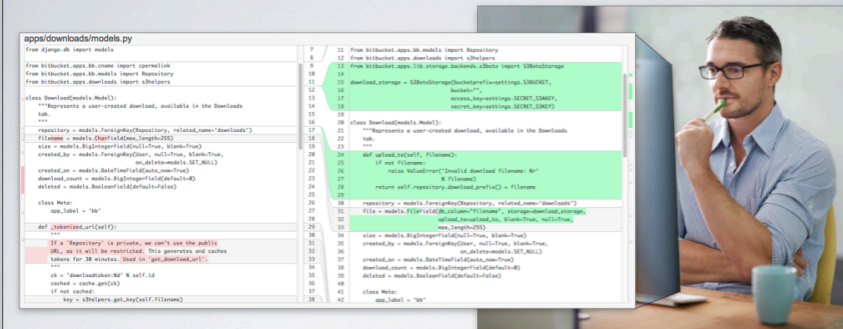
- The creation of new tools
- The improvement of existing tools
- The improvement of existing development and engineering processes
- More questions :)

Software Engineering as a Socio-Technical Space



Productivity Paradox – Margaret-Anne Storey ICSE 2019

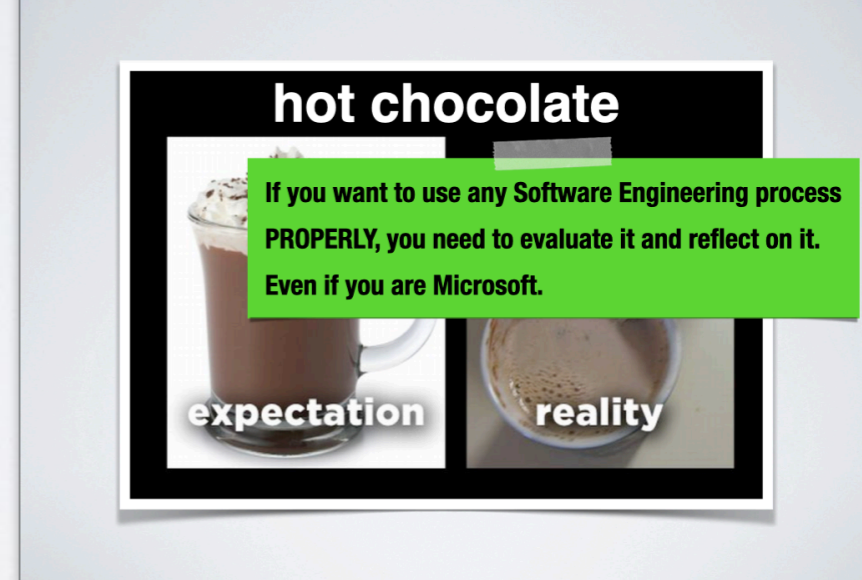
Joint Space — Code Review



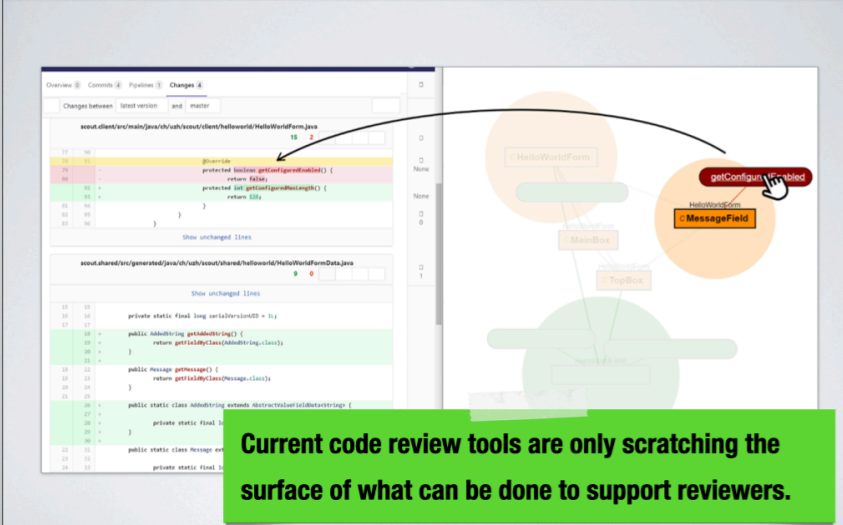
Asking Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review

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- Our code review tools are great! Aren't they?
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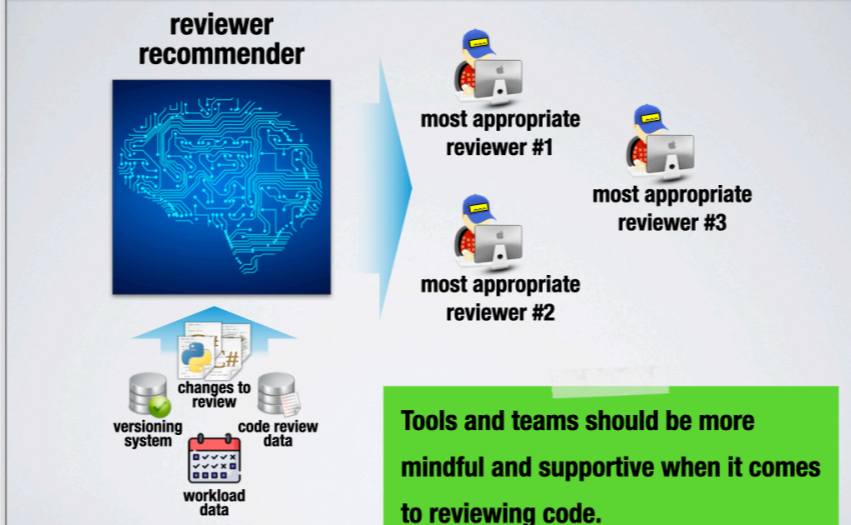
Code review at Microsoft in 2012: Expectations vs. Reality



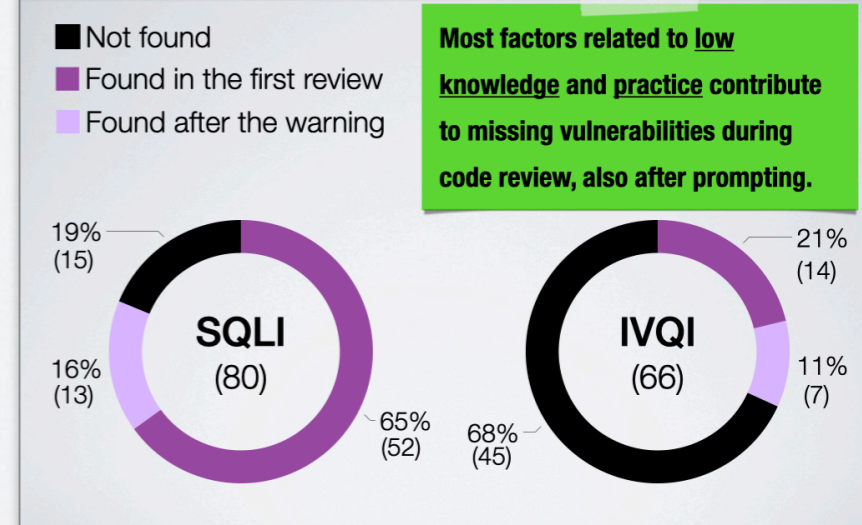
Next generation code review tools: Code Change Visualization



Who should review the change? Reviewer recommender



Can we find security problems in code review?





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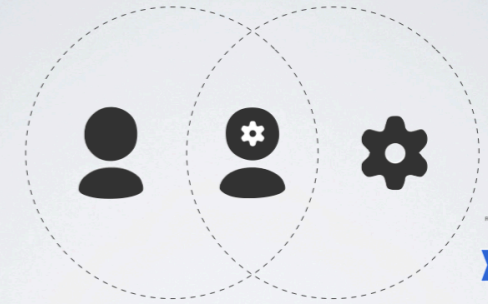
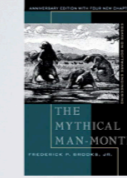
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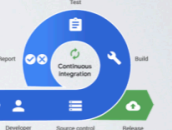
Thank you!
Alberto

<http://zest.ifi.uzh.ch>
zest@ifi.uzh.ch

human / social



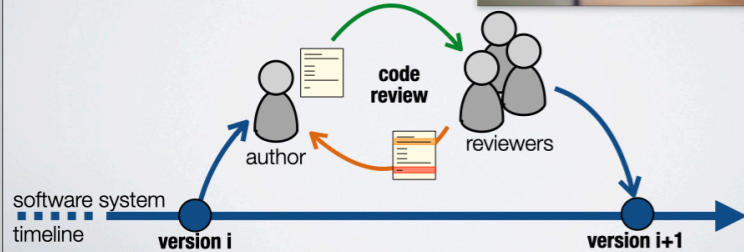
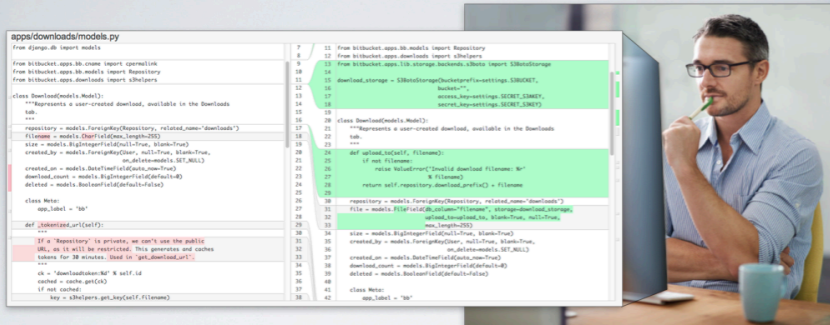
technical



socio-technical

Productivity Paradox – Margaret-Anne Storey ICSE 2019

Joint Space — Code Review



Asking Uncomfortable Questions On Code Review

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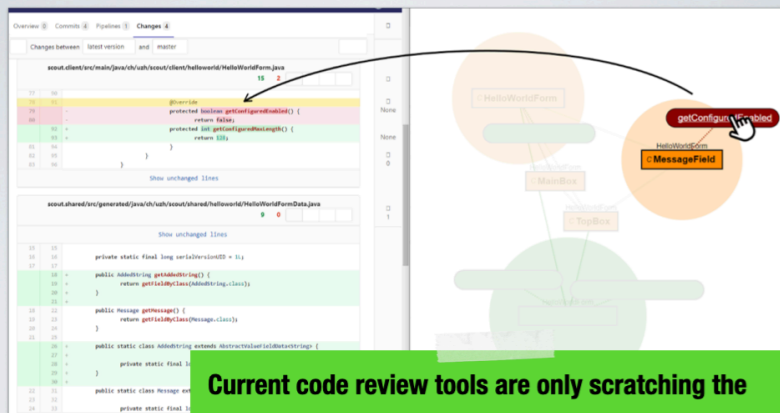
Are we really in this together?

Can we find security problems in code review?

Code review at Microsoft in 2012: Expectations vs. Reality



Next generation code review tools: Code Change Visualization



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Who should review the change? Reviewer recommender

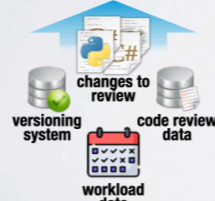
reviewer recommender



most appropriate reviewer #1

most appropriate reviewer #3

most appropriate reviewer #2



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- Found after the warning

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