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The Correct Approach to the Unapproachable

There is no effective way to standardize how much testing is necessary for any piece of software to be held to. Software developers should hold themselves accountable and be aware of how much testing has been done before trying to sell the service. Software for a business can be a lot easier to make and easier to test than anything used in the medical field and as such requires much less testing. There is no great way to getting around testing, but the way that software is tested can lead to better results.

How much testing a piece of software needs is never going to be a debate, all that matters are the standards that the software are going to be held to. If a piece of software is going to help manage a business, it only needs to be tested enough to prove it works and people can learn how to use it. Once those two criteria are met, testing can cease if the consensus is that the software works well enough. Developing new medical software however requires enough testing to show that it not only works, but is virtually 100% reliable. The difference in testing is then not to see if it works, but to see if the software can handle any situation that it may be put in. An important part of being a software developer noted by Lurie, Yotam and Mark Shlomo that software developers are putting out technology that affects all areas of life (423). This constitutes that anyone who wants to develop software test it as much as possible not because it will make the software better, but because it will better contribute to society.

While testing should be as thorough as possible there are also plenty of reasons to use relatively untested technology to lower the cost for people under certain conditions. Testing is necessary for any product and there is no way around thoroughly testing anything especially in the medical field.

However if a piece of software is tested to be fairly accurate but not tested for 100% reliability, there are situations in which selling the service would benefit the public, such as reaching out to a larger demographic. If a someone needed a potentially life saving treatment, and the two options are a virtually certain success at a price only a few can afford or a cheaper not as certain to work, the option should be there. Having the service on the market would allow people to potentially do some real time tests to help improve the system and potentially reducing the cost a little once actually on the market fully tested.

The most important part is that the developer upholds his integrity and be honest about his service especially if people are reluctant to take it in a less tested state than other products. If a developer is will to be upfront about how well a product is tested then there is nothing wrong with letting other people. The key would be sure that the developers could say that they themselves would be willing to use that service if there was no alternative. According to the “ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct” allowing earlier versions of untested software to cheapen the cost does satisfy in my opinion satisfy rules like 1.3 and 1.4 which describe being trust worthy as a developer and not to discriminate. If the developer would be willing to use it if there was no alternative available then they can be honest that the product is not fully tested for every situation but good enough for most situations. It is also fair to make sure everyone has access to the service even if the service is not the sufficiently tested to be a complete product. This also fulfills part of a Christians mission to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12: 31). A person making a cheaper product available for more people and being upfront about the level of testing done shows that someone on the development team cared about making the service accessible while also providing something the developer would use himself. Certification would then not really be neccisary because each individual developer would have their own credibility.

As long as a developer is upfront with people about how much testing a new piece of software has had, the developer can sell it. Anything form a business aplication to life support equipment can be

sold if people are aware that there are more risks involved than other more well tested software. The developer only needs to be careful and be willing to use whatever he makes for himself to be a viable product even for a discount.

Works cited

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