

# IDE-IT FrontEnd

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# Motivation

## Importance

- IDEs provide powerful tools for developers
  - Code insight
  - Debugging
  - Resource Management

## Problem

- Only a small number of these functionalities get used
- Low discoverability of existing IDE tools and shortcuts



**Accessibility**



**Awareness**



**Configuration**

# Current Approaches

## MouseFeed



User clicks menu item:

Informs of hotkey shortcuts



Requires user already knows feature exists



## Features Trainer



Daily lessons:

Informs of hotkey shortcuts



Irrelevant  
Interrupts flow



## Tips



Tips of the day:

Introduces new features to user



Irrelevant  
Bothersome



## Web Search



Videos, forums, articles:

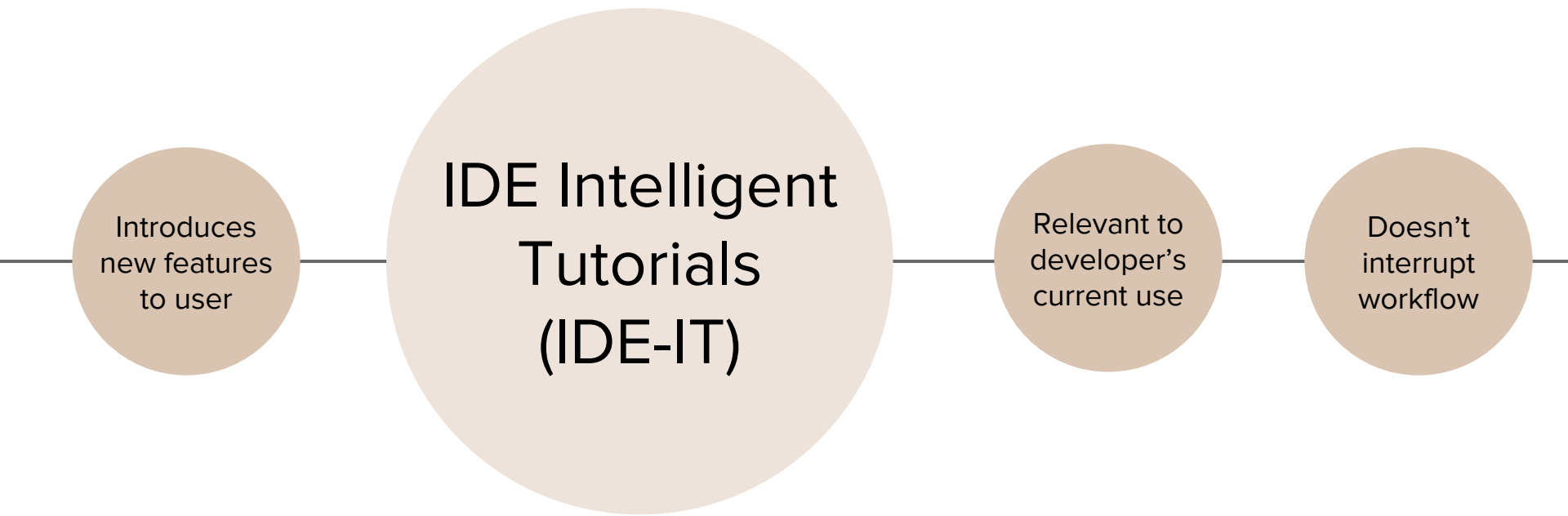
Introduces new features to user



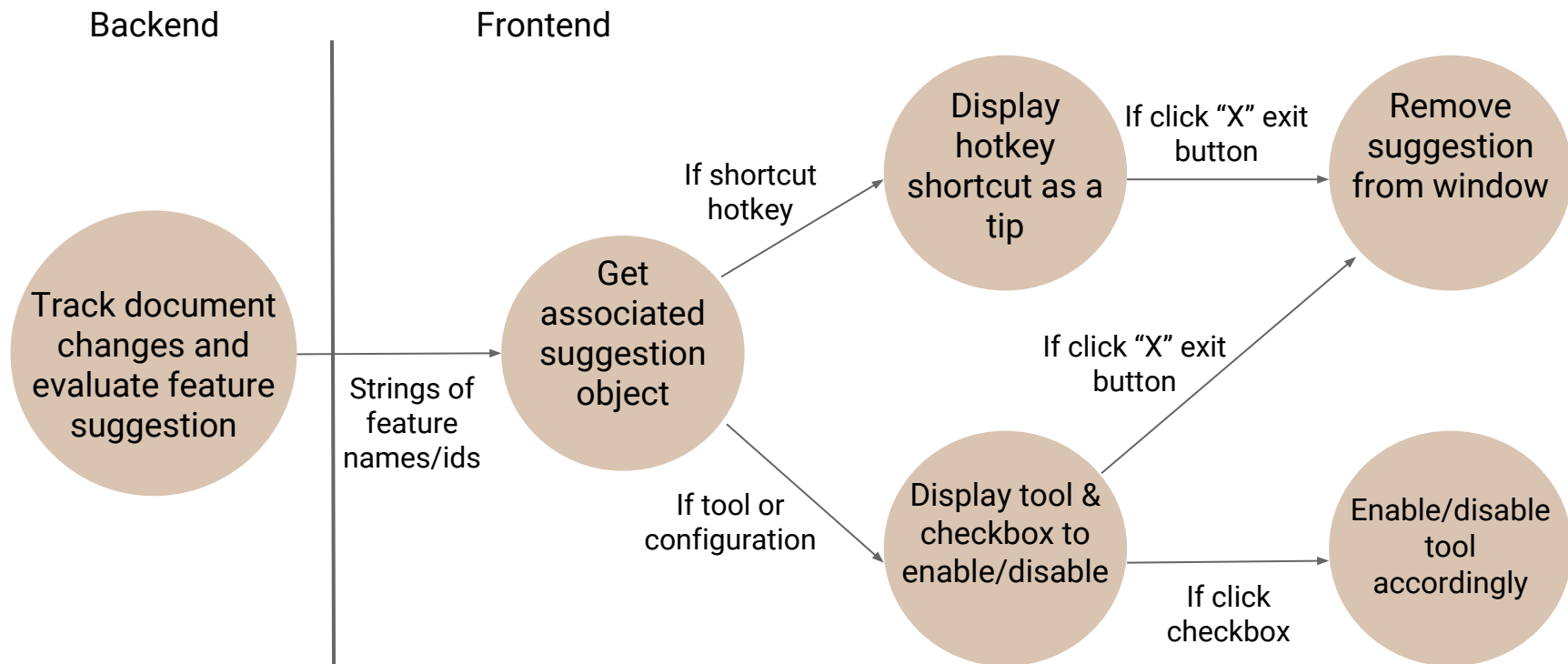
User search  
Interrupts flow



# Our Approach



# Our Approach





# Research Questions

## Hypotheses

- Suggestions will be non-intrusive and not interrupt workflow
- Users will positively respond to suggestions

## Methodology

- Recruit ~10 UW CSE students
- Ask them to perform specific tasks
  - I.e. comment multiple lines
- Survey: Scale 1-10

## Information and Metrics

- User response to interface
  - Window placement
  - Clarity of message
  - Distractibility
  - Did they use the suggestion?

## Tie to Real-World Problem

- Annoyance of “daily tips”
- Interruption of workflow
- Timing of suggestions
- Accessibility of configuration

# Preliminary Results

- ❖ Learned how to create an initial working Eclipse plug-in
- ❖ Creating the window and checkboxes was simple to set up
- ❖ Challenge of enabling or disabling configurations through the code
- ❖ Understand the relationship between the backend and frontend teams



# Related Work

## API Explorer

- Extension to **content assist** in Eclipse IDE
- Recommends methods or types
- Users could easily choose relevant API elements from recommendations

## Key Promoter X

- Plug-in to learn **IntelliJ shortcuts**
- Works on buttons clicked within the IDE
- For buttons without shortcuts, plug-in prompts user to create one

Thank you!

Questions?