

Q2.2: What tools do you currently use for refactoring at any scale?

Q4.10: What tools, if any, did you use to assist your large-scale refactoring efforts?

Code	Description
<i>Code smells analysis tools</i>	Tools that use static analysis to identify areas of the code that do not conform to accepted implementation rules and design best practices
<i>Continuous integration</i>	Tools used to integrate code changes from multiple contributors
<i>Dependency exploration</i>	Tools that enumerate dependencies in code and their properties
<i>IDE</i>	General reference to integrated development environments without specifying the purpose of use
<i>IDE refactoring features</i>	Specific reference to refactoring functionalities of integrated development environments
<i>Manual efforts</i>	Using techniques that do not apply automated support
<i>Other</i>	Responses that do not fit one of the remaining categories
<i>Refactoring tool</i>	Tools that recommend refactorings and realize their implementations
<i>Testing tools</i>	Tools that assist with unit, regression and integration testing
<i>Text editors</i>	Tools that are used to edit plain text, in our context those basic ones primarily used for editing code
<i>Version control/Issue tracker</i>	Tools used for change management, list of issues in the software
<i>Visual modeling</i>	Tools used to visually represent software, problem analysis, decision making; could apply to before or after refactoring

Q4.2: What were the business goals of the refactoring?

Q5.2: For what business reasons did you want to perform a large-scale refactoring?

Code	Description
<i>Capability</i>	To add or improve or facilitate the improvement of the external (i.e., user-facing) capability. This encompasses features and functionality
<i>Cost</i>	Reduce the total cost of ownership. This includes the cost of: development, deployment and operations (license fees), maintenance, and moving to a new system
<i>Market position</i>	Expand or retain market share, maintain or improve reputation of business (customer service, influence hiring), reputation of product, enter new markets, reduce time to market
<i>Modernization</i>	To remove reliance on older / end-of-life technology, migrating to a new system, changing programming language
<i>Productivity</i>	Support improved business processes such as agile practices, distributed development, follow modern code practices. Improve software development productivity (e.g., team motivation, increase velocity, follow modern code practices)
<i>Quality</i>	To improve the external (i.e., user-facing) quality of the system. This encompasses defects (count and rate), performance and scaling, usability, and security

Q4.3: What were the technical goals of the refactoring?

Q5.3: For what technical reasons did you want to perform a large-scale refactoring?

Code	Description
<i>Capability</i>	To add or improve or facilitate the improvement of the external (i.e., user-facing) capability. This encompasses features and functionality
<i>Cost</i>	Reduce the total cost of ownership. This includes the cost of: development, deployment and operations (license fees), maintenance, and moving to a new system
<i>Maintainability</i>	To improve the internal quality of the code
<i>Modernization</i>	To remove reliance on older / end-of-life technology, migrating to a new system, changing programming language
<i>Productivity</i>	Support improved business processes such as agile practices, distributed development, follow modern code practices. Improve software development productivity (e.g., team motivation, increase velocity, follow modern code practices)
<i>Quality</i>	To improve the external (i.e., user-facing) quality of the system. This encompasses defects (count and rate), performance and scaling, usability, and security
<i>Reuse</i>	A goal of the refactoring was to facilitate greater reuse (i.e., common services, software product line)
<i>System resources</i>	Improve utilization of software and hardware platform

Q4.5: What other significant activities did you perform during refactoring?

Code	Description
<i>Communication</i>	Communicating and building trust with management, customers, and other developers. E.g., getting developers to buy into the goals of the refactoring, getting funding and other resources, etc.
<i>Comprehension</i>	Understanding existing requirements, assumptions, and constraints
<i>Education</i>	This covers both explicitly training/onboarding developers and writing documentation (e.g., explaining structure, rationale, and decisions)
<i>Evaluation</i>	Verifying, validating, and certifying the changes. Assessing the consequences of the refactoring on the rest of the system and ensuring backwards compatibility
<i>Operations</i>	Support operational and deployment activities and stakeholders (e.g., migrating and managing users).
<i>PlanningHow</i>	Deciding exactly how the code should be refactored. E.g., given what to refactor as input (e.g., design problems), produce several refactoring options
<i>Process</i>	Understanding how refactoring fits into the larger software development process. E.g., performing agile test-driven development (TDD), managing version control and parallel development, etc
<i>Use of tools</i>	Develop, acquire, and use tools to help in the refactoring (whether custom-made or off-the-shelf)

Q4.8: For the most-challenging activities that you identified, what made those activities challenging?

Code	Description
<i>Lack of code comprehension</i>	Difficulty understanding existing code due to scale, dependencies, or side effects
<i>Lack of code quality</i>	Poor code quality
<i>Lack of communication</i>	Gaining stakeholder cooperation (including management support), managing expectations, and gaining user trust
<i>Lack of decision criteria</i>	Deciding whether one candidate refactoring is better than another depends on the priorities of competing goals. Without guiding metrics, it can be difficult to evaluate and compare candidate refactorings
<i>Lack of documentation</i>	A lack of documentation and unclear requirements for the original system
<i>Lack of refactoring techniques</i>	A lack of well-defined refactoring techniques make large-scale changes difficult and ad-hoc
<i>Lack of tests</i>	Without tests, it is difficult to assess the correctness of changes
<i>Scoping the refactoring</i>	Deciding what changes should be considered in scope for the refactoring and assessing whether those changes are worth making

Q4.11: What kind of automation, if available, would have most improved your large-scale refactoring?

Code	Description
<i>Analysis</i>	Improved static and dynamic analyses, ability to assess changes
<i>Build automation</i>	An ability to automate the process of rebuilding the codebase following changes (i.e., continuous integration)
<i>Comprehension</i>	Tooling that would generate abstract views of code (e.g., architecture), improved visualization
<i>Modification</i>	Tooling to automatically and safely apply pervasive changes to the codebase with minimal user input
<i>PlanningHow</i>	Tooling that, given what to refactor as input, produces and compares potential refactoring options
<i>PlanningWhat</i>	Tooling that helps to identify meaningful design problems and opportunities for refactoring
<i>Testing</i>	Generate unit tests (prior to refactoring), refactor tests in parallel with refactored code, automate other forms of testing (integration, regression, acceptance, application, and review)

Q5.4: For what reasons did your organization decide not to perform the large-scale refactoring?

Code	Description
<i>Comprehension</i>	It can be difficult to understand how the existing operates and how/where refactoring should take place in that system to achieve the desired goals. Poor comprehension may come from a lack of tests, documentation, requirements, or simply poor internal code quality.
<i>Management</i>	A lack of support or funding from leadership/management (e.g., due to a general organizational inertia)
Staffing	Insufficient, undertrained, or otherwise unhappy staff are available to support the refactoring.

Q5.6: What consequences, if any, did you observe from not performing the refactoring?

Code	Description
<i>Delivery</i>	The system was not delivered according to plan (e.g., it took longer than expected, was shipped without certain features, or was not shipped at all)
<i>External quality</i>	The user-facing quality of the product deteriorated due to, e.g., bugs, vulnerabilities, or degraded user experience
<i>Internal quality</i>	The internal quality of the codebase deteriorated, making it harder to work with and thus lowering productivity
<i>Staffing</i>	Adverse effects on development staff (e.g., difficulty hiring; low team morale; increased onboarding time)

Q7.1: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the refactoring tools, if any, that you currently use?

Code	Description
<i>This question inherits all of codes from Q4.11, in addition to the codes below</i>	
<i>LSR (large scale refactoring)</i>	Existing refactoring tools are good at “dumb” and shallow refactoring, but are unable to apply intelligence to the problem to generate deeper refactorings at a large scale
<i>Scoping the refactoring</i>	Existing refactoring tools provide little or no assistance in deciding the scope of a refactoring (e.g., estimating the value of a refactoring; identifying opportunities for reuse; satisfying business goals)
<i>Usability</i>	Properties of the tool and use by developer (cost, code size, skill, selection, setup, alignment with standards, time, transparency, workflow)