

We are a group of researchers at Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute seeking to better understand how often software developers engage in large-scale refactoring, the difficulties they encounter during that refactoring, and what tooling is needed to reduce the costs and complexity of large-scale refactoring. The insights from this voluntary research study will be used to guide future research in automated refactoring assistance and inform the construction of tools that effectively assist developers.

Refactoring is the process of restructuring software without changing its external behavior. Small-scale refactorings described by Martin Fowler (e.g., rename, move function, extract class) are often used independently, but sometimes form part of a larger-scale effort to evolve existing software. That larger-scale effort is the focus of this study.

We are asking people who have worked in developing, maintaining, and evolving software to participate in a survey, conducted via an online questionnaire. In this survey, you will be asked to respond to a number of questions that seek to understand the practical challenges you observe regarding large-scale refactoring.

We estimate that this survey will take approximately 15 minutes. Participation in this study is limited to individuals age 18 and older. The survey does not collect any personally identifiable information. There will be no cost to you and no compensation if you participate in this study. If you have any questions about this study, you should feel free to ask them by contacting us at info@sei.cmu.edu.

Please follow this link if you are interested in participating in this study:
https://sei.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezAV7X4OvRX7R6I

This is an anonymous link, which means that your identities will not be recorded.

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