

User Survey:

In our previous work, to understand the views of industrialists to the code comments, we conducted a user study among the software engineers who were in charge of the software projects: Eclipse CDT, Eclipse JDT Core, Eclipse Platform UI, Motech, OpenDaylight Controller, and Vaadin. These projects were mainly chosen due to the availability of software engineers (including: programmers and reviewers) information through Gerrit, but also, due to their different domain and size. We found 200 emails of the software engineers of the six projects, who were active users in Gerrit over the last six months, and we invited them to participate in our user study through an online questionnaire, which consists of several questions, in which 2 questions are related to current study, 1 question for the background of participants and 1 question for their views on commenting practices. Finally, 13 engineers participated in our survey. That is, 1, 4, 3, 3, 1, 1 participants are from Eclipse CDT, Eclipse JDT Core, Eclipse Platform UI, Motech, OpenDaylight Controller, and Vaadin, respectively. These engineers have an average of 13.2 years of programming experience.

We ask the participants 1 questions regarding their views on commenting practices, i.e., “Do you forget to write comments when programming”. Figure 1 shows forgetting to comment is a common phenomenon in development, and developers with any years of programming experience may forget to add comments when they program. Specifically, 5 programmers often or always forget to write comments when programming, and 6 programmers occasionally forget to write comments, while only 2 programmers rarely or never forget to write comments. Meanwhile, the programmers stated that they have been required to insert comments in the source code by the code reviewers, and they often comment the source code after the fact.

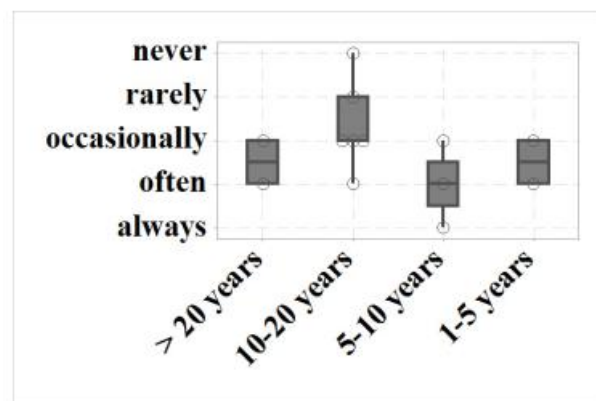


Figure 1: Commenting forgetfulness for developers