
Software Repository Mining

Software Reengineering
(COM3523 / COM6523)

The University of Sheffield

Software Repositories

Collection of source code, compiled artifacts and software metadata

Typically used for project collaboration and version control

Source Code repositories

Github, Gitlab, IBM RTC

Not only source code

Maven Central (Java), PyPi (Python), NPM (Node JS)

What has this got to do with reengineering?

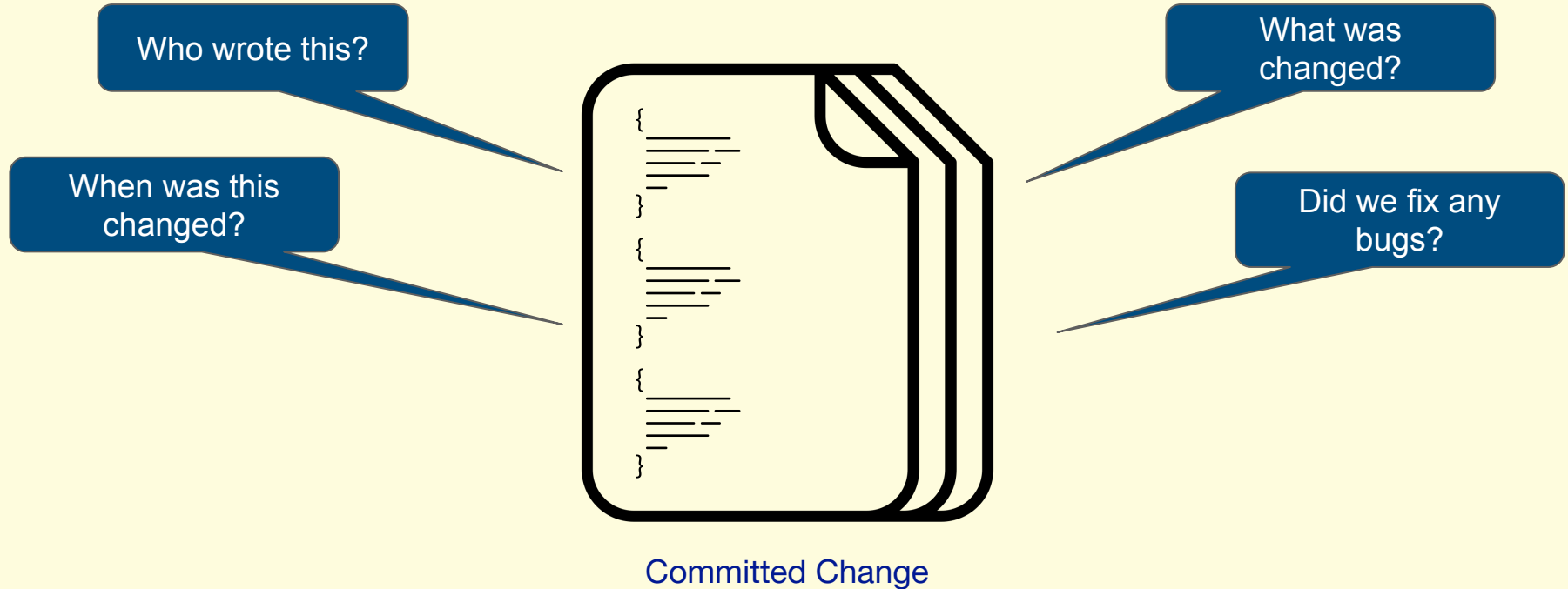
Key Takeaways

What is software repository metadata?

How can we obtain metadata?

How can we use metadata?

Repository Metadata

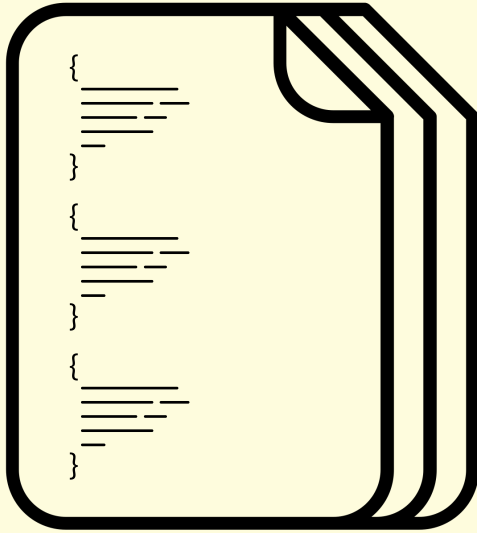




What are some examples of source-code metadata?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Repository Metadata



Committed Change

A screenshot of a GitHub pull request interface for the 'zxing/zxing' repository. The pull request is titled 'Proposed fix for Issue #836 - height and width parameters ignored whe...' and is for the 'master' branch. It shows a commit by Lakshmikant Avasarala. The diff view shows changes in 'DataMatrixWriter.java', with a highlighted section showing a fix for a bug where requested dimensions were too small or negative.

```
@@ -55,7 +55,7 @@ public BitMatrix encode(String contents, BarcodeFormat format,
int width, int he

55 55     }
56 56
57 57     if (width < 0 || height < 0) {
58 -         throw new IllegalArgumentException("Requested dimensions are too small: " +
width + 'x' + height);
58 +         throw new IllegalArgumentException("Requested dimensions can't be negative:
" + width + 'x' + height);
59 59     }
```

Repository Metadata Metrics

Previously explored codebase metrics

Lines of code, cyclomatic complexity, object coupling

Repository analysis produce 'Process Metrics'

Number of commits, lines added, active developers

Allows for active/legacy projects to be identified

Identification of problem areas in the codebase

Repository Mining using Bash

git log output the logs for a git repository

git log --no-merges --pretty=format:"%h"

Ignore merge
commits

Formatting

git show 1861cf4 will output the metadata for a given commit hash

git show -s --format='%an' 1861cf4

Only output
author metadata

Repository Mining using Bash

Git bash demo

Using Mined Metadata

We found each commit for a project

- Each commit was mined for metadata

- Generated a large csv of each atomic change

Explored the use of Pivot Tables to combine data

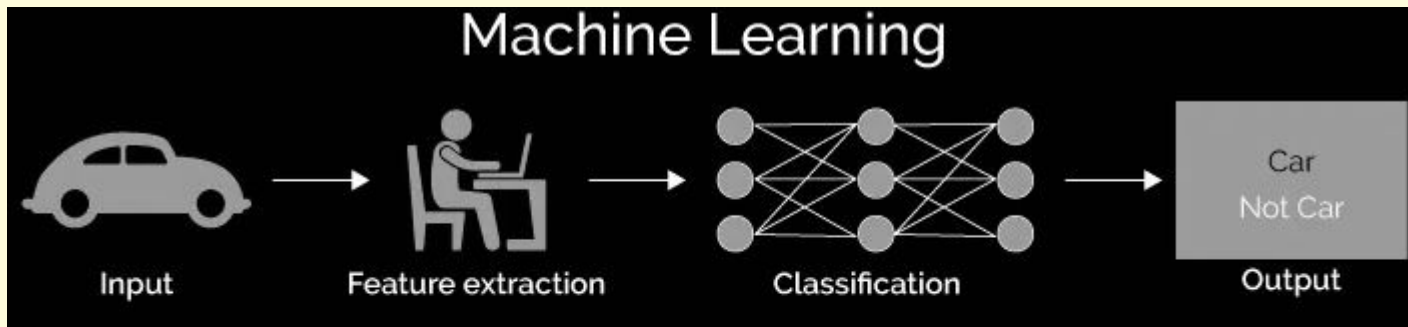
- We are able to identify files of interest through number of commits

- Also able to find active members of the repository

Many more complex tools to use outside of bash...

Cutting Edge Uses for Mined Metadata

Now we have the data, what do we do with it?



Recent work into fault prediction software

How should a company best divide its programmer budget?

Unfinished work classification

Did employee X leave before finishing their pull request?

Key Takeaways

What is software repository metadata?

Information about the software program outside of the code itself

How can we obtain metadata?

We explored the use of bash git commands to obtain metadata

How can we use metadata?

Combining data to make the sheer quantity of data

Covered some cutting edge techniques



Audience Q&A Session

① Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.