

Unit 9 Reflection

Description

This was the ninth unit of the Software Engineering Project Management module. This unit focused on the techniques used to ensure the quality of the software being developed. The goals of this unit were to learn about the different quality metrics for software, to learn why software quality is of the utmost importance and to learn about the roles played by quality management planning, control and assurance in the development of high-quality software. The goals of this unit were achieved through a lecture cast on the different quality management strategies, and e-portfolio activity where we applied these strategies to some code we had worked on in the past and the required reading for this unit of the module.

Feelings

Whilst I had heard of QA (Quality Assurance) and QE (Quality Engineering) I didn't fully understand the specifics of what they actually do. Previously I thought that QA engineers were essentially testers but there is a lot more to their roles than just testing.

I was already familiar with a lot of the code quality metrics such as cyclomatic complexity as during my time at Nomura there was a heavy focus placed on reducing the tech debt.

Whilst the concept of Quality assurance is a huge topic, I believe that the reading for this unit was again a tad excessive as there is a lot of additional reading to do whilst I am also trying to work on the upcoming assignment. As most of the other students are balancing full time jobs with part time studies, I believe this may be a tad too much. It seems like the amount of reading you would expect from full time studying.

Evaluation

This unit taught me a lot more about how the quality of software is ensured with quality management models such as McCall's model which I had never heard of before as I had barely touched the surface on the topic of quality management best practices for software development. After completing this unit of the module, I am now more aware of how to ensure the development of high-quality software.

Analysis

This unit of the module is covered a lot of content that was new to me so I would consider this to be the most important unit to date as its where I have learnt the most.

Conclusion

This unit focused on the different tools and techniques that can be used to ensure the quality of code being developed is to the required standards.

Action plan

When writing code, I will continue to use the recommended tools such as linters whilst applying the relevant quality management models to ensure the quality of my code.

References

Gibbs, G. (1998) Learning by Doing: A guide to teaching and learning methods. Further Education Unit. Oxford Polytechnic: Oxford.