

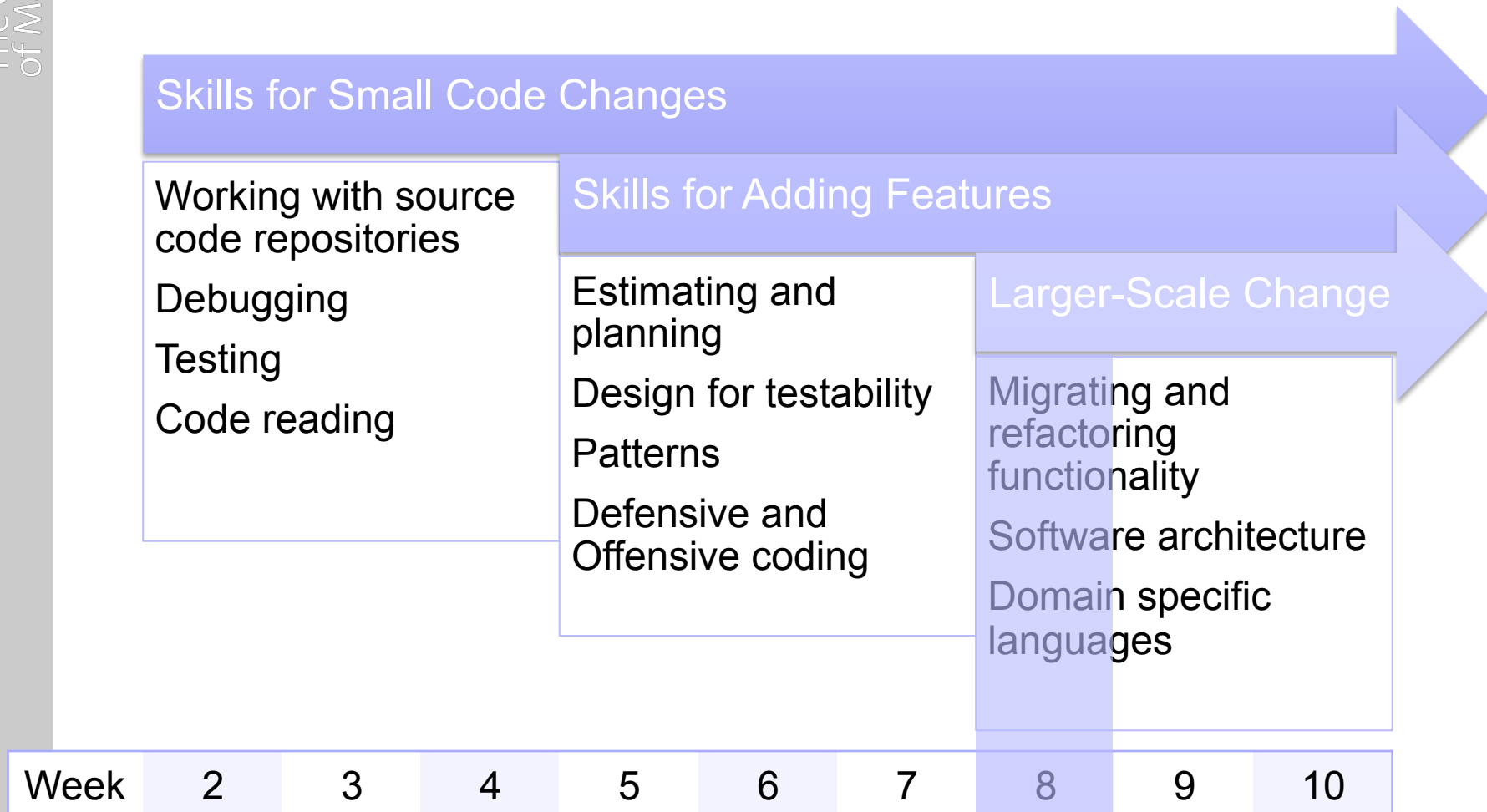
Refactoring and code migration

COMP23420: Software Engineering

Week 8

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Course Unit Roadmap (Weeks 2-10)



Link to the Coursework

- We will discuss refactoring and introduce tools in Eclipse to help refactor code.
- We will also start thinking about how to approach the final coursework exercise.

What is refactoring?

- “*Refactoring changes structure, not behaviour*”
- What do we mean by “behaviour”?
 - The function that is performed by the code
 - The interface that the code presents to the world
 - API
 - More obvious in object-oriented programming

Testing and refactoring

- “*Refactoring changes structure, not behaviour*”
 - Behaviour must be *exactly* the same after refactoring
- Good tests are essential for refactoring
 - Must start and finish in known good state
- Refactoring workflow:
 - Run tests (start from known good state)
 - Refactor
 - Run tests (finish in the same known good state)

Changing interfaces vs refactoring

- *“What if I split a complex method up into smaller private methods?”*
- This is a refactor; the interface is not changed
 - Run tests to ensure they pass
 - Refactor
 - Re-run entire test suite to check for regressions

Changing interfaces vs refactoring

- *“What if I combine similar functionality from two private methods into a single one?”*
- This is a refactor; the interface is not changed
 - Run tests to ensure they pass
 - Refactor
 - Re-run entire test suite to check for regressions

Changing interfaces vs refactoring

- *“What if I am removing a public method, and no longer need the test?”*
- Not a refactor; you are changing the interface
 - Run tests to ensure they pass
 - Remove the test
 - Remove the method
 - Re-run entire test suite to check for regressions

Changing interfaces vs refactoring

- “*What if I am moving a public method between two classes?*”
- Not a refactor; you are changing the interface
 - Run tests to ensure they pass
 - Change the test so that it tests the code in its new location
 - Move the code to the new class
 - Re-run entire test suite to check for regressions

How do I know when to refactor?

- Look out for
 - Complexity
 - Assignments, branches, calls (ABC)
 - Cyclometric complexity
 - Consider refactoring high scoring methods
 - Structural similarity
 - Consider refactoring similar code
- Don't search by hand, use tools

Refactoring with your IDE (Eclipse)

- Modern IDEs have shortcuts to help refactoring
 - Use them!
 - Auto-update changed references
 - Across whole project
 - Across all files
 - Even in the unit tests
- For Eclipse, see: <http://help.eclipse.org/>

Simple tasks

- Rename...; Move...
 - Fields, local variables, types, packages, etc
- Change method signature...
 - Keep original as delegate
 - Deprecate original
- Encapsulate field...
 - Replaces all references to a field with getter and setter methods

Super-type/sub-type operations

- Use super-type where possible...
 - Replace occurrences of a type with one of its super-types where possible
- Pull up...
 - Move a field/method to a superclass
 - Declare the method abstract in the superclass
 - Methods only
- Push down...
 - Move a set of methods and fields from a class to its subclasses

Extracting structure

- Extract local variable...
 - Creates a new variable assigned to the current selection
 - Replaces the selection with a reference to the new variable
- Extract method...
 - Creates a new method containing the current selection
 - Replaces the selection with a reference to the new method
 - Useful for refactoring lengthy, cluttered, or overly-complex methods.

Extracting structure

- Extract superclass...
 - Extracts a common superclass from a set of sibling types
 - The selected sibling types become direct subclasses of the extracted superclass
 - Maybe re-run “Use super-type where possible...”
- Extract interface...
 - Creates a new interface with a set of methods
 - Makes the selected class implement the interface

Stendhal Project

- Team Coursework 3: Cross-Cutting Change for Non-Functional Requirements.

Understanding the problem

What is the goal?

- Make defining quests more declarative and simple

Why is it important?

- Extensibility
- Maintainability

Understanding the problem

Step 1: Look at the existing system

- What are the common features of collection and paper-chase style quests?
- What are the configurable features of collection and paper-chase style quests?
 - How might those features be configured (e.g. data type)?

Planning a solution

- Which approach should you use?
 - Extending the Java classes
 - Using XML
 - Using Groovy scripts
- How would you represent the common and configurable features in each case?
- Which one are you going to use?
 - Decision
 - Rationale

Next week

- In the team study sessions you will continue to work on the coursework and you will have your second mentoring session
- In the workshop we will learn about different styles of software architecture.