

Week 9 Essay Question

CSE-682 SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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Question

Give three or four circumstances where you might recommend against software reuse.

1. If the software system is overly complex, it will be difficult to understand. It will also be challenging to support, as issues in such systems take a longer amount of time to identify and correct.
2. If the software system is not documented or commented, it may be difficult to determine the architecture and behavior of the system. Such systems create nightmares for developers that are trying to modify or correct system behavior.
3. If the software is not free but purchased from a 3rd party provider, the cost of the software must be weighed against the benefits and functionality that it provides. If the cost is too high, reuse might not be the best option.
4. Developers must consider the amount of time that will be spent integrating an existing software system into a design in progress. How much time will integration take? Is the existing software worth the integration efforts? Has it been unit tested, verified, and proven successful in the field? All of these questions must be answered before an existing software system is reused.