Interview Guide

Attention:

Hand-out and explain Information Sheet, Ethical Consent Form, and Data Protection Consent form.

Proceed to the following questions only after the participant has

- understood the Information Sheet and
- agreed to and signed Ethical Consent Form and the Data Protection Consent form.

Interview Questions

Background

In the following we are looking at how expert and novice developers are performing software maintenance. In particular, we are interested in program comprehension, that is, how do software developers understand unfamiliar code (or models), when they are about to maintain that code (or such models).

Question 1.1

a) How many years of experience as a software developer do you have?

b) How many years of that in commercial software development?

Question 1.2

What is your highest qualification?

a) Level

b) Subject

Question 1.3

How would you describe your current role?

Question 1.4

How many other developers are reporting to you / are you responsible for?

Question 1.5

What are **questions** that a software developer might ask or types of **information they might need**, during software maintenance or program comprehension.

Question 1.6

If you have to maintain or understand unfamiliar code, which **strategies** do you apply? Name multiple if possible.

Question 1.7

Would you say that **experts** use different strategies for maintenance and understanding unfamiliar code? If so, which strategies / how do they go about that?

Question 1.8

What are strategies or skills that future software developers (for instance, students at a university) **should be taught** to prepare them, so they become experts in software maintenance and program comprehension faster?

Question 1.9

Any other comments on software maintenance, program comprehension, and becoming an expert in such tasks? For instance, **lessons learnt** during your career?