Review 7

2/1/12

CS6V81.502

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**What Makes a Good Bug Report?**

Battenburg et al. studied the quality of bug reports both in “reporter’s” viewpoint and that of developers. They found that even if both reporters and developers agree what types of information are helpful, information provided by reporters did not quite fulfill developer’s need. Oftentimes, stack trace, which was “the most wanted information”, were hard to provide or even impossible to do so. Also, developers suffered from wrong, incomplete or even absent of information, which of course lead to the prolongation of bug report lifetime.

To improve this situation, the group of researchers used a tool CUEZILLA to measure the quality of each report. In addition, CUEZILLA was used to recognize crucial information, such as “steps to reproduce bugs”. As a result, CUEZILLA agreed with developers 41% of the time, which seems pretty low. (I mean, who would use a tool that is correct not even half of the time?) Also, the response rate was really low as well. Out of 1000 developers they thought to care about improving debugging process, only 193 developers (on average) responded to the survey. This can lead to the poor representation of samples the researchers took.

Even if the result seems rather disappointing, I like their argument on threats to validity. As soon as I read the word “survey”, a lot of thing came to me: word biasing, bad response rate, voluntary response, etc. Of these, voluntary response bothered me the most because if the response is left to the responder’s “privilege”, it is more likely that only people who care about the topic will respond. This can easily lead to skewed dataset, in favor of people who responded. However, as they refuted this concern, the result of this study will be used by the developers who care anyways.

Overall, this topic was very interesting. I like their example of poor bug reports, such as “GUI” and “wqqwqw”, which made me laugh. Their solution to current problem seemed not very effective, yet promising. If one can developer a better bug reporting tool (maybe one that accesses the history of processes, only for short time) bug reporting quality will improve.

**Question:**

1. Did this article won any awards? More specifically, is it common for a research paper based on survey, not experiment, gets an award?