

Protocol to identify developers' profile

This protocol is meant to identify possible indicators that the developer is related to one of the NFRs explored in our study (*i.e.* Security, Robustness, Performance, and Maintainability). You should follow the steps below to identify these indicators.

Step 1: Access the developer GitHub Profile (github.com/{username})

To start the inspection, access the developer's GitHub profile page. It will contain information such as the contributions that he made in multiple repositories and the repositories that he starred. Some developers include a description in their profile, which can contain links to other pages that will be used in the next steps.

Step 2: Analyze the repositories where the developer contributes or starred

Step 2.1: Verify how many repositories are from the Spring ecosystem

You should identify which repositories the developer is interested in. In that case, we consider this interest when he contributes or stars a repository. Once you identified the repositories, verify how many are part of the Spring ecosystem. This will help us to understand the developer's participation in the ecosystem as a whole.

Step 2.2: Verify the domain (*e.g.*, Security) of the repositories

Still considering these repositories, you should evaluate whether they are related to a specific domain related to one of the four NFRs studied. This will help us to understand whether he can be closely related to the specific NFR and if he can be a specialist.

Step 3: Access possible external links

In the developer's profile, it is possible that it has some external links with more information about his profile. It can include roles in companies where he works or development interests in general.

Step 4: Identify indicators of profile in these links

When analyzing these links, you should consider what can be indicators that the developer is related to an NFR. It can be through the roles that he has on companies or repositories that he works for and are related to a specific NFR.

Step 5: Identify possible communication media with the developer.

When available, identify communication media that can be used to contact the developer (*e.g.* email, social media). We will use that in future studies.

Step 6: Write a summary of your findings.

Considering your analysis, write down a summary of the developer profile that was possible to identify. We will use that in our open coding process.