Week 2: Empirical Analysis of F-Droid

Nate Bachmeier

TIM-7140:Software Engineering

March 7, 2021

Northcentral University

# Empirical Analysis of F-Droid

F-Droid is a self-described installable catalog of FOSS (Free and Open Source) apps for the Android platform (F-Droid, 2021). There are roughly four thousand applications within their collection. Each project’s entry contains downloadable links to source repositories and official milestone releases. Numerous researchers are leveraging this information to publish papers on trends across the mobile community.

While these efforts shine light into the problem space, they are not complete. However, F-Droid represents 0.1% of the size of Google Play Store’s three million apps (Statista, 2021). Comprehensively analyzing this fraction generates enormous data volumes, requiring significant processing power, which introduces an additional sampling layer. Further, Google Play Store is the defacto solution for mainstream professional development, and excluding this population entirely creates a selection bias. Mechanisms need to exist for identifying and bridging these empirical gaps.

# Analysis of Krutz (2015)