

Integration of Multiple Static Analysis Tools in a Single Interface

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- Formative Study
- Detailed Information thesis report, online repository*

*https://github.com/gsvarma/MSAT-UI



https://unicorn.com/en/software-everywhere

"\$1.1 Trillion in Assets Affected by Software Bugs in 2016 "

Software Fail Watch Annual Report,

Tricentis



https://www.tricentis.com/news/software-fail-watch-says-1-1-trillion-in-assets-affected-by-software-bugs-in-2016/

Static Code Analysis

- It helps in prevention of bugs.
- It examines code without execution.

- Detects vulnerabilities :
 - Injections
 - Cross Site Scripting (XSS)
 - Buffer Overflow, and Dead Code etc.



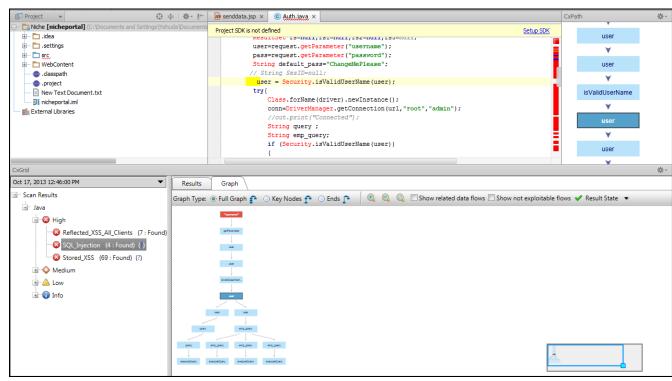
Designing code analyses for Large Software Systems (DECA). url: https://www.hni.uni-paderborn.de/swt/lehre/deca/.

Static Code Analysis



Tools :

- IDE notifications
- IDE tools
- Dedicated tools
- Linters
- CLI tools



- Checkmarx Application Security Testing and Static Code Analysis. url: https://www.checkmarx.com/
- CxViewer Plugins | JetBrains, url: https://plugins.jetbrains.com/plugin/7593-cxviewer
- ♦ FindBugs[™] Find Bugs in Java Programs. url: http://findbugs.sourceforge.net/.



Static Code Analysis

- Johnson et al.
 - Tool output
 - Result understandability

Usability Issues

- Christakis et al.
- Habib et al.

- Brittany Johnson, Yoonki Song, Emerson Murphy-Hill, and Robert Bowdidge. 2013. Why don't software developers use static analysis tools to find bugs?. In *Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Software Engineering* (ICSE '13). IEEE Press, Piscataway, NJ, USA, 672-681.
- Maria Christakis and Christian Bird. 2016. What developers want and need from program analysis: an empirical study. In *Proceedings of the 31st IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering* (ASE 2016). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 332-343. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/2970276.2970347
- Habib, A., & Pradel, M. (2018, September). How many of all bugs do we find? a study of static bug detectors. In ASE (pp. 317-328).

Multiple Tools

- Developers use multiple static analysis tools each having own coverage.
- Research trends:
- Prioritise the bug warning alerts

(Flynn et al.)

Merges 3 tools for Java to show warnings

(Meng et al.)

- Lori Flynn, William Snavely, David Svoboda, Nathan VanHoudnos, Richard Qin, Jennifer Burns, David Zubrow, Robert Stoddard, and Guillermo Marce-Santurio. 2018. Prioritizing alerts from multiple static analysis tools, using classification models. In *Proceedings of the 1st International Workshop on Software Qualities and Their Dependencies* (SQUADE '18). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 13-20. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3194095.3194100
- N. Meng, Q. Wang, Q. Wu and H. Mei, "An Approach to Merge Results of Multiple Static Analysis Tools (Short Paper)," 2008 The Eighth International Conference on Quality Software, Oxford, 2008, pp. 169-174.doi: 10.1109/QSIC.2008.30

Multiple Tools

- Tricorder
 - ReviewBot
 - Separate bug coverage by separate tool
 - Evaluation: Summative Click rates

(Sadowski et al.)

- Shipshape
- Tricium
- Parfait
 - Scalability (easy , expensive analysis)
 - Precision (bug track real, no, potential)

(Cifuentes et al.)

But USABILITY is not addressed...

- Caitlin Sadowski, Jeffrey van Gogh, Ciera Jaspan, Emma Söderberg, and Collin Winter. 2015. Tricorder: building a program analysis ecosystem.
 In Proceedings of the 37th International Conference on Software Engineering Volume 1 (ICSE '15), Vol. 1. IEEE Press, Piscataway, NJ, USA, 598-608.
- Cristina Cifuentes and Bernhard Scholz. 2008. Parfait: designing a scalable bug checker. In *Proceedings of the 2008 workshop on Static analysis* (SAW '08).
 ACM, New York, NY, USA, 4-11. DOI=http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/1394504.1394505

Problem Statement

How to integrate the results of multiple static analysis tools

in a unified user interface?

3 Research Questions

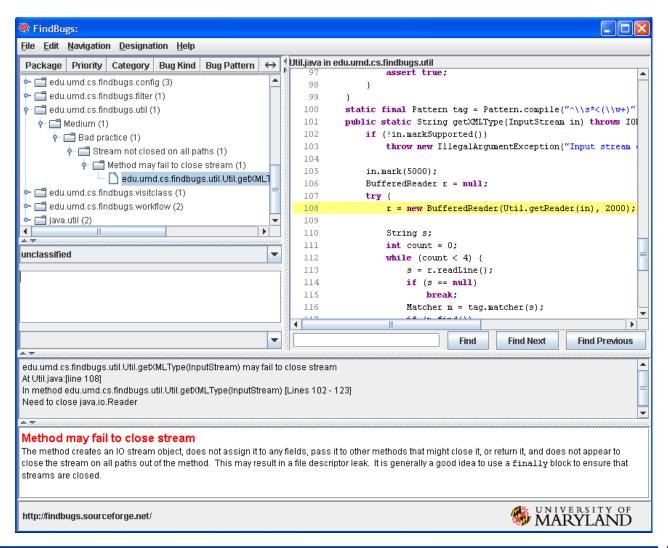
Research Question 1

How to display results of the same codebase from

different analysis tools?

What Current Tools do? - RQ 1: .. display results!

FindBugs



What Current Tools do? - RQ 1: .. display results!

Tricorder

```
package com.google.devtools.staticanalysis;
public class Test {
 - Lint
                  Missing a Javadoc comment.
   Java
   1:02 AM, Aug 21
 Please fix
                                                                                                       Not useful
  public boolean foo() {
    return getString() == "foo".toString();

→ ErrorProne

                  String comparison using reference equality instead of value equality
   StringEquality
                   (see http://code.google.com/p/error-prone/wiki/StringEquality)
   1:03 AM, Aug 21
 Please fix
 Suggested fix attached: show
                                                                                                       Not useful
  public String getString() {
    return new String("foo");
```

Research Question 2

What feedback works to know that the bug fixing is on-going?

- What current tools do?
 - Traditional approach Nightly Builds

Research Question 3

How to carry traceability of bug fixing?

What Current Tools do? - RQ 3: .. traceability!

Teamscale



Added db2 database mapping after reading forum post by Daniel Lewis in revision 91687a1146419dd23ceaed299185512696643dc1 (git)

Files: 11 changed

Findings: 0 4 2 12 1

Jul 17 2014 10:53



Add getDelegationState() in DelegateTask.

by Anya Hill in revision 812b1e277d844fa48307bcd7c692a6f395c85fbb (git)

Files: 14 changed

Findings: (13 2 12 25)

Jul 17 2014 10:30



TASK TIMEOUT

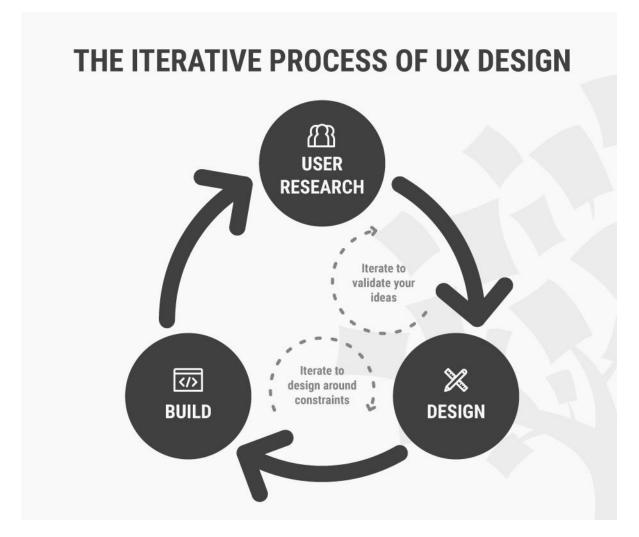
by Jacob Nelson in revision 997da57af6f2c08d504473d3e9837788b7592dcb (git)

Files: 14 changed Findings: 05 2 12 3

Jul 17 2014 08:46

Teamscale. url: https://www.cqse.eu/en/products/teamscale/features/.

Our Approaches



How to Change Your Career from Graphic Design to UX Design. url: https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/ how-to-change-your-career-fromgraphic-design-to-ux-design.

Our Approaches

- Software Engineering disciplines:
 - Complex datasets
 - Compiler reporting
 - Continuous integration
 - Refactoring tools
 - Issue tracker
 - Stack Overflow
 - Gamification
 - Usability Engineering

Our Approaches – research existing scenarios!

- Complex datasets:
 - Dix et. al. complex grouping and linking of datasets for Spreadsheets application
 Design lesson : extensibility of columns
- Issue tracker
 - Baysal et. al. :
 - Information overload
 - Expressiveness



- Alan Dix, Rachel Cowgill, Christina Bashford, Simon McVeigh, and Rupert Ridgewell. 2016. Spreadsheets as User Interfaces. In *Proceedings of the International Working Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces* (AVI '16), Paolo Buono, Rosa Lanzilotti, and Maristella Matera (Eds.). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 192-195. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/2909132.2909271
- Olga Baysal, Reid Holmes, and Michael W. Godfrey. 2014. No issue left behind: reducing information overload in issue tracking. In *Proceedings of the 22nd ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on Foundations of Software Engineering* (FSE 2014). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 666-677. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/2635868.2635887

Evaluation

- Experimental Design
 - Recruit Test Users
 - Order of evaluation altered
 - Likert Scale
 - Usability inspection methods: Cognitive Walkthrough
 - Perform Tasks
 - Example: Find a bug which is reported in common by available tools.
- Rensis Likert. "A technique for the measurement of attitudes." In: Archives of psychology (1932).

Evaluation – Usability Inspection Methods

Cognitive Walkthrough

For each step to a predefined task, the following aspects are analysed.

- Will the user try and achieve the right outcome?
- Will the user notice that the correct action is available to them?
- Will the user associate the correct action with the outcome they expect to achieve?
- If the correct action is performed; will the user see that progress is being made towards their intended outcome?

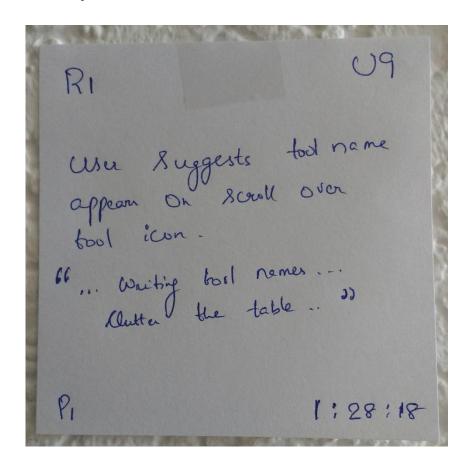
Jakob Nielsen. "Usability inspection methods". In: Conference companion on Human factors in computing systems. ACM. 1994, pp. 413–414.

Evaluation - User Study (Example: UX 2 Raw Data)

1 		,	
📤 user - 6	28/06/2019 10:29	AVI Video File (VLC)	536,049 KB
💷 user - 6	28/06/2019 10:57	TechSmith Project	6 KB
📤 user - 7	29/06/2019 19:28	AVI Video File (VLC)	665,578 KB
user - 7	29/06/2019 19:37	TechSmith Project	6 KB
📤 user - 8	30/06/2019 22:39	AVI Video File (VLC)	274,775 KB
user - 8	30/06/2019 22:43	TechSmith Project	7 KB
📥 user - 9	06/07/2019 16:41	AVI Video File (VLC)	896,555 KB
user - 9	06/07/2019 17:20	TechSmith Project	6 KB
📤 user - 10	06/07/2019 20:37	AVI Video File (VLC)	849,613 KB
💷 user - 10	06/07/2019 23:14	TechSmith Project	6 KB
📥 user - 11	06/07/2019 23:13	AVI Video File (VLC)	1,025,744 KB
user - 11	06/07/2019 23:14	TechSmith Project	6 KB
📥 user - 12	07/07/2019 13:06	AVI Video File (VLC)	650,411 KB
💷 user - 12	07/07/2019 13:11	TechSmith Project	6 KB

Evaluation

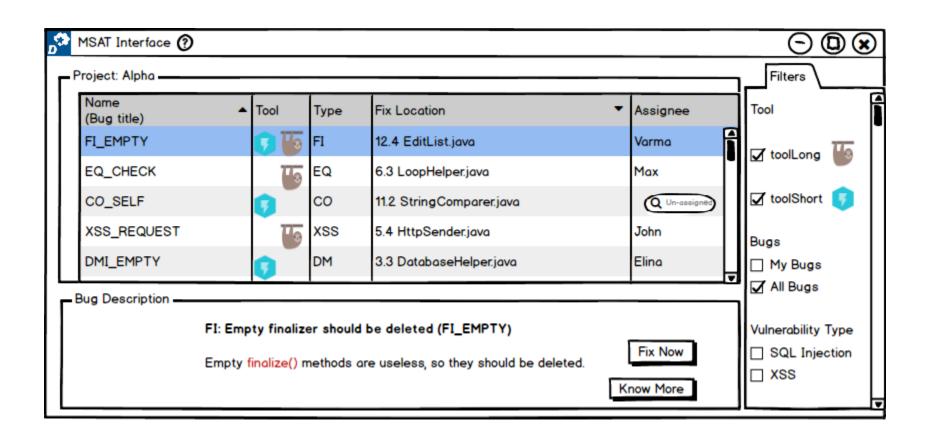
Affinity Notes



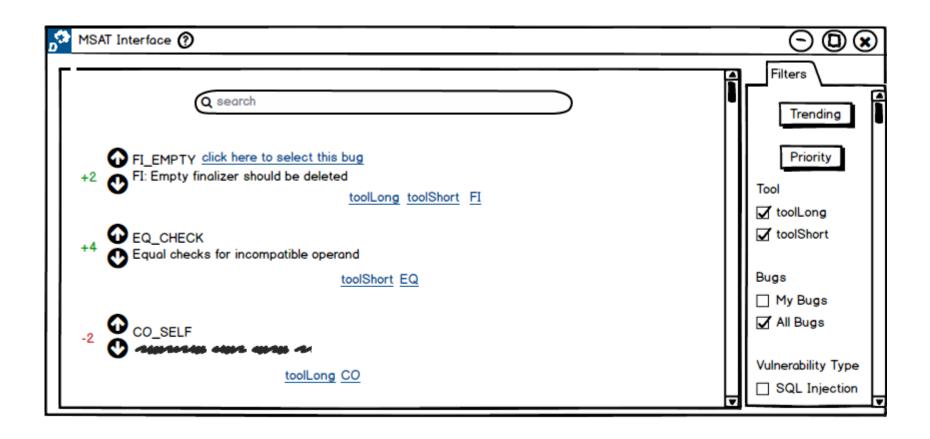


UX Design Cycle 1

[RQ 1] Does a separate list or single list help the user to identify the common bug?



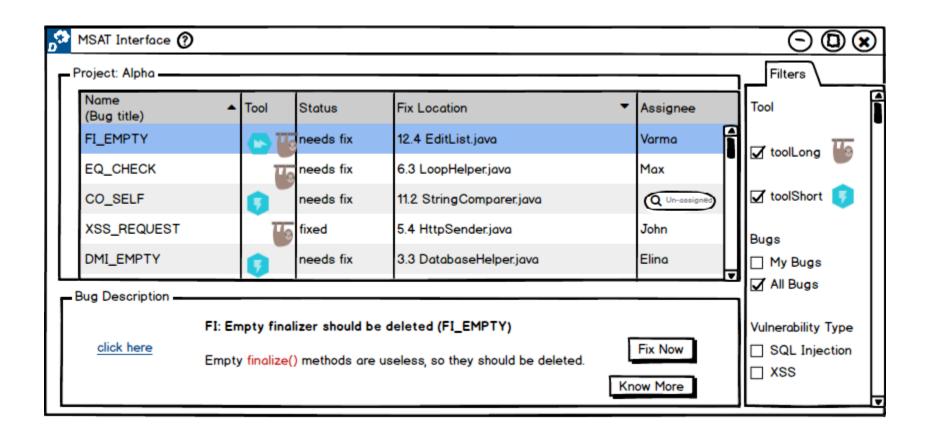
[RQ 1] Will having tags help in scalability of bugs?



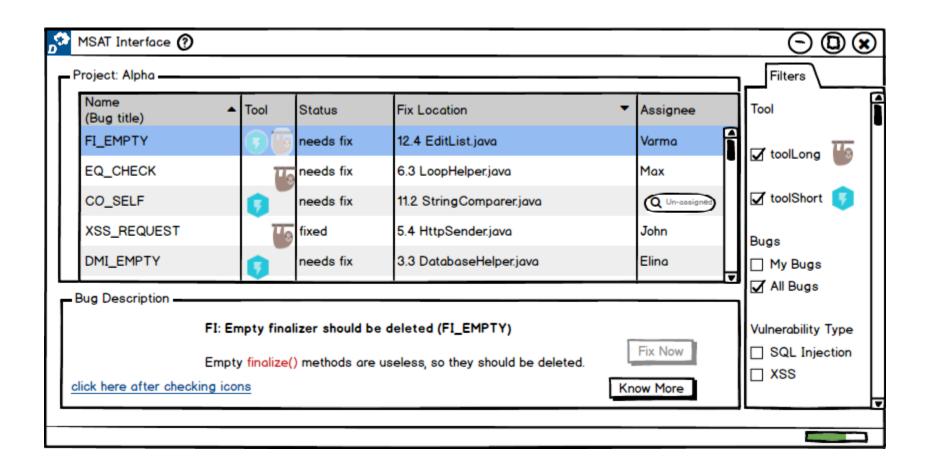
[RQ 1] Does the given statistics screen help the user in understating the analysis results overview?



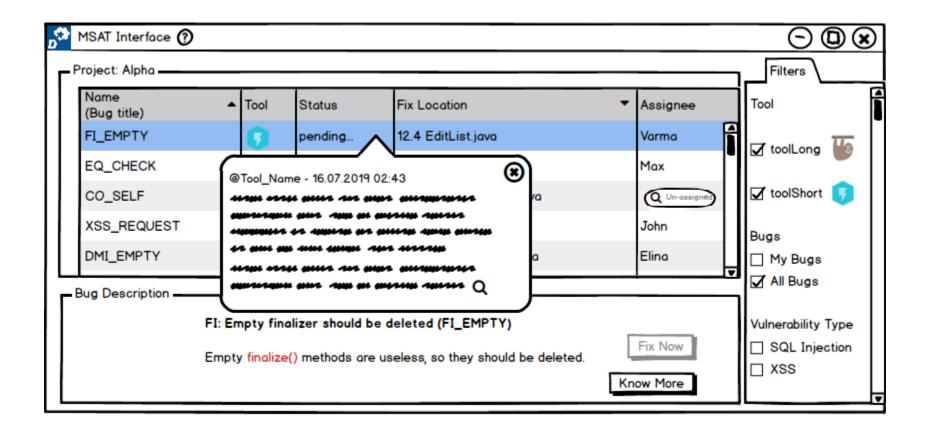
[RQ 2] Will the animation (rotation) of icons for tools suffice the feedback required by the user?



[RQ 2] Will stating the progress of analysis for each tool be better than animation provided as feedback to the user?



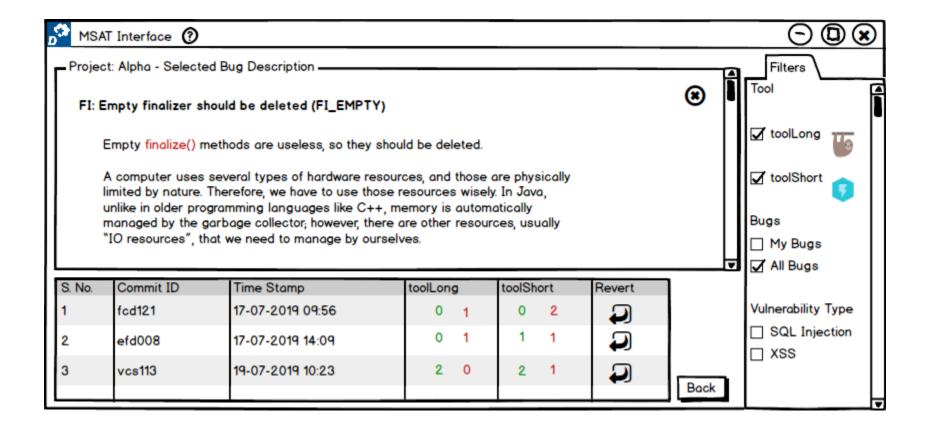
[RQ 2] Does having more textual information with a popup feedback is required by the user?



[RQ 2] Do users require multiple feedbacks, i.e., any combination of animated icons, progress bar or pending status popup?

- All the 3 feedback features
- Animated Icons What bugs are being analysed?
- Progress Bar How far the bugs got analysed?
- Pending Status more information on analysis

[RQ 3] Whether the given UI, i.e., previous commits in the process of fixing a bug-finding with numbers determining the adding or removing of other bugs be able to address the scenario from the user perspective?



UX 1 – Lessons

Analysis / Results View



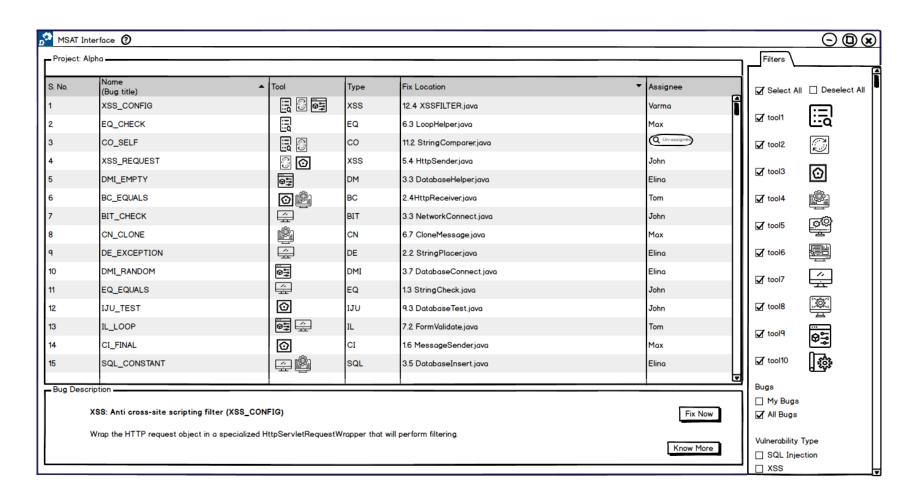
- Improvisations for next UX cycle:
- Increase code base
- Volume of bugs (+ scroll)
- Integrate more tools
- Code view perspective
- + new sub RQ's

UX Design Cycle 2

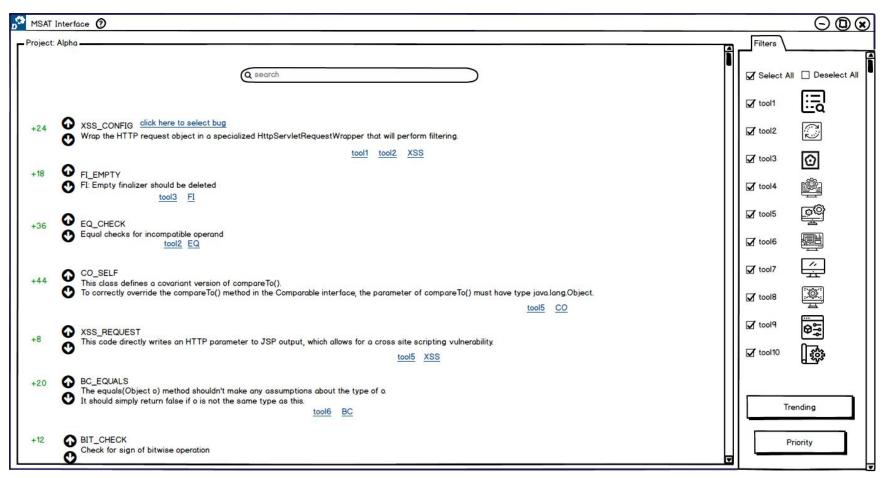
UX 2

	Analysis View	Code View
RQ 1 (display)	Single ListSeparate ListTags	Separate IconsSingle Icon
RQ 2 (feedback)	Animated IconsProgress BarPopup	Toasts (alerts)Spinner (status)
RQ 3 (trace)	NumbersAdjectives	Before/After

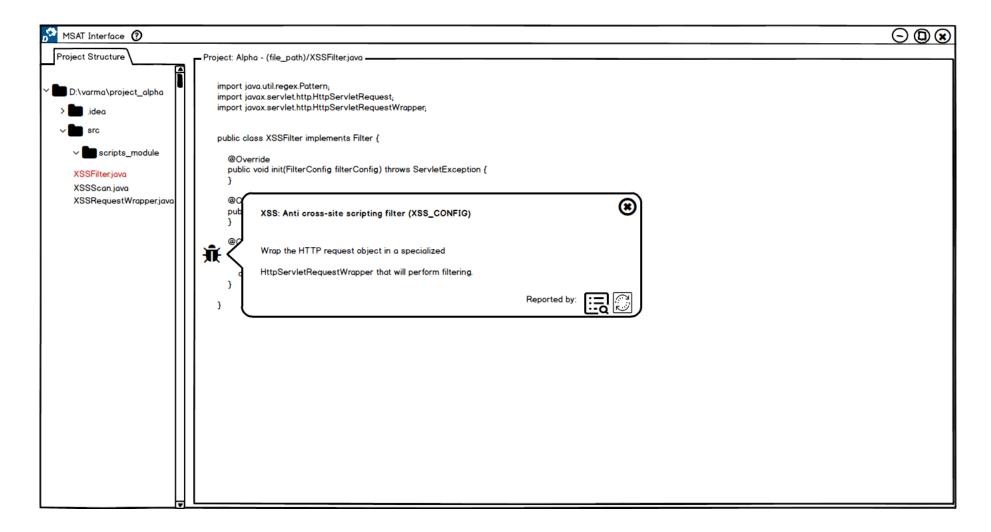
[RQ 1] From analysis view perspective, does a separate list or single list help the user to identify the common bug?



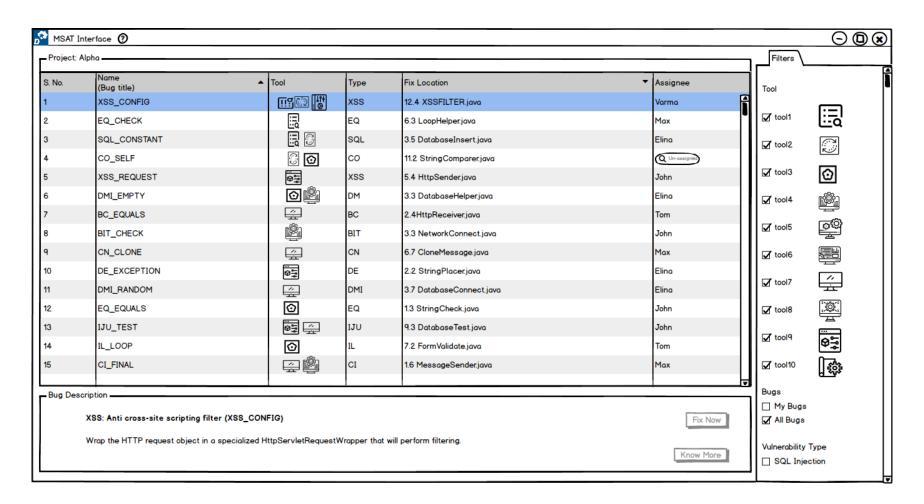
[RQ 1] From analysis view perspective, will tags help in scalability of bug results in comparison to separate list or single list?



[RQ 1] From code view perspective, will single icon suffice the showing of different tools icons?



[RQ 2] When submitting the bug for analysis, what feedback does user feel convenient among animation, progress bar or popup?



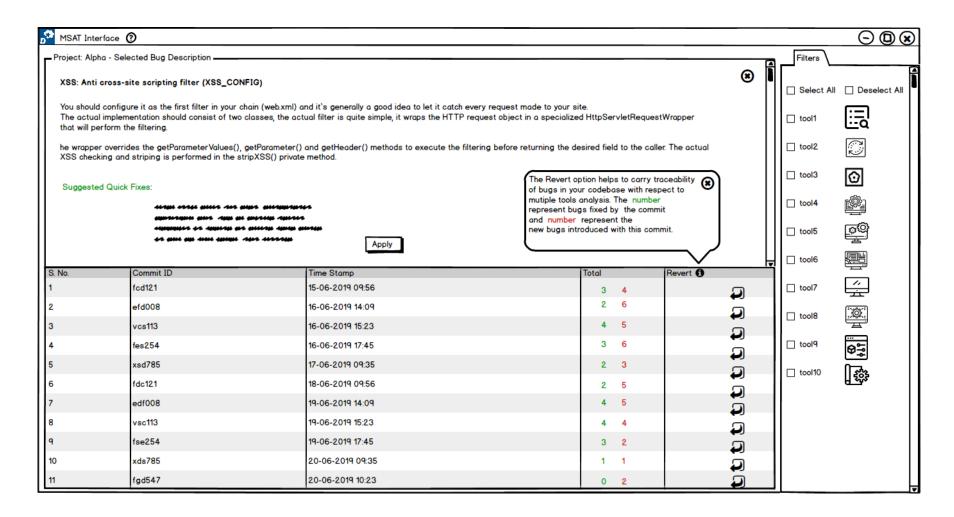
[RQ 2] Does a single type of feedback suffice or requires combination?

All 3 solution ideas as each could be depict different understandings.

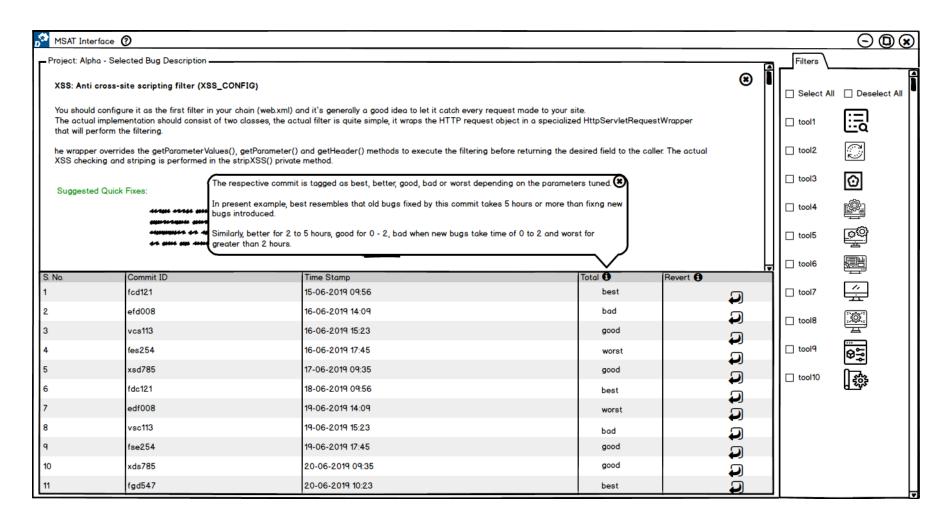
[RQ 2] From code view perspective, i.e., once user fixed a bug and submitted for analysis and then off the analysis results screen, then is popup notifications with analysis progress information better to busy status (spinner)?



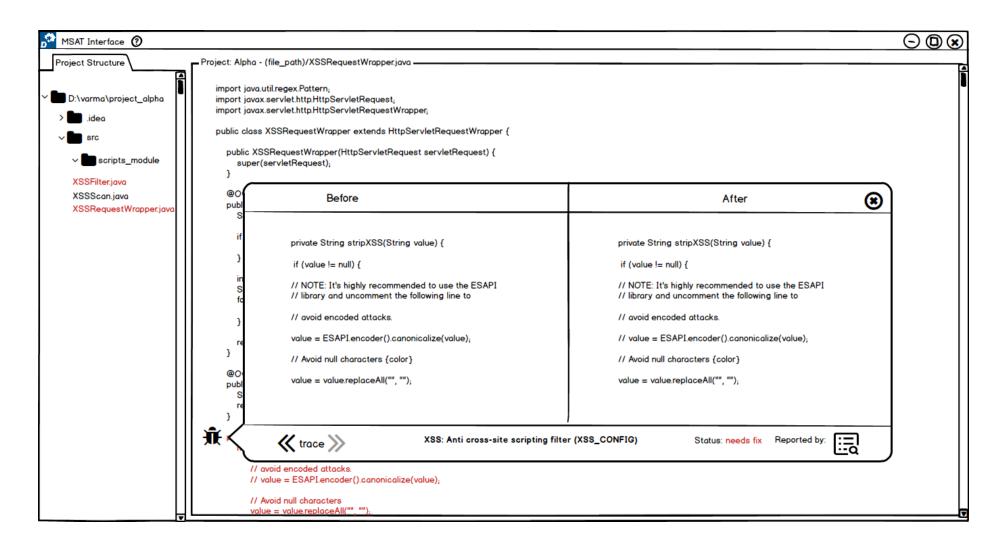
[RQ 3] In tracing, will the user need to know the changes made to fix a bug affecting the analysis of other tools?



[RQ 3] Does adjective mapping ease the user to trace the changes made in code in terms of bugs existence?



[RQ 3] From code view perspective, will the bug tool icons with before/after code help understand the user in easing to fix it?



UX 2 - Lessons

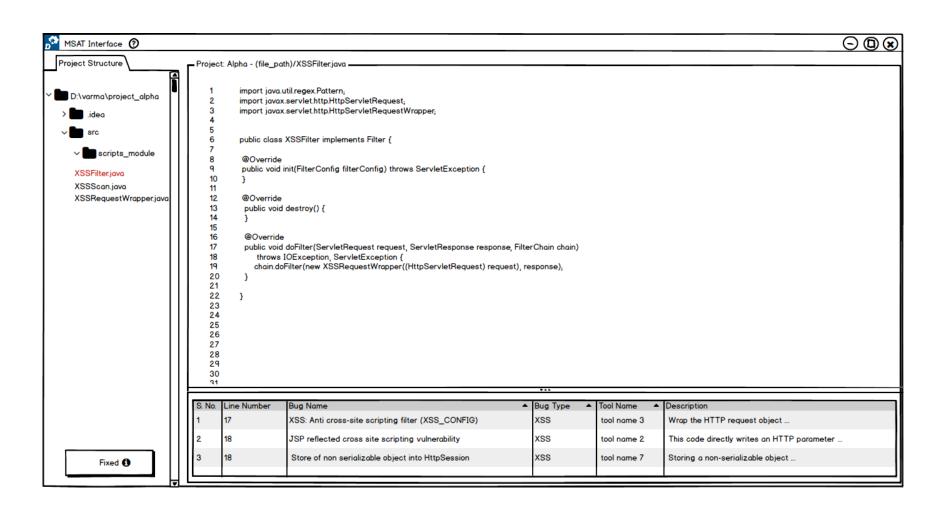
- Analysis / Results View
- Code View
- UX 1 Scalability



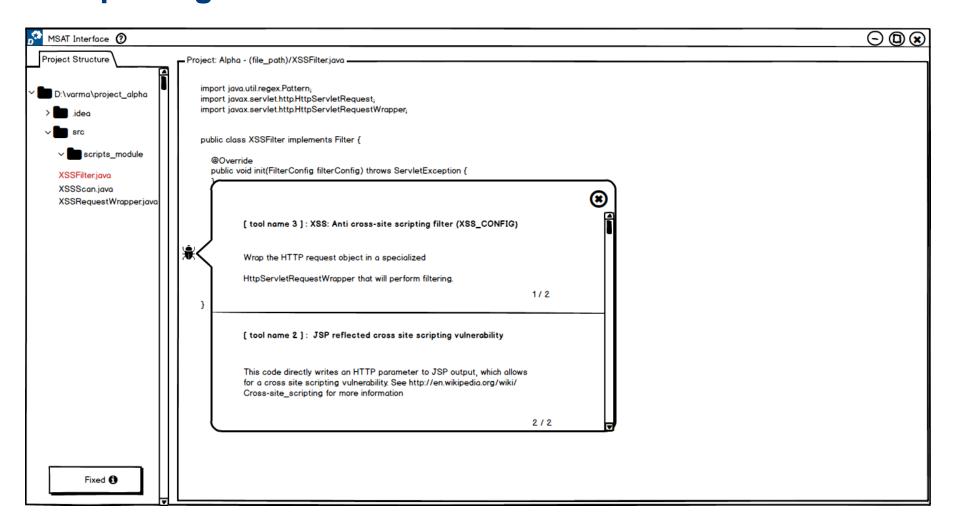
- Improvisations for next UX cycle:
- UX 2 Scalability
- + new sub RQ's

UX Design Cycle 3

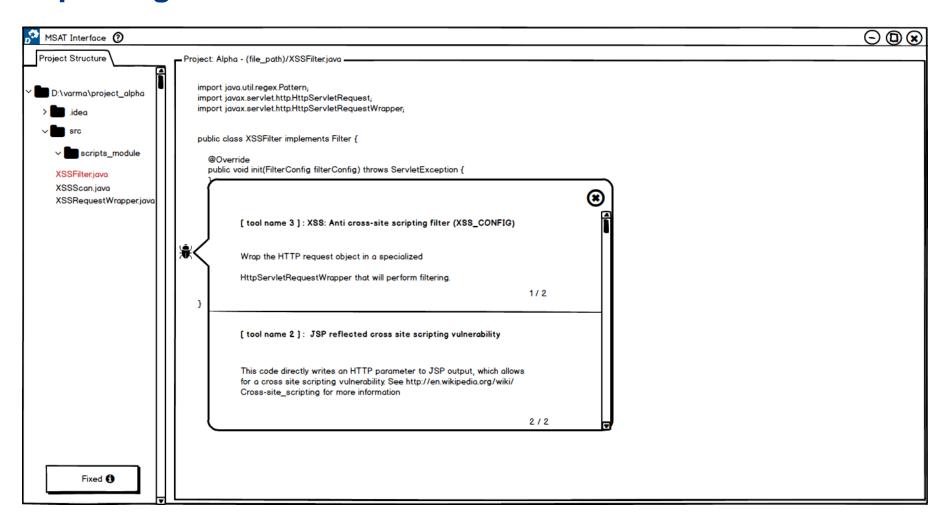
Do users prefer bug icons or list view for bugs in same file?



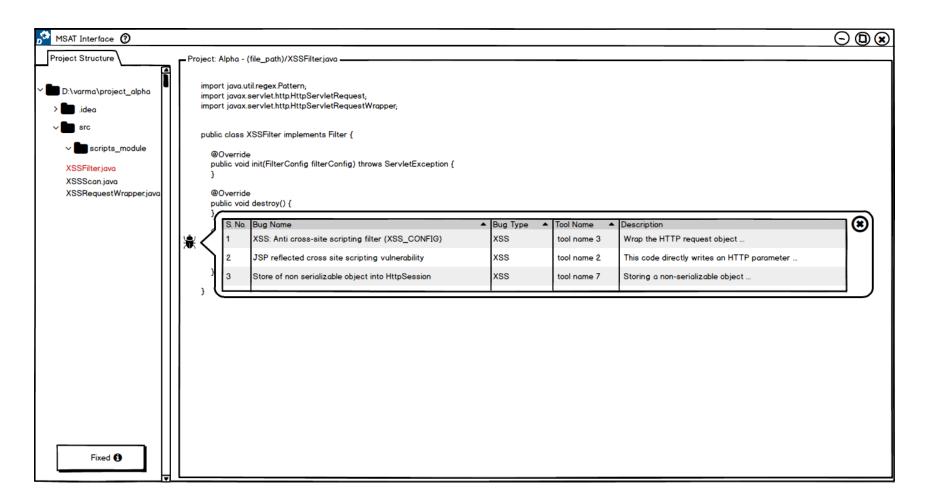
Do users prefer to see bugs one by one or at once in the context of multiple bugs at the same time?



Does vertical view help in getting an overview of the presence of multiple bugs over horizontal views?



Do users prefer for table view over text description shown for multiple bugs at a line of code?



In context of same bug identified but with different line numbers, would have 'similar bugs' in bug description with on click pops up similar bug description boxes at the identified line or a list at the bottom help user in locating actual line where bug exist?



list

[RQ 2] Evaluation Set Up: 5 Feedbacks – MSAT-UI Vs Native Uls

Three different native UI tools for a single JavaScript project.

CLI – ESLint



IDE – SonarLint



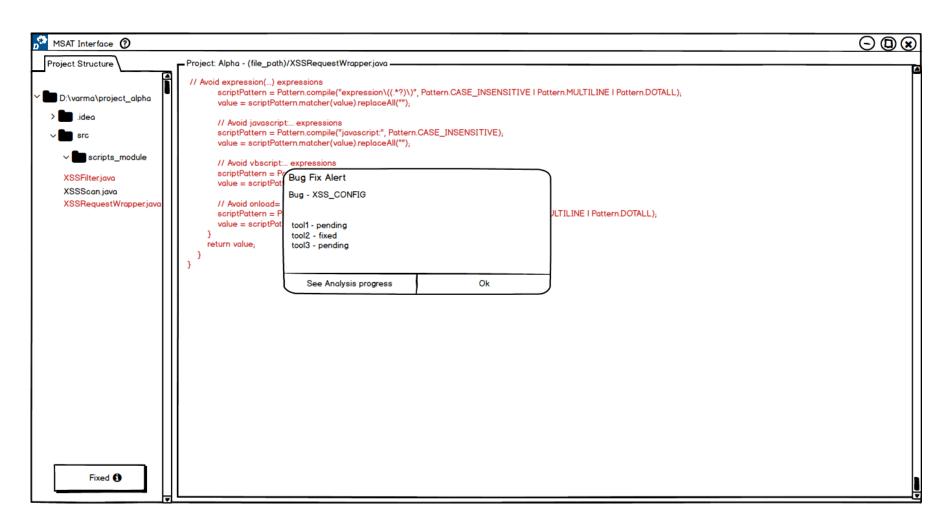
WEB - SonarQube



How usable are each feedback functionality compared to the scenario of using unified UI to native UIs?

- Animated Icons
- Progress Bar
- Pending Status Popup
- Alerts
- Status
- Almost all users agreed the ideas being novel and hardly present with native Uls.

Does alert notification help in fixing more bugs in contrast to its absence in current tools UI?



Does MSAT UI with five different mechanisms helps in fixing more bugs in comparison to using multiple tools with native user interfaces?

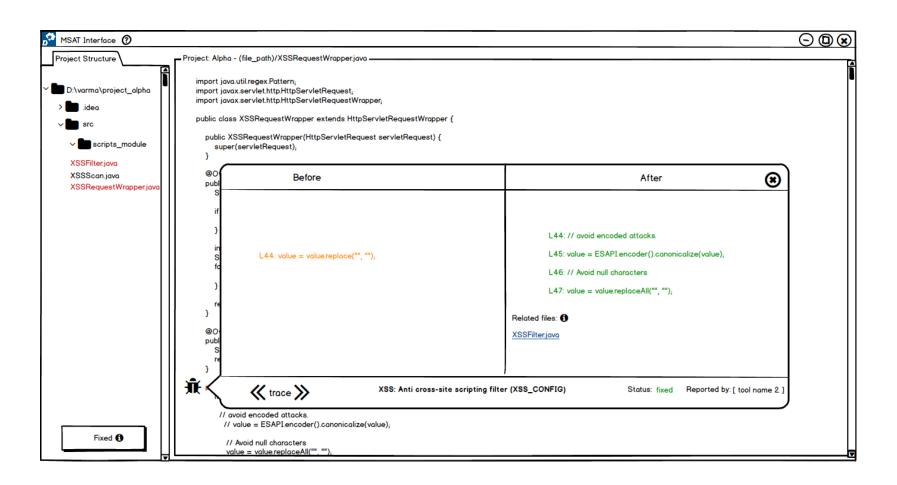
- Alert when bug fix failed, helps to work on the bug again (state of work flow)
- Status time for analysing

Does MSAT UI with five different mechanisms helps in fixing the bugs in a faster way in comparison to using multiple tools with native user interfaces?

- Visualisations provided by these 5 feedback helps!
- Example: Progress Bar helps in waiting than making system hang

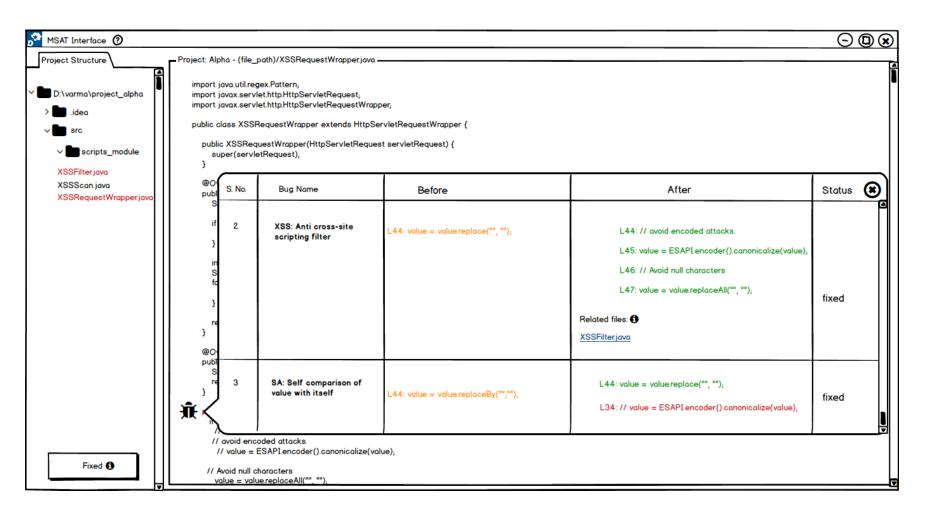
[RQ 3]

Do users prefer having multiple windows to single window in tracing previous bug fixes in a method?



[RQ 3]

While tracing previous bug fixes in a method, do users prefer a table view to a before/after windows?



[RQ 3]

Do users be able to keep up in state of workflow as tools scale?

- Yes! proposed solution ideas promised to keep up the scalability.
- However, users preferred 'table view' as easy with their consistency model.

Q. Do users prefer having tool names in general?

Yes!

- Compare tool performance
- Helps to have much information as possible

Limitations

- Number of participants:
- UX 1 5
- UX 2 7
- UX 3 5
- **Closed Study**
- Priming order of evaluation

Future Work

- Q. Would having tabs help scale the tools visibility with bugs results?
- Q. Will the user need to have graphs for separate tools or one graph combining the tools selected?
- Q. Does having graphs (example: histograms) at particular part of code with commits related bug fixes help the user to trace?

... many more!

Summary

- Importance of Static Analysis tools
- Usage of Multiple Static Analysis tools
- Need for a single user interface for multiple tools
- This thesis work followed UX Design Cycle to achieve usable prototypes focussing on primary research questions such as,
 - How to display results of the same codebase from different analysis tools?
 - What feedback works to know that bug fixing is on-going?
 - How to carry traceability of bug fixing?