



# Code improvement: refactoring and static code analysis

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UA/DETI/TQS

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## Learning objectives

Give example of bad coding practices ("bed smells")

Identify the occurrence of "bed smells" in code

Propose refactoring options for given "bed smells"

Explain the role of Inspectors (static code analysis)

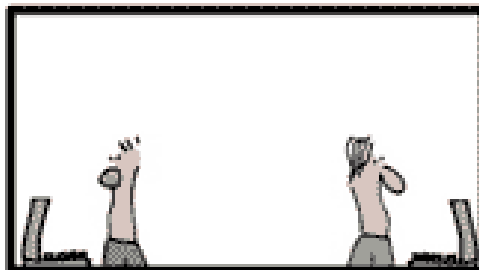
Describe the metrics used in SonarQube

Define the concept of technical debt and explain how it should be managed in a SQEnvironment

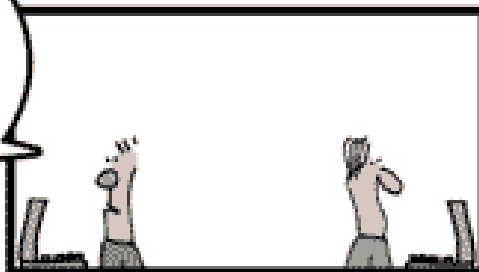


## THE REAL CODER

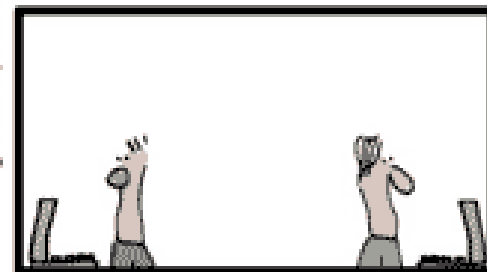
geek & poke



THERE'S A METHOD CALLED  
`getSerialNumber()`  
IT HAS THE COMMENT  
`// get the serial number`  
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT COULD  
DO?



geek & poke



I'LL LOOK  
INTO THE  
CODE

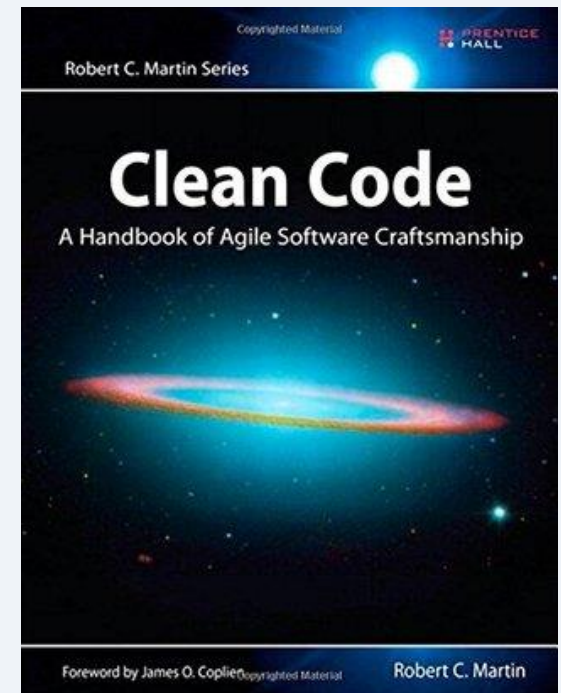
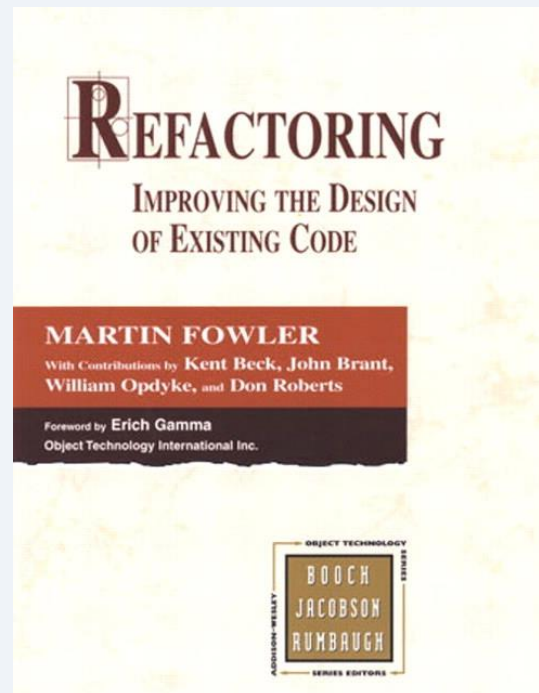
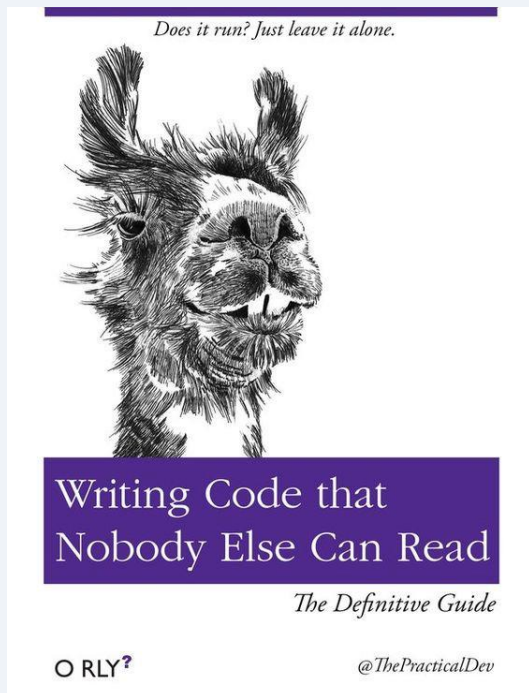
ANYTHING?



"ONLY IN CODE WE TRUST"



# Not all code is equally easy to maintain



*Find the intruder...*



# Code refactoring

- ▶ **Refactoring** is a controlled technique for improving the design of an existing code base
- ▶ ...altering its internal structure without changing its external behavior.
- ▶ Key aspects:
  - ▣ series of “small” transformations
  - ▣ preserving functionality & correctness.

## Examples

- ▶ Extract (duplicate code into a) method
- ▶ Extract interface

See also:

- ▶ [Catalog of refactoring situations](#) (M. Fowler)
- ▶ Still useful, given that many IDEs will automate (selected) refactoring situations?...



# Why refactoring?

- ▶ **Cleaner code → easier to understand and maintain**
- ▶ Better design for the current understanding of the architecture
- ▶ Reduce complexity → easier to understand and evolve
- ▶ Make the code more reusable (for other or more general needs)
- ▶ Improve performance
- ▶ Improve security (by removing vulnerabilities)



# When to refactor

Resolve “code smells” (anti-patterns)

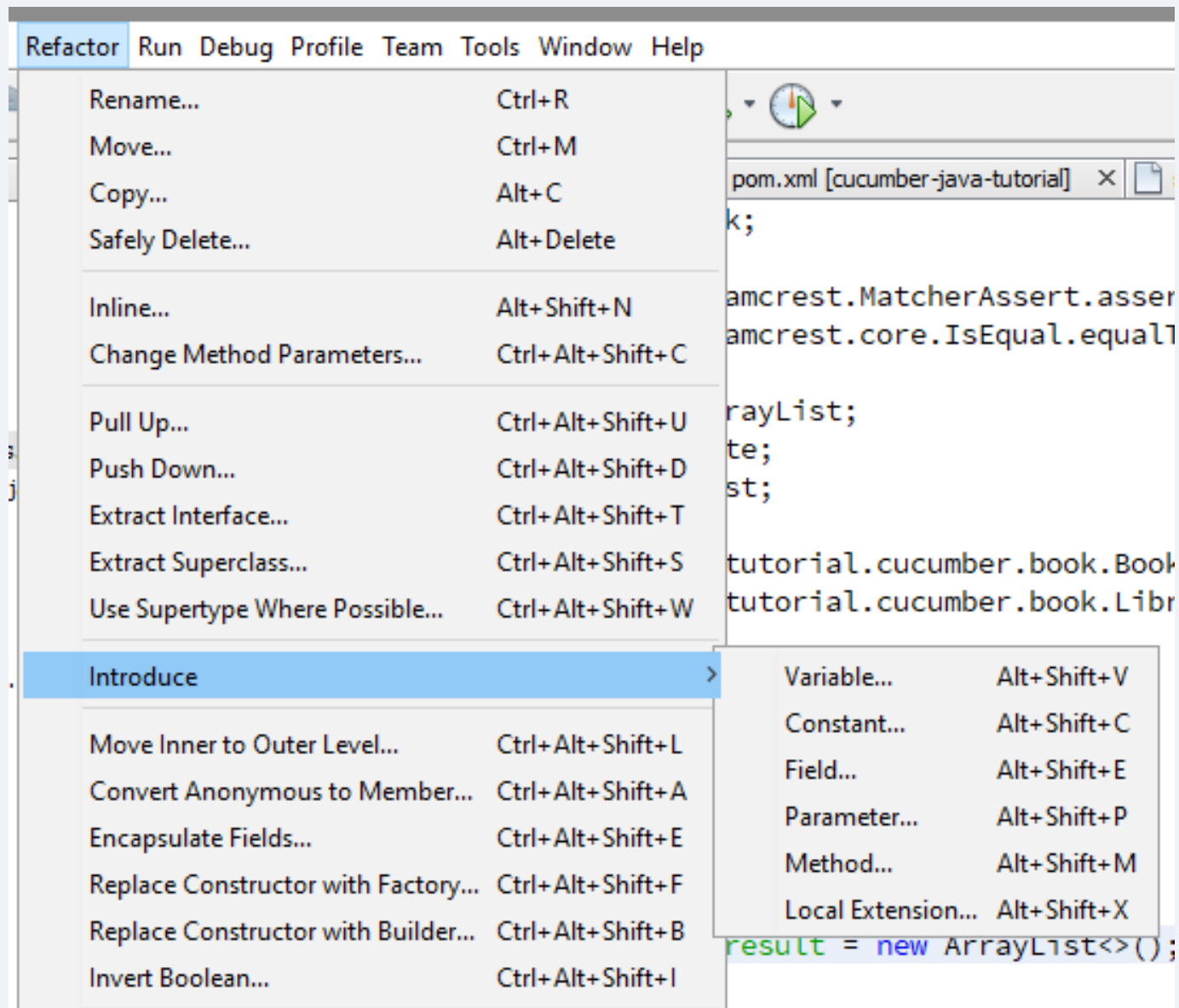
- ▶ See: catalog of [bad code smells](#)

Examples:

- ▶ Duplicate code → Extract method
- ▶ Long method → Extract method
- ▶ Data class → Encapsulate field
- ▶ Feature Envy → Move method

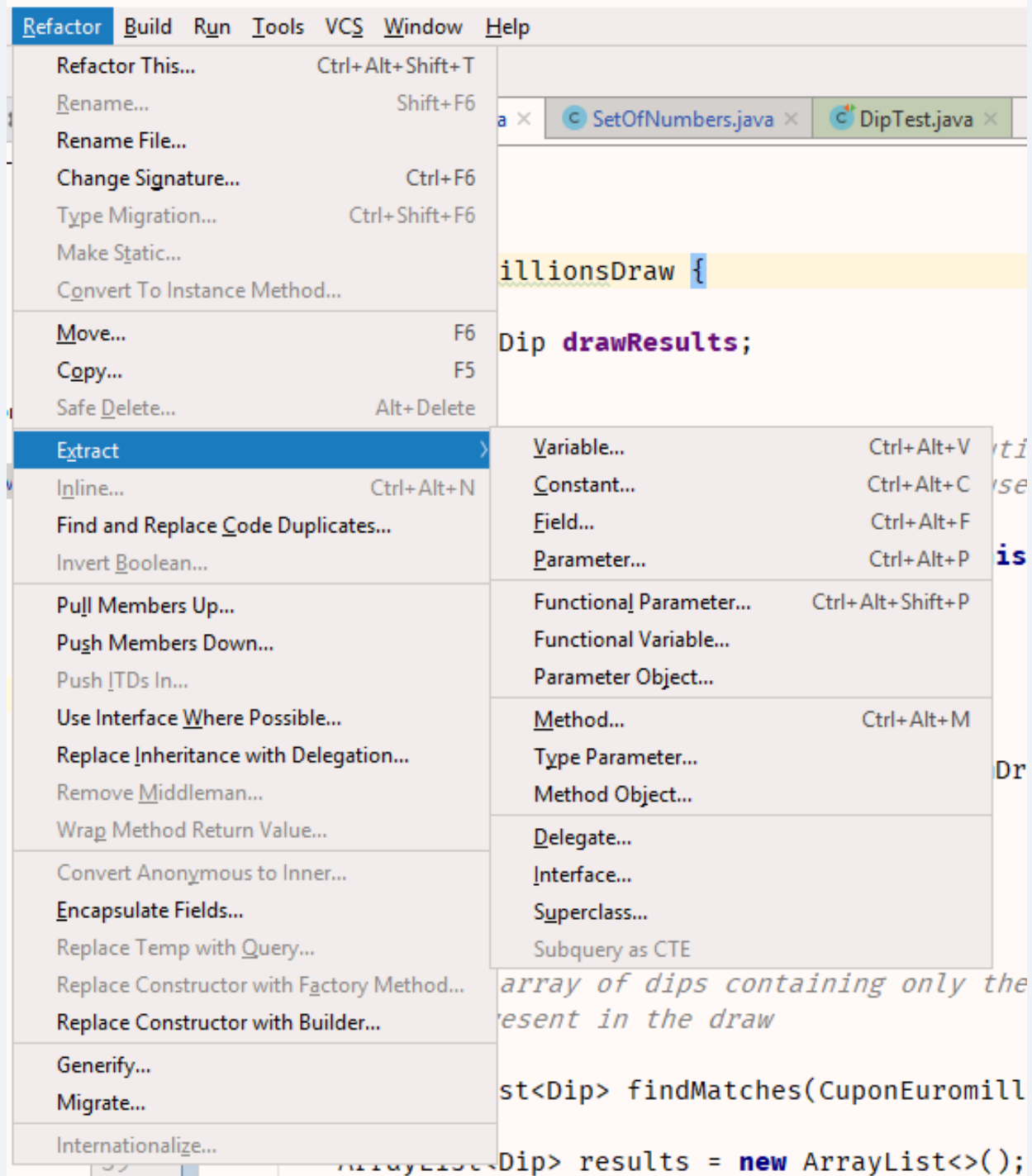


# NetBeans support





# IntelliJ support





# Code inspection

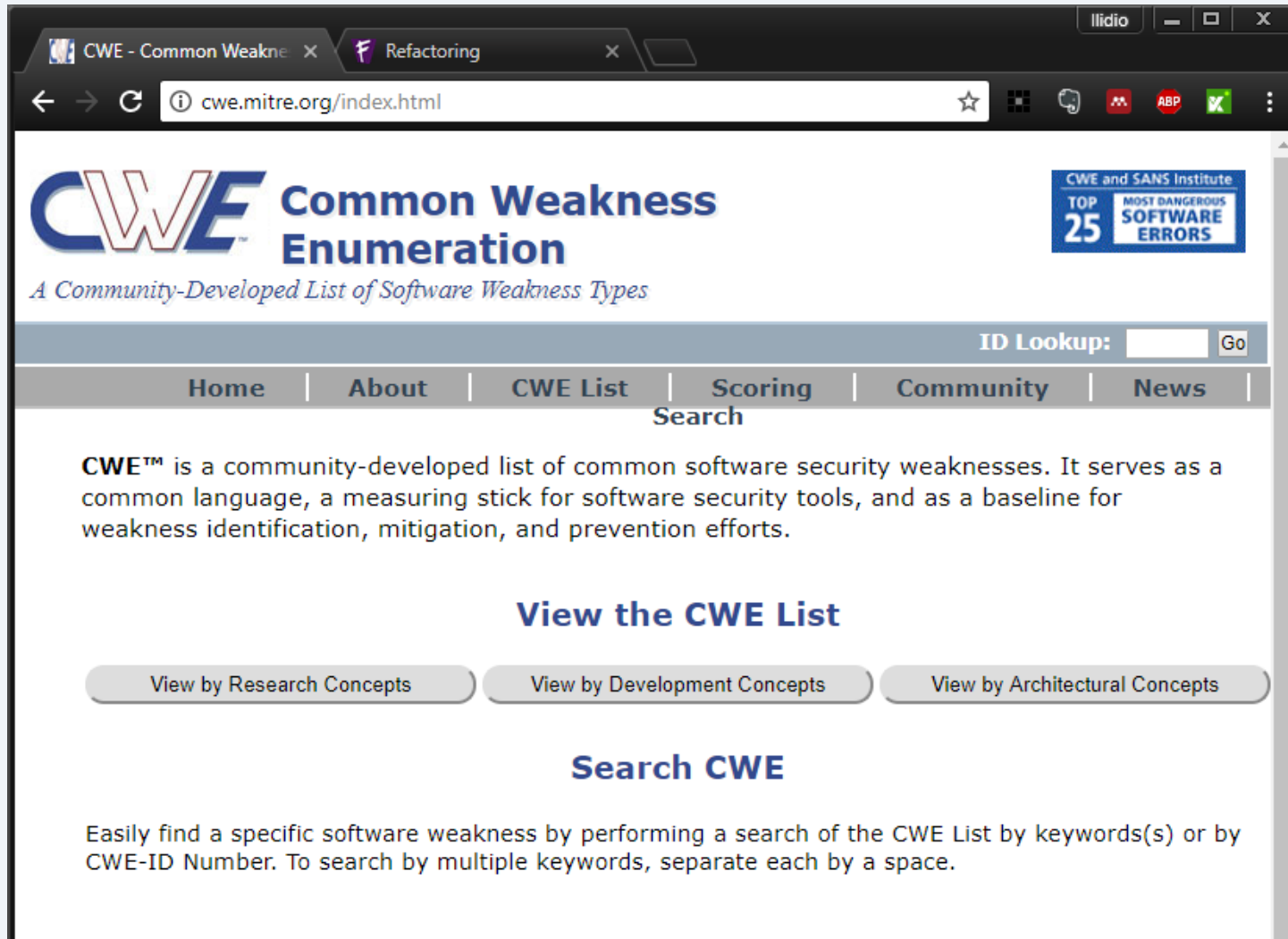
Analysis of code patterns, without running the code

Examples of issues found in SA:

- ▶ Referencing a variable with an undefined value
- ▶ Variables that are never used
- ▶ Unreachable (dead) code
- ▶ Programming standards violations
- ▶ Security vulnerabilities
- ▶ Internationalization (i18n) issues



# Catalogs of code weaknesses (setting the vocabulary)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the CWE (Common Weakness Enumeration) website. The browser's address bar displays 'cwe.mitre.org/index.html'. The page features the CWE logo and the title 'Common Weakness Enumeration' with the subtitle 'A Community-Developed List of Software Weakness Types'. A badge on the right side of the header indicates 'CWE and SANS Institute TOP 25 MOST DANGEROUS SOFTWARE ERRORS'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'About', 'CWE List', 'Scoring', 'Community', and 'News'. A search bar is located in the top right corner of the page, labeled 'ID Lookup:'. The main content area contains a paragraph explaining that CWE is a community-developed list of common software security weaknesses, serving as a common language, a measuring stick for software security tools, and a baseline for weakness identification, mitigation, and prevention efforts. Below this text, there is a section titled 'View the CWE List' with three buttons: 'View by Research Concepts', 'View by Development Concepts', and 'View by Architectural Concepts'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Search CWE' with a paragraph explaining how to search for specific software weaknesses by keywords or CWE-ID Number.

CWE - Common Weakness Enumeration

A Community-Developed List of Software Weakness Types

CWE and SANS Institute  
TOP 25 MOST DANGEROUS SOFTWARE ERRORS

ID Lookup:  Go

Home | About | **CWE List** | Scoring | Community | News

**Search**

**CWE™** is a community-developed list of common software security weaknesses. It serves as a common language, a measuring stick for software security tools, and as a baseline for weakness identification, mitigation, and prevention efforts.

**View the CWE List**

View by Research Concepts | View by Development Concepts | View by Architectural Concepts

**Search CWE**

Easily find a specific software weakness by performing a search of the CWE List by keywords(s) or by CWE-ID Number. To search by multiple keywords, separate each by a space.



# NPE due to a badly handled exception

```
// Execute
Process process = null;
try{
    if(cmd.length == 1) {
        process = Runtime.getRuntime().exec( cmd[0] );
    } else {
        process = Runtime.getRuntime().exec( cmd );
    }
}
catch(Exception e){
    e.printStackTrace();
}

try {
    if(inputToStdIn) {
        sendInput(process, stream);
    } else {
        process.getOutputStream().close();
    }
}
```

**'process' is by definition null here.**

**If an exception is thrown when  
executing the command line,  
'process' remains null.**

**So a NullPointerException will be  
thrown later.**

NullPointerException might be thrown as 'process' is nullable here

2 months ago L193

Blocker Open Not assigned Not planned 10min debt

bug, cert, cwe, owasp-a1, owasp-a2, owasp-a6, security

<https://blog.sonarsource.com/sonaranalyzer-for-java-tricky-bugs-are-running-scared/>



# Useless condition

```
// Handle web socket routes
if (websocketServletContextHandler == null) {
    server.setHandler(handler);
} else {
    List<Handler> handlersInList = new ArrayList<>();
    handlersInList.add(handler);

    // WebSocket handler must be the last one
    if (websocketServletContextHandler != null) {
```

**If 'websocketServletContextHandler' is null in this branch, it can't be nullable in the 'else' branch**

Change this condition so that it does not always evaluate to "true"

2 months ago ▾ L115

🔴 Blocker 🔵 Open Not assigned Not planned 15min debt

🐞 bug, cwe, misra

```
        handlersInList.add(websocketServletContextHandler);
    }

    HandlerList handlers = new HandlerList();
    handlers.setHandlers(handlersInList.toArray(new Handler[handlersInList.size()]));
    server.setHandler(handlers);
}
```

<https://blog.sonarsource.com/sonaranalyzer-for-java-tricky-bugs-are-running-scared/>





# Suspect unreachable branch

```
TemporaryResources tmp = new TemporaryResources();
File output = null;
try {
    TikaInputStream tikaStream = TikaInputStream.get(stream, tmp);
    File input = tikaStream.getFile();
    String cmdOutput = computePoT(input);
    FileInputStream ofStream = new FileInputStream(new File(
        input.getAbsolutePath() + ".of.txt"));
    FileInputStream ogStream = new FileInputStream(new File(
        input.getAbsolutePath() + ".hog.txt"));
    extractHeaderOutput(ofStream, metadata, "of");
    extractHeaderOutput(ogStream, metadata, "og");
    xhtml.startDocument();
    doExtract(ofStream, xhtml, "Histogram of Optical Flows (HOF)",
        metadata.get("of_frames"), metadata.get("of_vecSize"));
    doExtract(ogStream, xhtml, "Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOG)",
        metadata.get("og_frames"), metadata.get("og_vecSize"));
    xhtml.endDocument();
} finally {
    tmp.dispose();
    if (output != null) {
```

**'output' is in fact never initialised so indeed always null so the content of the branch is unreachable.**

Change this condition so that it does not always evaluate to "false" ---

4 months ago ▾ L145 🔍 📄

🚫 Blocker ○ Open Not assigned Not planned 15min debt

🐛 bug, cwe, misra

```
        output.delete();
    }
}
```



# Code inspection in IntelliJ

The screenshot displays the IntelliJ IDEA interface with the 'tqs-euromillions-unit' project open. The 'Project' tool window on the left shows the project structure, including the 'src/main/java' directory. The 'DipTest.java' file is open in the editor, showing the 'SetOfNumbers' class. A 'Specify Inspection Scope' dialog is open, showing the 'Inspection scope' section with 'Whole project' selected. The 'Include test sources' checkbox is checked. The 'Inspection profile' section shows 'Project Default' selected. The 'Inspection Results' panel at the bottom shows a warning for 'Redundant 'if' statement' in the 'Dip' class. The warning message is 'if statement can be simplified'. The 'Simplify' button is highlighted with a yellow circle.

```
public class SetOfNumbers implements Iterable<Integer> {  
    private ArrayList<Integer> collection = null;  
  
    public static SetOfNumbers fromArray( int[] values) {  
        SetOfNumbers newSet = new SetOfNumbers();  
        for( int n : values) {  
            newSet.add( n);  
        }  
        return newSet;  
    }  
  
    public SetOfNumbers super();  
    collection =  
  
    public int size()  
}
```

Inspection Results: 'Project Default' Profile on Project 'euromillions-unit' | 'Project Default' Profile on Project 'euromillions-play'

Warning 12 warnings

Java 12 warnings

Control flow issues 2 warnings

Redundant 'if' statement 2 warnings

Dip 1 warning

'if' statement can be simplified

SetOfNumbers 1 warning

Declaration redundancy 6 warnings

Java language level migration aids 2 warnings

Javadoc 1 warning

Probable bugs 1 warning

Typo 40 typos

Simplify Suppress

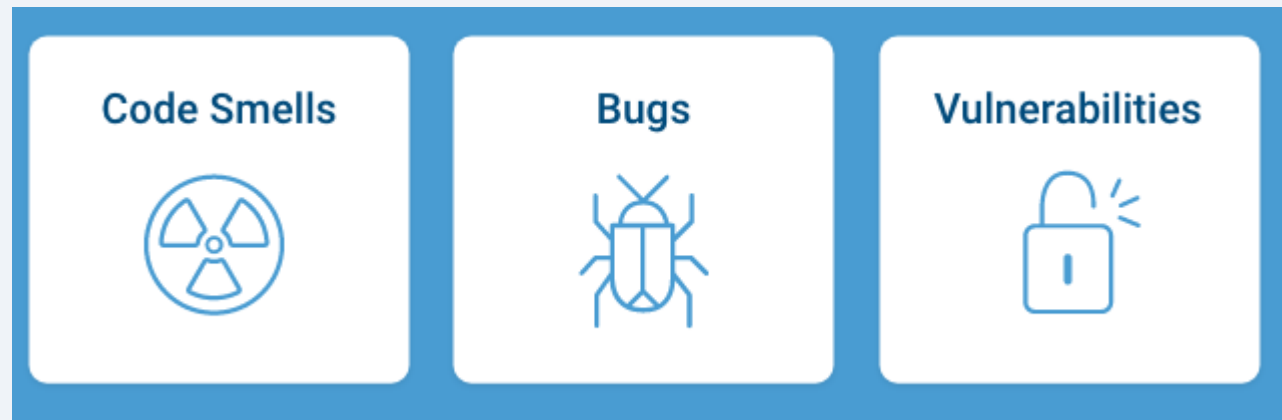
if (!Objects.equals(this.starts, other.starts)) {  
 return false;  
}





# Advanced inspection frameworks

**sonarqube** 



# SonarQube concepts

## Code Smells



## Bugs



## Vulnerabilities



## Code Smell

- ▶ A **maintainability-related issue** in the code. Leaving it as-is means that at best maintainers will have a harder time than they should making changes to the code. At worst, they'll be so confused by the state of the code that they'll introduce additional errors as they make changes.

<https://docs.sonarqube.org/display/SONAR/Concepts>

## Bug

- ▶ An issue that represents something wrong in the code. If this has not broken yet, it will, and probably at the worst possible moment. This **needs to be fixed**. Yesterday.

## Vulnerability

- ▶ A **security-related issue** which represents a potential backdoor for attackers.





- Architecture and Integration
- › Requirements
- › Setup and Upgrade
- › Analyzing Source Code
- ▼ User Guide
  - Fixing the Water Leak
  - Quality Gates
  - › Projects
  - › Issues
  - › Rules
  - Built-in Rule Tags
  - User Account
  - User Token
  - › Code Viewer
  - UI Tips
  - › **Metric Definitions**
  - Concepts
  - Activity and History
  - Visualizations
- › Project Administration Guide
- › Administration Guide
- Documentation for previous versions

# Metric Definitions

Created by Anonymous on Jan 30, 2018

<https://docs.sonarqube.org/display/SONAR/Metric+Definitions>

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This is not an exhaustive list of metrics. For the full list, consult the *api/metrics* WebAPI on your SonarQube instance.

## Complexity

Name	Key	Description
<b>Complexity</b>	complexity	<p>It is the complexity calculated based on the number of paths through the code. Whenever the control flow of a function splits, the complexity counter gets incremented by one. Each <b>function</b> has a minimum complexity of 1. This calculation varies slightly by language because keywords and functionalities do.</p> <p><a href="#">More details</a></p>
<b>Cognitive Complexity</b>	cognitive_complexity	<p>How hard it is to understand the code's control flow. See <a href="https://www.sonarsource.com/resources/wh">https://www.sonarsource.com/resources/wh</a></p>

# Quality gates

- ▶ Ready for delivery? Yes, if QG is met.

Recommended Quality Gate				
Metric	Over Leak Period	Operator	Warning	Error
Coverage on New Code	Always	is less than ▼	<input type="text"/>	80
Duplicated Lines on New Code (%)	Always	is greater than ▼	<input type="text"/>	3
Maintainability Rating on New Code	Always	is worse than	<input type="text"/>	A × ▼
Reliability Rating on New Code	Always	is worse than	<input type="text"/>	A × ▼
Security Rating on New Code	Always	is worse than	<input type="text"/>	A × ▼

Configurable quality gates on SonarQueue

