

File 20100823.0053: Some thoughts I had about asshole questions (see the quote by [1]):

Q: how do you know whether your results are statistically significant?

A: It is tough to do experiments in software engineering; the trials are extremely expensive. The first case study, for instance, represents 1.5 years and \$5 million. By performing my experiments in a numerical simulation, I can calculate the statistical significance. It may not be 0.95 or whatever your favourite confidence level is, but I can tell you what mine is honestly, even if it's 0.12.

And to the gentleman at the desk at Hotel Novotel Nice Aeroport Cap 3000 who helped me with a problem at 23:50 on a Sunday night, thank you!

References

- [1] Anonymous. Prof. Poopiehead gets our engines revving about science conferences. *Rate Your Students* blog, Wednesday, January 13, 2010. URI: <http://rateyourstudents.blogspot.com/2010/01/prof-poopiehead-gets-our-engines.html>.