**Team <Scentaur>**

**Ga Jun Young** (ga.young@ucdconnect.ie)

Royal Thomas (royal.thomas@ucdconnect.ie)

Zheng Ju (zheng.ju@ucdconnect.ie)

William Ikenna-Nwosu (William.ikenna-nwosu@ucdconnect.ie)



**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Vision of the Project**

Scentaur is a Java-specific “code smell” detector. The team behind Scentaur believes that many current code smell detectors are not particularly easy to use and understand (i.e. JDeodrant and Infusion). Thus, the team envisions Scentaur to be a user-friendly code smell detector tool. We want Scentaur to be accessible, performant, have clear data visualization and finally, to be reliable.

**1.2 What Scentaur Set Out to Achieve**

* **Web-based:** Team Scentaur has set out to achieve a web-based code smell detector tool. Providing a quick and easy way to detect smells with a simple quick drag and drop functionality. The web-based application brings forth a simple UI design and easy accessibility to reach a wide range of audience in hopes of detecting smells within their code.
* **Performant:** Scentaur had set out to reduce the amount of time required to detect smells unlike JDeodrant which takes a significant amount of time to detect smells; as it contains many types of detectors (22) along with the ability to refractor smelly code. As a result, Scentaur is currently providing up-to 4 sub smells for each smell category. This proves to increase performance and in addition, users are enabled to check smells they want to detect within their code.
* **Go-To Product:** When Scentaur first started, the team believed that in order to encourage an audience to code, we should provide a software to help beginners to think about the software design phase of development. To give them an understanding an appreciation for writing maintainable code. To allow them to think about code on a higher level so they can make an immediate impact when working in teams together. Scentaur has achieved this capability by providing users useful tool tips on the smells involved. After analysis Scentaur provides a general but impactful summary to users on the code at hand. This includes smell definitions, colored pieces of code that smells along with its line number, smell category and file location.
* **Reliability:** Testing can give one confidence that the code is **functioning** correctly, Source control gives one confidence that all team members are working on the same version of the code (**Communication** is up to date). Scentaur give users confidence that the system’s (software) **design** is adaptable to change and if a change is made to the system that breaks functionality, it will be caught.

**1.3 Main Goals Achieved**

Team Scentaur has achieved several main goals. Here are the following:

1. To learn and understand the different types of code smells.
2. To understand and take responsibility in a larger team.
3. To enable Scentaur for future uses outside of the assignment background.
4. To enable easy implementations and execution of other code smells in the future.

**1.4 Core Components and Bonuses**

Throughout the project lifetime, Scentaur has become an amazing web-based application. Users are enabled to drag and drop repositories and Scentaur will respond by providing any detailed smells detected within a matter of seconds. This is all thanks to the following core components of Scentaur. The following is a list of core components:

1. **JavaParser:** Without JavaParser Scentaur would be incapable of sniffing Java files in a matter of seconds. The capabilities of JavaParser is immense, from parsing files to creating Abstract Syntax Tree to detecting smells. JavaParser is a huge component of Scentaur, where it is the one that helps provide the smells we wish to detect.
2. **HTML, CSS:** HTML and CSS is yet another core component of Scentaur. They represent the visual aspect that we behind Scentaur provide to users. The easy to interpret drag and drop box is easily spotted when you enter the homepage of Scentaur followed by a simple, user-friendly Interface where end-users can understand the detected problems that Scentaur has provided for them. Without HTML and CSS, Scentaur would not be able to visually represent information to its target audience. Thus, HTML and CSS play a major role in helping Scentaur to communicate the back-end solutions to users.
3. **Tomcat:** Tomcat plays the role of the server for Scentaur. The two components above are not able to complete any task individually. Thus, Tomcat serves as a link between the two (links Java to HTML). Not only that Tomcat allows users to store their temporary files within a server. These files can only be accessed by the user during their session on the webpage. That is because each user is given a unique session ID and granted only permission to contents, they have stored to the server. As a result, Scentaur is a secure web-based application.
4. **Bonuses:** In addition to the above core components, Scentaur contains many plugin-and-play modules. New smells can be easily added into the Software without causing any problems or give dependency issues. We have also used interfaces to follow up the plugin-and-play module whilst using Generics. Statistics is another unique feature that Scentaur uses to give users a more comprehensive detail of the figures involved with the smells detected.

**1.5 Unique Selling Point**

Scentaur strives for uniqueness. The software overall uses JavaParser which greatly helps reduce the amount of coding required to parse and explore classes to find smells. However, that is not the main uniqueness about this program. Its Unique Selling Point is the fact that Scentaur can be run on a web browser available to users who do not wish to download and install a plugin for their favorite IDE. Scentaur overall has many capabilities one such is the fact that it can have a side by side comparison where one side contains the original java file and the other containing pieces of code that contains the code smell. Scentaur also approaches users by providing them with a simple User Interface with some interesting design choices. This allows for easy navigation and use of the web application.

**2. System Features**

**2.1 Features Implemented**

* **Smells:** The first feature that Scentaur focused on was the most simplistic code smells that Scentaur can detect. This was “Bloaters” and its sub-categories such as “Large Class, Long Method, Long Parameter List and Primitive Obsession”. This helped in the decision of the plug-and-play system that we wanted to use. Which had some incorporation of JavaParser as it enabled the team to visit specific nodes that is only required for a specific smell. E.g. Long Parameter List would only need to visit Method Declarations (JavaParser) and look at its parameter size. A unique feature about smells is that since every other smell i.e. Long Method is an extension of smell (An abstract class). We can initialize a smell class with for example large class. This can further then be stored in a list where this list can be all sorts of smell.
* **Report:** This is one of the major features of Scentaur as it produces information and output to the users of Scentaur. In order to do such a thing, it must analyze the project and store this information in its class. This information can be reused, and it is not necessary to reanalyze the project a second time. This report can generate a report for both the web server and onto a text file where users can keep for themselves. The fact that the report does not need to be reanalyzed as it has private variables that store these kinds of data allows Scentaur to specifically pick java files that the user might only want to investigate. E.g. User only wants to detect smells for Car.Java and the Report can do such actions.
* **Statistics:**
* **Server:**
* **HTML,CSS:** The design of the web page was kept minimal and dark in order to better suit developers. We wanted the majority of the page to be concentrated on what matters rather than random objects and shadows. The project contains two main pages, the index page and the result page.   
  The index page contains a box that allows users to upload files, it has a drag and drop feature that is enabled by javascript. The file is then sent to a servlet and the result is the shown onto the results page which is divided into two columns, on the left hand side we are given the source code and on the right hand side are a general report / overview for smells..
* **JavaScript:** For the front end, we made use of various JavaScript libraries to perform various functions. We used ajax to lazy load data in order to make the web page seem smoother to the front end user. We utilized highlight.js (<https://highlightjs.org/>), a JavaScript based syntax highlighting tool which we used to display the java source codes for each file. We also utilized (highlightjs-line-numbers.js) in order to insert line numbers when displaying the code onto the user's browser. Javascript was also utilized to enable many other functions like drag and drop file uploads. On the overview page, we used chart.js to display various statistics as charts. The data for this was generated by Scentaur an then relayed to the javascript file which displayed it on the screen.

**2.2 Not Implemented Features & Planned Features**

* **Some Smells:** Scentaur works off a plug-and-play system to enable smells to be implemented at any stage of the designing process. And it was planned to have at least 4 smells for each main category (Bloater, Abuser, Coupler, Dispensable). However, due to the plug-and-play system and the fact that each smell is required to be polymorphed to the Smell class for further usage. It was rather complicated to implement some smells for a specific category E.g. Temporary fields and Refused Bequest. This was because of how JavaParser worked as it was not capable of comparing things outside of the class scope. i.e. if the class was a sub class, it would have no information about its super class, thus it wasn’t sure if the sub-class had overridden a method in the super class or not. This reduced the amount of possible code smells we could’ve implemented into our system. Thus, the goal of having at least 4 smells per category was not achieved but only half satisfied.
* **Java Source Code onto HTML WebPage:**
* **Color:**

**2.3 Distinguish Your Project**

The most distinguishable part of Scentaur is the fact that it is online and ready to use without having to download a plugin for your IDE. Users can access the web application and deposit their repository whilst having Scentaur detect any smells that might be present in the repository. The ease of access greatly entices users to use Scentaur along with how easy it is to detect smell within users’ files. A user would simply have to type up Scentaur’s URL, zip up their repository, upload the zip to Scentaur and in matter of seconds Scentaur would produce an overview of the smells detected. Afterwards Scentaur allows the user to check smells in their individual files, if they wish to do so. Thus, further allowing users to pinpoint what smells are current in a specific class.

**3. Project Design**

**3.1 Overall Model**

Scentaur is a web-based application that analyses user’s code (Java) for code smells. It enables the user to upload their entire code base as a zip file which will then be analyzed by the system. Scentaur guarantees easy accessibility, as it is a web-based application that solely requires a standard web browser. Unlike standalone apps, the only requirement for a user is a web browser and a connection to the internet to access the application. The application runs java on the backend and uses HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript on the front end. We use Java Servlets using .jsp files to execute Java code in the backend while at the same time providing user with their HTML, CSS and JavaScript code to the browser.

For the front end, we made use of various JavaScript libraries to perform various functions. We used ajax to lazy load data in order to make the web page seem smoother to the front end user. We utilized highlight.js (<https://highlightjs.org/>), a JavaScript based syntax highlighting tool which we used to display the java source codes for each file. We also utilized (highlightjs-line-numbers.js) in order to insert line numbers when displaying the code onto the user's browser. The design of the web page was kept minimal and dark in order to better suit developers. We wanted most of the page to be concentrated on what matters rather than random objects and shadows.

In terms of the backend, we were planning on doing spring boot as an MVC. While we did make a slight progress with Spring Boot, we decided that it would be easier and much simpler if we just stuck to JSP and Java Servlets.

**3.2 Smell Model**

At the beginning of Scentaur’s build up, the team had envisioned to build Smells as an abstract class with subclasses (Abuser, Bloater, Coupler and Dispensable). This plan was in place because we felt that each concrete smell would have some methods that belong to all smells and then they would fall into their respective sub-categories (Abuser, Bloater, Coupler and Dispensable). i.e. Long Method would have a method from Smells and a unique method only for bloaters.

However, as time progressed, and smells were being built the design changed.

==============diagram==========

All the concrete smells did not require any unique methods in their subcategories meaning that the sub-classes abuser, bloater, coupler and dispensable was left empty and redundant. Thus, the team decided to cut off these dependencies and just have each concrete smell extend from Smell class. This seems rather messy as we would have many classes a sub class of smell (Abstract class) therefore, we packaged relevant smells to their respective smell package category e.g. Long Method Class would be within the Bloater package.

Furthermore, we were enabled to use polymorphism to encapsulate the instantiated class i.e.

Smell longMethod = new LongMethod();

Which is a really handy feature as it allowed the team to make a list of smells and use this information in the report. Another great thing about this Smell class is that it is an extension of JavaParser’s VoidVisitor Class which enables subclasses of smell to visit all of the class’ specific features e.g. visit all methods within a class. Furthermore, Smell holds a list of node data. This is because JavaParser creates an abstract syntax tree for each class and the nodes are essentially the components of that class. Thus, if I wanted to store only Methods then I would find the method nodes of that class.

Since we removed the dependency of Abuser, Bloater, Coupler and Dispensable, the team decided to utilize these classes in another aspect. Each of these class is itself a plug-and-play system different to those of the concrete smells. They enable us to instantiate smells based on their category and place them into a HashMap for use on the server. The data that the HashMap holds is very important as it enables us to do a lot of unique things. Each HashMap holds a key to the class file name followed by the value – another HashMap with the key subcategory Smell (e.g. Abusers.DATA\_HIDING) and the value which are the smells (In this case only Data Hiding smells).

3.3 Third Party

Scentaur was not able to achieve the state it is in now without the help of third-party libraries and components. Scentaur uses the Gradle plugin which is available on the Eclipse Marketplace. This is a free plugin that allows the team to import external libraries easily. Simply adding additional dependencies to the build.gradle file will import external libraries for Scentaur to use.

Scentaur uses many different libraries to become a Code Smell Detector Tool. The following is a list of libraries and their usage for this project.

1. JavaParser: This external library enabled Scentaur to easily parse Java files into an Abstract Syntax Tree which is then used to detect smells through a visitor class.
2. Tomcat:
3. JSON: Support the communication between front-end and back-end. Response with multiple parameters will be stored into an array and then parsed to a json-String and then be returned to the front-end. Ajax at the front-end can use the json-String as an array directly.
4. Servlet: The core of the server-end. It receives the request sent from the front-end, analyzes the request then works with different functionality to respond to the user. It controls uploading and decompressing files, and also instructs when the core part of Scentaur should run and when the report should be generated. These servlets interact with user during the whole session.

3.4 Proud Aspect

The most rewarding aspect of Scentaur is its ability to project the software onto the web page. It helped us to learn a lot about web development using Java. While members on our team have had opportunities to work on the backend with languages such as Ruby and PHP, using Java to create the backend was a new challenge and we are happy to have taken that challenge.

Another proud aspect is the usage of different Java Features such as polymorphism and generics. At the start in building Scentaur we never really investigated these features and expected to use them. But as a result of developing the smells and appropriately calling them in Java, it was almost a must to use these two Java features. The generics part helped in creating a plug-and-play system for “Bloater, Abuser, Coupler and Dispensable” class and it allows us to add more categories in the future if we wished. Having the ability of reusability within these classes gives us a great advantage if we ever wish to look at these classes again. Changing some of its components will highly unlikely break the system which means that these classes have low coupling and high cohesion.

3.5 Benefits of Further Development

1. With further development of Scentaur we wish to implement some of the features that was not implemented – listed above. This would require more time and effort to research in order to come up with a solid solution e.g. We might have to re-imagine how Smells should be designed in order to accompany smells like “Refused Bequest” which requires information on another class.
2. Other benefits with further development would include refactoring. We originally intended to do some basic refactoring but with the amount of time we were given it was not possible. However, we did include a method called addComment that can potentially act as refactoring the code. AddComment was originally intended to add a piece of comment above or inline to the starting location of where the smell was detected. It provided details such as the line number of the code, and the type of smell it was. This was nice but when we look at another detector it would append more comment to the already added comment. Thus, the other smells would detect the wrong line number as the comments would push code up or down. i.e. A method X is known to have a bloater and an abuser smell at line 10. Bloater detects first and appends comment above the method at line 10, Abuser detects next and finds the line where the method is (But this method has been moved down due to the appended comment) at line 13. Thus, we disabled the use of addComment as it came with a bug that we did not want to introduce to users to see.

However, knowing this we could possibly refactor by looking at where the smell exists and as an example if a field access specifier was set public even though it was meant to be a private, we could simply change the specifier.

1. Another benefit involves user experience. Currently our user interface displays the original code from the user (Similar to online compilers) versus pieces of code from the original code that contains smells (Similar to how HTML validators display their errors). However, an ideal development would to provide a perfect side to side comparison of the code before and after. The after would then indicate lines of code with smells using colors. This would greatly benefit users visual experience and the ability to find and refactor their own code themselves.
2. We would have loved for the website to have more functionalities such as storage of reports for future references, uploading of multiple projects at once. On the backend side, with more work a lot of the smells that have been listed as “Possible Code Smell” could have been moved up to “Likely Code Smell” using more constraints and checks.

**4. Successes and Failures**

Working as a group is a learning process; it is an explicit learning outcome of this course. So tell us what you learned from working in a team with your fellow team members. What problems arose, and how did you deal with them? How would you do things differently in the future, or if you had to do it all over again. Do not be afraid to discuss failures too: you will not be penalized for being open about the downs as well as the ups of your project.

Who did what in the end? Who deserves special mention for going above and beyond the call of duty? Who did less, or nothing at all? If you feel that a team member did not contribute, you may say so here, but do give that member the right of response within the report.

**5. Team Communication**

Team communication in general went much better than expected. Meetings were regularly held, and plans were made. We had group meetings and calls on platforms such as discord and messenger where we discussed our plans and ideas, and critiques were well welcomed. These were crucial in ensuring that the team works as a unit instead of each person doing their own thing. Each person was assigned specific tasks for them to do before the next meeting. For our team, this method worked very well.

However, like all other teams, we have had our off weeks where due to the accumulation of work and other engagements, we were not able to do as well as we should have had. In terms of ‘tools of software development’ we were able to make proper use of a few softwares including Slack, Github, Discord and Messenger.

**5.1 Slack**

Slack was used as an official mode for communication and a place to store ideas, suggestions and report various issues. We created various channels for various purposes so that everything wasn’t bundled up into one single channel making it difficult for us in the future to find information we could be looking for. We integrated GitHub onto each of our Slack apps so that we received constant updates and notifications for all changes that occurred on GitHub. This was not limited to commits but also included various other things such as changes on the project board and issues raised. We were able to use @channel and @here to send notifications to all members to raise issues and questions and ensure swift communication.

**5.2 Discord**

Discord on the other hand was primarily just used for making calls as it was something everyone in the group was familiar with. Like Slack, we were able to make channels on discord to have smaller calls and discussions when we divided into teams to tackle specific tasks. Discord being available on all devices was a godsent! The calls on discord were generally 60 to 90 minutes long and were always fruitful and professional.

**5.3 GitHub**

GitHub was our primary system for version control. Being well versed with git, using GitHub is and has always been a pleasure. Along with the version control system, the project board enabled us to organize tasks in a much simpler way. For each sprint, we were able to assign users their tasks and then let each task be placed from ‘to-do’ to ‘in progress’ to ‘done’. The issues section on GitHub allowed us to report bugs and suggest future changes that would help better the project.

**5.4 Messenger**

Messenger on the other hand was used for general discussions along with other off topic discussions. Things were not kept entirely official in messenger and was used as an area where discussions took place for things not covered during team meetings. Messenger also allowed us to set up and organize the next dates for meetings and team calls.

**5.5 Communication Conclusion**

Last but not least, the most important of all were the face to face meetings done during the semester. In 1920, social psychologist Floyd Allport found that “people worked better in teams even if they weren’t collaborating, competing, or actively communicating with each other”. This proved true for us too, working together as a team produced better productivity rates than when people decided to tackle tasks in a solo manner. These, being more personal, facilitated better communication among the team. Being able to be in a room and discuss what we were planning on doing while doing it helped prevent a lot of issues that might have risen if we would have decided only to discuss these later.

While yes, discussions and meetings on topic were very important, a good practice that a well-functioning team must have is scheduling time for virtual camaraderie building, including chatting in an informal context. Researchers at MIT’s Human Dynamics Laboratory have found conversations outside of formal meetings are the most important factor that contributes to team success. On various occasions, the team went together for lunch and coffee breaks where the discussions were kept off topic to encourage team building camaraderie.

**6. Your Project In Detail**

**- Self diagnosing ( probably 2-3 pages of images, data and explanation)**

Present a worked example of your *NoseJob* application in action, working upon itself to report on its own code smells. What does your system say about your code? How does this align with your own insights into the code? Is the analysis fair, or useful? What does it get right? What does it get wrong? Feel free to use screenshots here.

If your project requires any non-obvious steps to launch/activate, outline those steps here. We should be able to launch your application successfully from what you tell us here.

**Acknowledgements**

Every team member should contribute an equal effort to this report. Use this optional section to provide report credits, or to highlight a special contribution by a given team member.

**References ­**

List any bibliographical citations here [optional]