# Dead Code: Unused Method Development Mitigation SOP

A method is never called or is only called from other dead code.

## Defense Against Dead Code: Unused Method Overview

Dead code is defined as code that is never directly or indirectly executed by a public method. A dead method may indicate a bug in dispatch code. In any case, it is an indication of problems with the source code that needs to be fixed and is an indication of poor quality.

## Example

private static final class VsoWorkQueueAsyncContainer {

…

private VSOFilterCriteria getVsoFilterCriteria() {

return vsoFilterCriteria;

}

…

}

## Explanation

The method getVsoFilterCriteria() is not reachable from any method outside the class. It is dead code.

## Recommendation

Repair or remove dead code. To repair dead code, execute the dead code directly or indirectly through a public method. Dead code causes additional complexity and maintenance burden without contributing to the functionality of the program.

## References

1. Standards Mapping - Common Weakness Enumeration - (CWE), CWE ID 561
2. Standards Mapping - Security Technical Implementation Guide Version 3.1 - (STIG 3.1), APP3050 CAT II
3. Standards Mapping - Security Technical Implementation Guide Version 3.4 - (STIG 3.4), APP3050 CAT II