Analysis of Stack Overflow

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Abstract

1 Introduction

2 Background

The average programmer today is familiar with Stack Overflow, a forum designed for asking and answering programming related questions. Stack Overflow is open to anyone whether they be professional or a hobbyist or just starting out. Due to its open nature, posts on Stack Overflow cover a large variety of questions over a number of languages. A quick internet search for a programming issue is likely to result in a Stack Overflow post as a top result.

Thanks to the ubiquitous nature of Stack Overflow, analysis on the site offers a way to obtain a large amount of information on programmers' practices and problems. One prior analysis of Stack Overflow utilized an alternate method of parsing and tagging of data, using an adverb-verb formulation instead of the traditional noun and verb word bagging. This method of analysis was performed on the topics of Stack Overflow posts and allowed the researchers to evaluate the types of questions seen corresponding to different programming languages and different Stack Overflow tags. This analysis shed light on what types of questions are more common between different languages; additionally, this study helped to reveal some of the most common uses of each langauge [1].

References

[1] Miltiadis Allamanis and Charles Sutton. Why, when, and what: analyzing stack overflow questions by topic, type, and code. In *Proceedings of the 10th Working Conference on Mining Software Repositories*, pages 53–56. IEEE Press, 2013.