

2 Survey Questions

At the very start of the survey, the following line was written:

Stack Overflow, Inc. is not a party to this project, and did not provide us with any of your personal information. Additionally, Stack Overflow is not offering any prizes or compensation whatsoever for participation in this survey. This project is in no way endorsed or promoted by Stack Overflow, Inc.

We offered five \$10 Amazon Gift Cards as prizes to five lucky respondents of our survey selected through a raffle. Respondents to the survey were asked to **optionally** provide their Email ID so we could contact them if they won a prizes.

2.1 Background Information

1. Stack Overflow Username and Email ID [optional].
2. How many years of experience do you have with coding/programming?
3. Which languages would you consider yourself proficient in?
4. Which tools and frameworks would you consider yourself proficient in?

2.2 General Information about Stack Overflow

5. Which of the following statements best describes you?
 - I have heard of Stack Overflow, but I have never visited.
 - I visit Stack Overflow often, but I don't vote, ask or answer questions.
 - I visit and participate on Stack Overflow a few times a month.
 - I visit and participate on Stack Overflow a few times a week.
 - I visit and participate on Stack Overflow a few times a day.
 - Other (Please specify)
6. For which of the following reasons do you participate on Stack Overflow? (Mark all that apply)
 - The answers I get on Stack Overflow are helpful to me.
 - Stack Overflow keeps me up-to-date with the best tools, standards and practices.
 - The reputation scores and badge mechanisms provide adequate incentives.
 - I enjoy reading interesting questions and posting answers.
 - I like helping people solve their programming problems.
 - I enjoy having technical discussions with the community.
 - I don't participate on Stack Overflow.
 - Other (Please specify)
7. "The Stack Overflow community is welcoming to newcomers." – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
8. "The moderation on Stack Overflow is fair and transparent." – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree

- Agree
 - Strongly Agree
9. “Stack Overflow is a good place to engage in technical debates and discussions.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
10. “Stack Overflow, in general, is trusted more than other communities for programmers.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
11. Do you have additional comments regarding the advantages and drawbacks of Stack Overflow?

2.3 Badges

There are three classes for each type of badge, namely Bronze, Silver and Gold with Bronze being the easiest to achieve and Gold being the hardest.

Tag-Based Badges - These badges are awarded for participating in non community-wiki questions with particular tags. For example, to achieve a Bronze “python3.x” Tag Badge, a user must earn at least 100 total score for at least 20 non-community wiki answers to “python3.x” tagged questions. To achieve a Gold “python3.x” Tag Badge, a user must earn at least 1000 total score for at least 200 non-community wiki answers to “python3.x” tagged questions. Users with such badges unlock special privileges such as marking questions as “duplicate”, “off-topic” or even closing them down.

Non-Tag-Based Badges - These are general badges awarded based on various actions that a user can take on Stack Overflow such as asking questions, editing tags, adding comments, submitting votes, etc. For example, Bronze “Popular Question” Badge is awarded when a question asked by the user obtains at least 1000 views. And a Gold “Famous Question” Badge is awarded when a question asked by the user obtains at least 10000 views.

Please visit <https://stackoverflow.com/help/badges> for a complete list of badges available on Stack Overflow.

12. “I consider badges to be a good measurement of how helpful a user is to others.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
13. “I consider badges to be a good measurement of the knowledge of a user.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree

- Strongly Agree
14. “I consider tag-based badges to be better indicators of user expertise than non-tag-based badges.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
15. Please list 3 badges that you consider important and what attributes they intend to convey about users.

2.4 Reputation Scores

Reputation scores are gained by posting good questions and useful answers. Earning higher reputation scores unlocks more and more privileges and tools including the ones available to site moderators.

Please see <https://stackoverflow.com/help/whats-reputation> for more information on Reputation Scores.

16. According to you, what do reputation scores intend to convey about users?
17. “I consider reputation scores to be a good measurement of how helpful a user is to others.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
18. “I consider reputation scores to be a good measurement of the knowledge of a user.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
19. “I consider reputation scores to be better indicators of user expertise than badges.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
20. “I consider reputation scores to be better indicators of user popularity than badges.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
21. Do you have any additional comments regarding reputation scores?

2.5 Perceived Effects

22. Congratulations! You have been placed incharge of recruiting programmers for a high-tech firm. How much importance would you place on each of the following criteria while hiring programmers?
[Select from (a) Not at all important, (b) Not very important, (c) Somewhat important, (d) Important, and (e) Very important for each of the criteria.]
- Educational credentials
 - Past experience with languages and tools
 - Communication skills
 - Open source contributions
 - Reputation scores on Stack Overflow
 - Tag-based badges on Stack Overflow
 - Non-tag-based badges on Stack Overflow
 - Knowledge of algorithms and data structures
23. “Privileges based on Reputation Scores improve fairness and accountability on Stack Overflow.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
24. “Privileges based on Tag-Based Badges improve fairness and accountability on Stack Overflow.” – To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Somewhat Agree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
25. What positive and/or negative aspects of user behaviour on Stack Overflow do you attribute to reputation scores and badge mechanisms?