

- **Introduction**

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me today.

We are investigating the practices for writing/using code comments during the software lifecycle. During the interview, I'd like to ask you a few questions about your background, then we will discuss your experience.

Do you mind if I record this discussion so that I can review it later? In any data collected, or in reports or papers that are published, you will not be identified by name. Please be careful not to discuss any sensitive information about the company you work for. If you do mention any, we will do our best to remove it from our transcripts, but better if you don't mention such sensitive information at all.

- **Demographics**

- **Years of Experience?**

How many years of development experience do you have in total with software development? And how many years with your job role?

Role	Years
Programming	
Testing	
Management	
Design	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	

- **Programming Language**

What's your commonly used programming language?

- **Open-ended Discussion**

What is a good/bad comment?

What information is usually included in your comments?

- **Specific Topic Discussion**

- **Development Practice**

- Do you think code comment is helpful for your development?  
And when does it help you most? (bug detection, code understandability, testing, code synthesis)
- Do you write code comments during programming? How often?  
How long are your comments typically?
- How do you decide which parts to comment?
- Do you use specifications for writing code comments? Do you use tools to enforce the specifications? And could you briefly

describe the most important criterion in code comment specification?

- e. If you do code review during software development, are comments reviewed during code review by your peers?
- f. Do you think code comment generation tools (i.e., generate natural language descriptions like JavaDoc) are necessary during software development?
- g. Do you use any code comment generation tools during development? (If yes, which tool; if not, why?)

■ **Expectation**

- a. What code comment generation tool do you expect?
- b. Which granularity level code comment do you prefer? (Statement/Method/Class/other)
- c. What kind of source code do you think needs to be commented? Are there certain types of code that will be easier to comment automatically.
- d. When do you expect the tools to generate comments?
- e. What information should be included in the code comment?
- f. What the length of code comment do you expect ?
- g. If we build a tool that satisfies all these expectations, what criteria are there for you to adopt a tool.