Reducing Information Overload for Software Developers

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Abstract

Software developers are inundated with information: many systems comprise hundreds of thousands of lines or more of source code, their email inboxes are clogged with notifications of new bugs reported and so on. Many of the tools developers use have been engineered to present and deliver this information as fast as possible. The work in our research group aims to reverse this trend by presenting just the information a developer needs when they need it by exploiting structure and patterns in the ways developers work. In this talk, I will present the results of two research projects that take different approaches to this problem. In the Mylar project, we are using patterns in task-based interaction to focus the user interface of an integrated development environment. In the Sybil project, we are using a recommendation approach to ease the task of bug triage.

Biography

Gail Murphy is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of British Columbia. She joined UBC in 1996 after completing Ph.D. and M.S. degrees at the University of Washington. Before returning to graduate school, she worked as a software engineer at a research and development telecommunications company for 5 years.

She also holds a B.S. degree from the University of Alberta. She works primarily on building simpler and more effective tools to help developers manage software evolution tasks. In 2005, she held a UBC Killam Research Fellowship and also received the Dahl-Nygaard Junior Prize for her work in software evolution from AITO. In 2006 she received an NSERC Steacie Fellowship and the CRA-W Anita Borg Early Career Award. She has recently been a co-author on two papers awarded SIGSOFT distinguished paper awards. One of the most rewarding parts of her career has been collaborating with many talented graduate and undergraduate students.

Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 11:00 AM
223 Atanasoff Hall
Refreshments will be served!