REFSQ 2020
Live Study on the Perceived Harmfulness of Requirement Smells
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Experiment disclaimer and consent form

Different processes could lead to different requirement decomposition and accumulate different types of debt. Requirements Debt is, up to now, defined as ''the distance between the optimal requirements specification and the actual system implementation, under domain assumptions and constraints". We argue that this definition is still does capture all facets of Requirements Debt and have, thus, extended the definition in previous work to include also upstream activities involving the elicitation of requirements and their translation into specifications. We defined three different types of Requirement Debt. One of these considers as key-factors so-called Requirement Smells.

In this live study, we aim at **understanding and compare the perceived harmfulness of requirement smells from a theoretical and practical perspective.** The study will be conducted as an **online survey** directed at software engineering practitioners handling requirements in their daily work, and it will be distributed to the REFSQ participants only.

Based on the results obtained in the live study, we will design and conduct a large-scale survey involving companies in order to monitor the requirement elicitation process.

The study will take you at most **30 minutes** to complete. In case practitioners will be not able to attendee the session (**26th March, 14.00**), we will provide the link to fill in the survey.

Any data collected will be anonymized and used only for the research purposes outlined here. **Participation is completely anonymous**. You can withdraw from participating in the study at any moment before submitting the last part of it.

The survey consists of three parts as follows:
Part 1: Personal information.
Part 2: Knowledge on requirement smells. We aim to understand whether the participants are familiar with requirement smells and whether they already consider the removal of requirement smells in their requirement elicitation process. We will provide the complete list of requirement smells.
Part 3: Perceived harmfulness of requirement smells. We will ask to rate how concerned they are about the requirement smells

If you would like to contact us in the study to discuss this research, please e-mail to: valentina.lenarduzzi@lut.fi