Identifying and Protecting Architecturally Significant Code

MEHDI MIRAKHORLI, COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND DIGITAL MEDIA, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Every system is a legacy system, the moment a programmer writes a line of code it becomes a legacy. In even relatively new systems similar to long lived systems, developers are faced with a body of code that they need to understand, and from which they need to extract architectural knowledge. Unfortunately, anecdotal evidence has shown that such knowledge tends to be tacit in nature, stored in the heads of people, and inconsistently scattered across various software artifacts and repositories. Given the size, complexity, and longevity of many projects, developers therefore often lack a comprehensive knowledge of architectural design decisions and consequently make changes in the code that inadvertently degrade the underlying design. On the other hand, design knowledge can often be recovered through mining software repositories and analyzing the code. Such knowledge is crucial for preventing degradation of software qualities. This talk will present a novel approach that utilizes machine learning techniques to detect architectural design decisions in the code, monitor them during long-term maintenance activities, and help protect critical areas of the code from potential architecture degradation.

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