

# Software Engineering in Practice

## Software quality

Diomidis Spinellis  
Department of Management Science and Technology  
Athens University of Economics and Business

dds@aueb.gr  
<http://www.dmst.aueb.gr/dds>  
@CoolSWEng

2025-06-27

### Assignment (Software quality)

Answer the following for a popular open source project:

- How do they perform quality assurance on the system under development?
- Which factors and quality characteristics are most important for the software quality requirements?
- How do they measure software quality?

### Definition

“The capability of software product to satisfy stated and implied needs under specified conditions.”

“The degree to which a software product meets established requirements; however, quality depends upon the degree to which those established requirements accurately represent stakeholder needs, wants, and expectations”

### Value and costs of quality

- Prevention
- Appraising
  - Reviews
  - Tests
- Internal failures
- External failures

### Basic terminology

- Models
  - (ISO/IEC 25010: 2011)
    - \* Product quality
    - \* Quality in use

- Process quality
- Software quality improvement
- Software safety
  - Standards in safety-critical software
  - Reducing the the risk of failure
    - \* Avoidance
    - \* Detection
    - \* Removal
    - \* Damage limitation

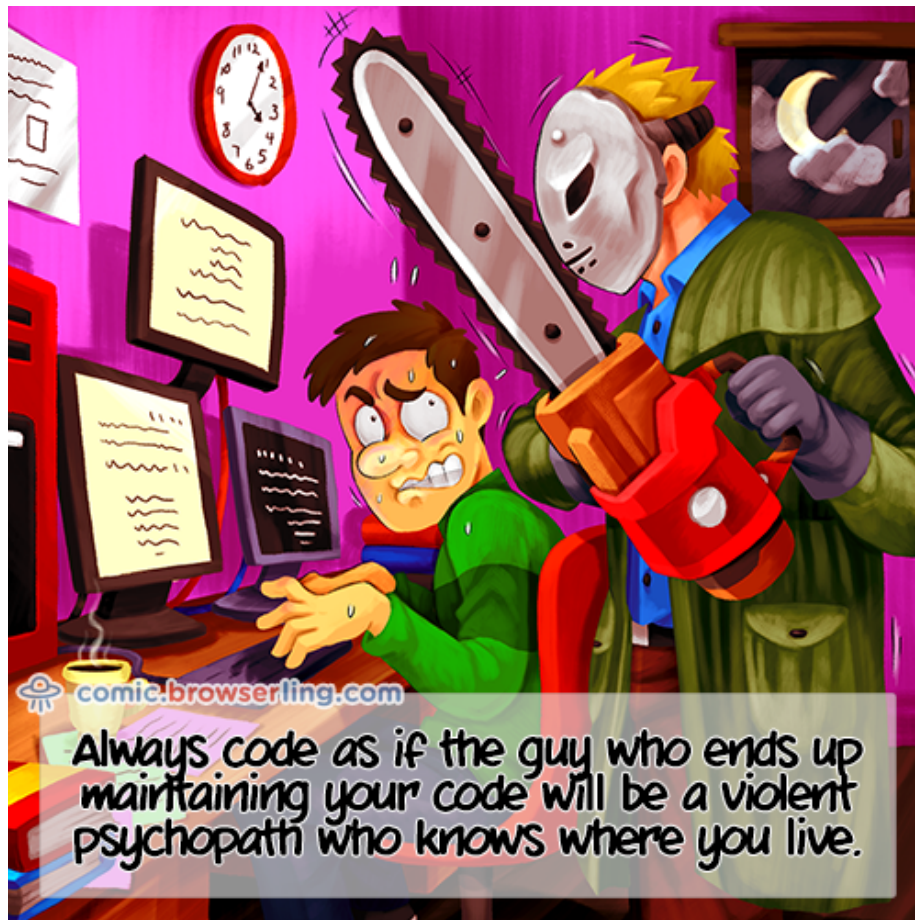


Figure 1: Always code as if the guy who ends up maintaining your code will be a violent psychopath who knows where you live.

<https://comic.browserling.com/79>

## **Product quality**

- Functional suitability
- Reliability
- Operability
- Performance efficiency
- Security
- Compatibility
- Maintainability
- Transferability

## **Quality in use**

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency (refers to the user experience)
- Satisfaction
- Safety
- Usability

## **Software quality management processes**

- Software quality assurance
- Verification and validation
  - Am I building the software correctly?
  - Am i building the correct software?
- Reviews and audits
  - Management review
  - Technical review
  - Inspection
  - Walk-through
  - Process and product assurance audit

## **Problem characterization**

- Computational error
- Human error
- Defect (includes hardware)
- Software fault / bug
- Failure

## **Quality measurements**

- Fault density
- Failure intensity

## **Software quality management techniques**

- Static
- Dynamic

## **Software quality tools**

- Facilitate and automate reviews and inspections
- Safety hazard analysis
- Track software problems
- Automate testing
- Static and dynamic analysis
- Analyze data captures from software engineering environments

## **Reading material**

- Maritime Software Quality Guidelines

## **Assignment (Software engineering operations and professional practice)**

- For (probably two distinct) appropriate open source projects present the following.
  - How is the software supporting software engineering operations / SRE / production operations?
  - What issues of professional ethics arise from the project's development and use?
- Carefully select projects where you can provide interesting and insightful answers.

## **Distribution License**

Unless otherwise expressly stated, all original material on this page created by Diomidis Spinellis, Marios Fragkoulis, and Antonis Gkortzis is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike Greece.

