

## Code Excellence – How good is your Code?

Presenters: PeterCamfield

Type: Workshop (75 mins)

ID: 193

### One line description

This workshop explores code quality indicators, groups them in order of importance and describes how you go about producing them.

### Themes

Technology

Practice

### Abstract

Do you ever find yourself looking at code and wondering how it got into such a state? Have you experienced the wonderful productivity at a start of a project only for this to drop off towards the end, spending weeks or even months fixing bugs rather than adding new features?

Developers require regular feedback when writing code. They need to know what they are doing well, where they are taking shortcuts and which areas of the system cause them pain. In other words they need to know how maintainable the system is. Focusing on maintainability is a proven engineering practice that yields output that is higher quality and more predictable.

This workshop seeks to

- Assemble a list of measurements of code quality.
- Root out the important questions we can ask about our code.
- Show how these can be presented and incorporated into day-to-day working practices.

### Audience

This session is aimed at everybody who is interested or involved in the craft of code creation.

### Benefits

- Raised awareness of the different types of quality measurements that exist for code.
- Production of a code quality dashboard that can be used the next time you or your colleagues write a line of code.
- More predictable and higher quality code.

### Materials

Worksheets.

### Process

After the introduction people will be split into a number of groups [4/5 per group depending on numbers]. Each group will produce ideas about what they consider to be measurements of good code. These ideas will be presented and discussed with the other groups. The groups will then re-form, taking the measurements generated to come up with their own code quality dashboards. Each team will present their dashboard and its relative merits. An interactive roundup will discuss how dashboards can be incorporated into the code

creation process. Some real world samples will be shown, both from the open source community and the BBC Worldwide code base.

### **Detailed timetable**

00:00 - 00:10 Introduction.

00:10 - 00:20 Initial group working; Spilt into groups and provide list of measures of code quality.

00:20 - 00:30 Group feedback.

00:30 - 00:35 Dashboard introduction.

00:35 - 00:50 Dashboard group working; each group agrees which six measurements they would like to see on dashboard.

00:50 - 01:00 Group presentation of dashboards.

01:00 - 01:15 Interactive roundup session including dashboard showing BBC Worldwide and open source tools.

### **Outputs**

A set of code quality measures and dashboard templates will be made available on the web.

### **History**

None

### **Session Leaders**

**Peter Camfield**

BBC Worldwide

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My name is Peter Camfield and I've been developing software professionally for the last 12 years. My current role is focused on improving the quality of the code developed at the large media company I work for. We use agile methodologies to develop software and are aiming to be an industry reference site that is pushing the boundaries of quality in everything we do. I keep a blog at <http://leftshift.wordpress.com/>