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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graduate School of Information Science,
Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST), Japan
Institute of Experimental Software Engineering, Fraunhofer, Germany

NAIST (Japan) and Fraunhofer IESE (Germany) have established a working group for cooperative international research on software inspection.

The working group will contribute to software quality improvement by investigating and publishing descriptions and experiences of best practices and effective techniques of software inspections

The Graduate School of Information Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan and the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering, Germany established the working group to share knowledge on techniques and ideas regarding research topics on software inspection. Software inspection is a defect detection technique used in early stages of software development. At the end of each phase, software inspection can detect defects in software documents including requirements specifications, design documents, and source code. In many software development projects, quality assurance depends only on software testing during the last phase of development. Software inspection, conducted earlier than software testing, reduces the cost and risk of defect correction because defects are found directly where they are introduced. Some reports indicate that defect correction cost is reduced to 20% of testing.

The working group will contribute to software quality improvement by investigating and publishing descriptions and experiences of best practices and effective techniques of software inspections which should support practitioners in improving their quality assurance..

[Motivation]

Software testing is the major quality assurance activity in many software development projects. In such projects, defects introduced in early phases (requirements analysis, system design, architectural design, detailed design, and coding) often remain even in the testing phase. Software inspections can detect defects introduced during early phases in combination with software testing. Many reports and papers indicate defect correction cost in inspection is smaller than that in testing. However, the reports also indicate that effective software inspection requires high levels of strategy, skills, and techniques. The working group aims to share successful techniques and practices internationally.

[Activity plan]

The working group will focus on research activities including:

- Discussing issues and solutions in early stages of software inspection research

- Discussions on contexts and results of inspection technology toward improvement
- Contribute to industries and government by publishing and propagating knowledge about the effectiveness and importance of inspection
- Publish web pages, papers and reports on inspection research
- Exchanging ideas and information about research themes and experiments
- Replications of experiments conducted by working group members

[Summary]

NAIST and Fraunhofer IESE established this international working group to improve inspection that remove and prevent software defects. As software becomes a critical part of systems used in all parts of our lives, we cannot afford existing levels of errors in software. We need a support for early defect detection and defect prevention based on the best practices and effective techniques of software inspection, keeping software testing in mind. This working group will help build such a set of best practices.

[Related information]

The web site of the working group is:

<http://www.software-insepction-wg.org/>

[Please direct any inquiry pertaining to this press release to:]

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