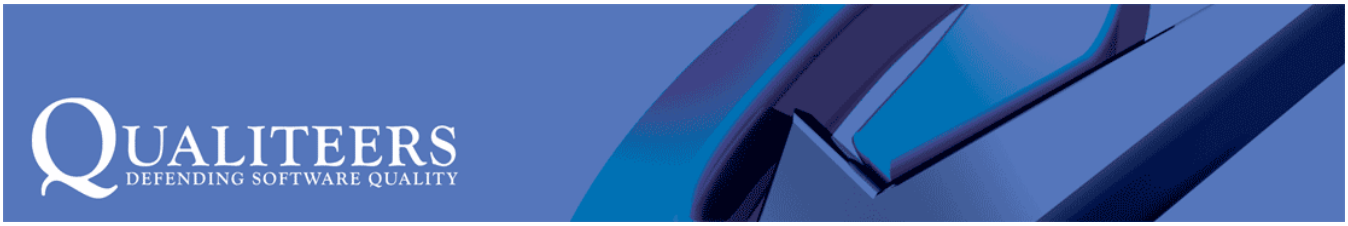

Tick-the-Code

Improving software quality in practice

Improving software quality requires an attitude change. The change is triggered by realizing that mere functionality isn't enough. A fully functional software application is still broken, if its maintenance is unnecessarily slow or risky. Reducing unnecessary complexity and improving maintainability should be priority to all software developers.

A software developer with a proper quality attitude seizes opportunities. When the least you should do is to check the ten new lines of code, a developer with **Tick-the-Code** -skills checks a thousand lines around the changes, in addition. In an hour. If you anyway have to change old code, couldn't you just as well improve the surroundings of the change? Change a few lines, tick a thousand. In an hour. Even massive, problem-causing, dread-inducing legacy code surrenders itself to such a piece-by-piece checking. That's how you eat an elephant, a piece at a time. If after every change, fix or extension you clarify the surrounding code too, gradually the massive, problem-causing, dread-inducing legacy code stops causing so many problems and being so scary.

Every **Tick-the-Code** check produces several opportunities for improving the software quality by pointing out error-prone and unnecessarily complex code. **Tick-the-Code** is so lightweight that you can perform it "just like that", even weekly. If every developer spends an hour weekly to tick a thousand lines of code, each developer accumulates a grand total of about 50.000 lines of checked source code in a year. Regularity piles up the biggest benefits. **Tick-the-Code** enables improving software quality in practice.

Checks produce ticks, which point clearly to unclear, complex, unnecessary and sometimes incomprehensible source code. Diligent but sensible tick removal makes the code more readable, more understandable, clearer, more concise and denser. In other words, the code won't break as easily when changed, and changing it is faster. Customer satisfaction grows with the reliability and the speed of change.

Tick-the-Code

- for practical software quality -

Quality attitude and vision

- A software application, whose source code is unnecessarily difficult to maintain, is broken.
- a check produces always several code improvement opportunities
- check "just like that", even weekly
- You can - and you should - keep raising quality constantly.
- a piece - actually, quite a block - of code at a time, but regularly

A year as a software developer

- check 1.000 lines in an hour every week
- on average 100 findings
- approximately 30% need changing immediately
- = in a year **1.500 improvements**
- with an effort of about 50 working hours
- exposed to 50.000 lines of code
- multiply by the number of developers and you have the total benefit for the organization

Benefits

- Code gets more understandable
- Code gets simpler
- Code gets clearer
- Code gets more readable
- Code gets less brittle
- Fixes get more reliable
- Fixes get less
- Maintenance gets faster

Qualiteers Miska Hiltunen
Saladin-Schmitt-Strasse 43 ● 44789 Bochum ● GERMANY ● tel. +49-234-3382359 ● fax. +49-234-3382361
info@qualiteers.com ● www.qualiteers.com