

Annotation Sniffer: A tool to extract code annotations metrics

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Code annotation is a language feature that enables the introduction of custom metadata on programming elements. In Java, this feature was introduced on the version 5, and today it is widely used by the main enterprise application frameworks and APIs. Although this language feature potentially simplifies metadata configuration, its abuse and misuse can reduce source code readability and complicate its maintenance. The goal of this work is to propose software metrics regarding annotations in the source code and a tool capable of extracting these metrics values automatically. Annotation Sniffer is a plugin for the Eclipse IDE capable of analyzing all Java projects in the workspace and output a complete report with the metrics values in an XML format. It aims to help developer to maintain control of how annotations are being used in their project.

Software Metrics. Annotations. Metadata. Thresholds