How Do Programmers Ask and Answer Questions on the Web?

Christoph Treude[1], Ohad Barzilay[2] and Margaret-Anne Storey[1]

What kinds of questions are asked on Q&A websites for programmers?

Which questions are answered and which ones remain unanswered?

How does a Q&A website contribute to the body of software development knowledge?

How are the best answers selected?

Who answers questions and why?

Different Kinds of Questions

non-functional
Mac - Max Texture Size for compatibility?

review
Simple file download via HTTP - is this sufficient?

novice
Oracle PL/SQL performance tuning crash course

how-to / novice

not answered

15%

accepted answer

48%

37%

answered, not accepted

conceptual
Concept of xml sitemaps

how-to
How to crop image by 160 degrees from center in asp.net

decision help
Should a business object know about its corresponding contract object

discrepancy
iPhone - Coremotion acceleration always zero

environment
How to use windows emacs as a svn client?

error
C# Obscure error: file ' ' could not be refactored