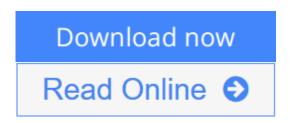# Building Maintainable Software, Java Edition: Ten Guidelines for Future-Proof Code

By Joost Visser, Sylvan Rigal, Rob van der Leek, Pascal van Eck, Gijs Wijnholds

Building Maintainable Software, Java Edition: Ten Guidelines for Future-Proof Code By Joost Visser, Sylvan Rigal, Rob van der Leek, Pascal van Eck, Gijs Wijnholds

Have you ever felt frustrated working with someone else's code? Difficult-to-maintain source code is a big problem in software development today, leading to costly delays and defects. Be part of the solution. With this practical book, you'll learn 10 easy-to-follow guidelines for delivering Java software that's easy to maintain and adapt. These guidelines have been derived from analyzing hundreds of real-world systems.

Written by consultants from the Software Improvement Group (SIG), this book provides clear and concise explanations, with advice for turning the guidelines into practice. Examples for this edition are written in Java, while our companion C# book provides workable examples in that language.

- Write short units of code: limit the length of methods and constructors
- Write simple units of code: limit the number of branch points per method
- Write code once, rather than risk copying buggy code
- Keep unit interfaces small by extracting parameters into objects
- Separate concerns to avoid building large classes
- Couple architecture components loosely
- Balance the number and size of top-level components in your code
- Keep your codebase as small as possible
- Automate tests for your codebase
- Write clean code, avoiding "code smells" that indicate deeper problems

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Joost Visser is Head of Research at the Software Improvement Group. In this role, he is responsible for the science behind the methods and tools that SIG offers to measure and master software. Joost also holds a position as professor of Large Scale Software Systems at Radboud University Nijmegen. He has obtained his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Amsterdam and has published over 100 papers on topics such as generic programming, program transformation, green computing, software quality, and software evolution. Joost considers software engineering as a sociotechnical discipline and he is convinced that software measurement is essential for development teams and product owners to thrive.

Sylvan Rigal works as a software quality consultant at SIG since 2011 and is advising clients on managing their IT since 2008. He helps clients achieve lower software maintenance costs and enhanced security by prioritizing improvements in software ix design and development processes. He holds a MSc in international business from Maastricht University, The Netherlands (2006). As an active member of SIG's software security team, Sylvan trains consultants on analyzing software security risks. When he is not assessing technical health of software, he is training Brazilian jiu jitsu, enjoying Amsterdam's restaurants or traveling Asia.

After obtaining an MSc degree in Software Engineering from Delft University of Technology in 2005, Rob joined SIG as a software quality consultant. Working at SIG is for Rob the closest thing to being a software doctor. In his role as a consultant he combines his thorough technical knowledge on software engineering and software technologies to advice clients how to keep their systems in shape. Next to being a consultant, Rob fulfills a leading role in SIG's internal development team. This team develops and maintains the company's software analysis tooling. It's Rob's ambition to leave the IT industry a bit better than he found it.

Pascal van Eck joined the Software Improvement Group (SIG) in 2013 as a general consultant on software quality. Prior to joining SIG, for 13 years Pascal was Assistant Professor of Information Systems at University of Twente, The Netherlands. Pascal holds a PhD in Computer Science from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and has published over 80 papers in areas such as enterprise architecture, IT security, and software metrics. Pascal is chairman of the program committee of the Dutch National Conference on Architecture for The Digital World.

Gijs Wijnholds joined the Software Improvement Group in 2015 as a software quality consultant in public administration. He helps clients get in control of their software projects by advising them on development processes and translating technical risks into strategic decisions. Gijs holds a BSc in AI from Utrecht University and a MSc degree in Logic from University of Amsterdam. He is an expert on Haskell and mathematical linguistics.

Users Review

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Robert Riggio:

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Hugo Carter:

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