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Klocwork Insight Integrates Static Analysis With IDEs

Developers, not downstream organizations, will be able to analyze code before they check it in.

By [David Worthington](#)

January 29, 2008 — Source code analysis has typically been a “downstream” activity that takes place after the code is written. Klocwork believes that it has a better solution, namely, integrating it into the IDE to prevent developers from checking in faulty code.

Klocwork released its newest family member, the Insight static analysis tool, yesterday. Insight works with widely used editors and IDEs, including Eclipse, GNU Emacs, J IntelliJ IDEA, Microsoft Visual Studio, vi and Wind River. Other notable changes include a new high-level declarative language that customizes checkers and updated Java capabilities.

Gwyn Fisher, Klocwork’s chief technology officer, claims that having downstream organizations perform source code analysis instills unnatural cultural barriers, thereby broken workflow and inciting a negative connotation. Permitting developers to check in code that doesn’t work makes software more expensive, he explained.

“Software developers today fix quality issues in code well after they originally write it, because source code analysis typically happens late in the development cycle. By insight about issues identified at the system level into the developer’s workspace, Klocwork Insight saves developers an additional step and makes it more likely that quality are identified as code is being written,” said Vishwanath Venugopalan, enterprise software analyst at The 451 Group.

Venugopalan added that developers are likely to heed a tool that funnels relevant information into the IDE.

Insight’s declarative language is based on XPath and customizes the analysis of C, C++ and Java codebases, said Fisher. “They can model what they want to go look for.

Its Java code analysis is no longer an adjunct to the compiler. Fisher explained that Java compilers have begun to introduce “noise” through their individually unique optimization making analysis “viciously complicated.” Insight now analyzes Java source rather than byte-level code, and uses Klocwork’s own compiler.

“There is more rich conceptual information in source code versus byte code. We have the ability to add checkers and analyze all of Java, not just the core language,” Fisher adding that Insight works with 12 Java frameworks, including Hibernate and Java ME.

Insight is available either as a stand-alone version for Java or as an integrated edition for C, C++ and Java.