

Survey on Developer Productivity

The following document shows the survey we run within Microsoft with professional software developers. Please feel free to contact Thomas Zimmermann tzimmer@microsoft.com if you have any further questions

We are researchers at <anonymized> investigating how to improve a developer's productivity. With this survey, we want to examine how developers spend their work days, what makes them feel productive and which information they consider interesting with respect to their work. Your answers are very valuable and will help us to build tools that could help developers at <anonymized> better reflect and improve on their development work.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. The survey should take no longer than 10-15 minutes. Thank you!

This survey is anonymous - no personal information will be collected. Aggregated information may be shared with research collaborators outside of Microsoft and used in publications. We selected you as part of a sample of Microsoft employees located in Redmond based on your job role. If you have any questions about this research project, please contact <anonymized>.

As a thank you for your time, you can enter your name into a raffle of two \$50 Amazon.com Gift Certificates after completion of the survey.

Thank you,
<anonymized>

1) What group do you primarily work in? (required)*
<check-boxes, anonymized>

2) What is your age in years (whole numbers)? (required)*

3) How many years of professional software development experience do you have (decimals allowed)? (required)*

4) What is your gender? (required)*

Female

Male

Other

Prefer not to say

5) What best describes your primary work area? (required)*

Development

Project Management

Other Engineer

Other Non/Engineer

6) Which of the following best describes your role? (required)*

Individual Contributor

- () Lead
- () Manager
- () Other

7) How many people are in the space/office you are currently working in? (required)*

- () 1 person (just me)
- () 2 people
- () 3-5 people
- () 6-14 people
- () 15 or more people

Personal Analytics

We are interested in learning what kind of information developers are interested in to help them reflect about their work.

8) Please describe what a productive work day is to you in two words:

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9) Please describe what an unproductive work day is to you in two words:

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10) Please rate your agreement with each of the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
I feel productive when I write code.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I test or debug my code.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I do code reviews.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I read fewer emails than usual.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I send more emails than usual.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel I had a productive work day when my email inbox is emptier in the evening than in the morning.	()	()	()	()	()	()

I feel productive on a day with little to no meetings.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I help my co-workers.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I visit social networks or news websites to do a quick break.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I listen to music.	()	()	()	()	()	()
Background noise distracts me from my work.	()	()	()	()	()	()
If I have many program windows open on my screen, it decreases my perceived productivity.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I am happy.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive when I have fewer interruptions.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I come early to work/work late to get some focused work hours.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel productive on a particular day of the week (e.g. on Wednesdays).	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel more productive in the morning than in the afternoon.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel more productive in the afternoon than in the morning.	()	()	()	()	()	()
I feel less productive after lunch compared to the rest of the day.	()	()	()	()	()	()

I feel productive when I work on one task at a time.	()	()	()	()	()	()
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11) Please rate how interesting each of the following items would be for you to reflect on your work day or work week.

	Extrem ely interest ing	Very interest ing	Mode rately interest ing	Slightly interestin g	Not at all interest ing	Not applicabl e
A list of applications I used	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on the computer	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent in each application	()	()	()	()	()	()
The number of open application windows	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on each file	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on each Visual Studio project	()	()	()	()	()	()
A list of code files I looked at or edited	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent coding	()	()	()	()	()	()
A list of the code reviews I did	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on each code review	()	()	()	()	()	()
A list of the commits I made	()	()	()	()	()	()
The size of the commits I made	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on testing and debugging code	()	()	()	()	()	()

The people I was in contact with	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent interacting with each person	()	()	()	()	()	()
The number of meetings I attended	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent per meeting	()	()	()	()	()	()
The number of emails I received	()	()	()	()	()	()
The number of emails I sent	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent reading and writing emails	()	()	()	()	()	()
The inbox size in the course of the day/week	()	()	()	()	()	()
The websites I visited the most	()	()	()	()	()	()
The number of web searches I made on Bing, Google, etc.	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on each website	()	()	()	()	()	()
The tasks I worked on	()	()	()	()	()	()
The time I spent on each task from my todo-list	()	()	()	()	()	()
The number of interruptions I had	()	()	()	()	()	()
The duration of each interruption	()	()	()	()	()	()
My focus over the course of the day/week	()	()	()	()	()	()

The longest period I was focused on a task without an interruption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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This was the last question. Please click next to submit your response.

On the next page you can then enter the raffle of two \$50 Amazon.com Gift Certificates.

Thank You!

12) Please select all the statements that apply and insert your email address into the textbox which will appear. We will not give your alias to anyone, nor will the alias be used to interpret your survey responses.

I want to enter the raffle to win a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Certificate (official rules).

I would be willing to talk to you about productivity and/or participate in follow-up studies.

I am interested in the results of this survey.

Email address*: _____