1 in 20 programmers on open-source software projects are women, ISU study says

POCATELLO, Idaho (KIFI) – Every day, millions of updates are being made to open-source software projects by programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

During the last six months, graduate students Arifa Islam Champa and Md Fazle Rabbi, along with Minhaz Zibran, assistant professor, have been looking into the gender makeup of developers across the first 100 programming languages. The team used the GitHub database, a gender detection algorithm that uses their first name to determine a developer’s gender with over 97 percent accuracy. Though the study, they determined that out of the 50,989 unique programmers identified, just under 9% were female. The algorithm labeled a little over 1.5% of programmers as unisex or unknown.

“People often overlook different ways of approaching a problem and dreaming a solution,” Champa said. “Other studies have shown that women teams perform better compared to men teams in a variety of ways with higher levels of creativity, innovation, and originality. Therefore, it is extremely important to encourage women’s participation in software engineering projects.”

Praeen Tiwari, the team focused on the strongest numbers of commits—changes to project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

The team also wanted different ways of approaching a problem and dreaming a solution.” Other studies have shown that women teams perform better compared to men teams in a variety of ways with higher levels of creativity, innovation, and originality. Therefore, it is extremely important to encourage women’s participation in software engineering projects."

From there, the team focused on the average number of commits—changes to a project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

The team focused on the average number of commits—changes to a project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

The team focused on the average number of commits—changes to a project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

The team focused on the average number of commits—changes to a project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

The team focused on the average number of commits—changes to a project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.

The team focused on the average number of commits—changes to a project’s code—made by each developer. They found women made nearly half as many commits to a project as their male counterparts. Female contributors average 11.85 commits per person on a project versus 23.20 for a male contributor. In total, 20,997,331 programmers across the globe. A new analysis by Idaho State University computer scientists has found only a handful of these changes are being made by women.© 2023, NPG of Idaho, Inc. Idaho Falls, ID USA