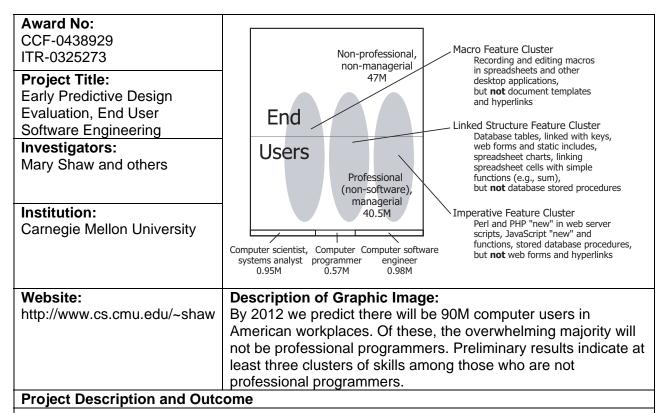
Predicted Composition of US Computer-Using Community in 2012



Ideas:

We refined Boehm's estimate that there would be 55M "end user programmers" by 2005. Using fresh data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and a richer model that accounts for rising computer usage rates, we estimate that over 90M Americans will use computers at work in 2012. Of these, only about 2.5M will be professional programmers; 40.5M will be managers and (non-software) professionals; the diagram above (areas to scale) shows the relative sizes of these populations. A preliminary survey suggests at least three clusters of skills among the end users.

This analysis identifies a significant population that is not well served by computer science and the computer industry. Factor analysis of the results of a preliminary survey identified three clusters of features whose use tends to be correlated. These appear to be grouped around abstractions rather than applications. This offers guidance for research directed at the users who fall into these (and possible other) clusters. In addition, the analysis indicates a need to characterize the level of sophistication with which an "end user programmer" uses various features.

References:

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