SEI Leads First Independent Study on Technical Debt in Software-Intensive DoD Systems

December 20, 2023—Many software-intensive programs in the Department of Defense (DoD) have started to actively manage technical debt, but their practices are often inconsistent and deprioritized, according to a new study by the SEI. The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act mandated an independent study of technical debt in DoD software-intensive systems. The SEI conducted the research earlier this year and recently released a report on its findings and recommendations.

The DoD must manage technical debt to improve modernization of software-driven capability at a cadence that stays ahead of emerging threats. The study’s broad-ranging findings give a first-ever snapshot of the state of technical debt in DoD software programs. “The DoD is a very large enterprise, so it is not surprising that we found examples of all three stages of technical debt management,” said Ipek Ozkaya, the technical director of the Engineering Intelligent Software Systems group at the SEI and a co-author of the study.
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How Do You Know When You Need a Systems Engineer? January 10, 2024
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The Future of Software Engineering and Acquisition with Generative AI, January 24, 2024
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