Legacy Software

Legacy software is “old code” – but it is usually code that is still providing value to the customers and users. Most software developers don't do much advance planning to make their software easier to maintain and extend. In addition, most software developers have very little training in how to build new functionality on top of a large complex legacy code base. This talk is an introduction to some of the practical techniques that programmers use to work effectively with legacy code: code reading, wrapper classes, selective refactoring, and automated unit tests.

The biggest challenge with legacy code is “learning and understanding.” You might have a large system that you and your teammates don’t really understand, but you can’t afford to throw the code away and start over again. There are a number of good techniques that help you “leverage the legacy.”

**Dennis Mancl** is a software process and software design expert who has worked as a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Alcatel-Lucent – as an expert in object oriented designs, design patterns, software architecture, and agile development practices. Dennis has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from University of Illinois.

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**Date:** Thursday, January 20, 2016, 8:00 pm.
(Refreshments and networking at 7:30 pm.)

**Place:** Small Auditorium, Room CS 105
Computer Science Building, Princeton University

**Information:** Dennis Mancl (908) 285-1066

**On-line info:** [http://PrincetonACM.acm.org](http://PrincetonACM.acm.org)

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A pre-meeting dinner is held at 6:00 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday’s Restaurant on Route 1. Please send email to [princetonacm@acm.org](mailto:princetonacm@acm.org) in advance if you plan to attend the dinner.