

# Experiences Developing an IBM Watson Cognitive Processing Application to Support Q&A of Application Security (Software Assurance) Diagnostics

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# Can DoD Use IBM Watson to Improve Assurance?



- Acquisition programs generate voluminous documentation
  - Assurance is based on assembling and reviewing relevant evidence from documents
  - Finding appropriate evidence or explanations can be challenging
- Q : Can typical developers build IBM Watson applications to support an assurance review?

# Key Take Aways



- You do not need a PhD in AI or Natural Language Processing to build IBM Watson applications on BlueMix
- Significant automation will be required for corpus (knowledge database) preparation, potentially larger than application development
- Subject matter expert needed to help craft document structure
- End user involvement needed to guide and improve training
- IBM Watson is one of many tools to bring to bear for cognitive processing applications

# Approach: Simulate a Development Process



Assemble team of assurance experts

- Determine interesting questions
- Select appropriate documents
- Define training (ground truth)

Assemble team of developers

- Experienced Python programmers
- No specific expertise in artificial intelligence or natural language processing

Two phases

- 2 weeks of 3 SMEs specifying corpus
- 11 weeks of 4 student developers building application and corpus

# Application Performance

Better **Recall** and **Precision**:  
Example: “What is the risk of INT33-C”

Coding Rule Q&A using IBM Watson

Results for : what is the risk of INT33-C

**INT33-C - Risk Overview**

Confidence Score : 0.02285481958

attackertag@ibm: A divide-by-zero error can result in abnormal program termination and denial of service.  
riskSeverity: low  
riskProbability: LIME

INT33-C - General Text Definition

INT33-C - Likelihood of Exploitation

INT33-C - Cost of Fixing Violation

INT33-C - Severity of Exploitation

INT33-C - How the Violation can be Exploited

INT33-C - Title

INT33-C - Related Rules and Guidelines

**INT33-C – Risk Overview**

Google what is the risk of INT33-C

About 38,600 results (0.82 seconds)

**INT33-C. Ensure that division and remainder operations do not result ...**  
<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/.../c/INT33-C. =Ensure+that+division+and+remaind...>

Rule 04. Integers (INT) - CERT C Coding Standard - CERT Secure ...  
<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/.../pages/Viewpage.action?pageId=270>

INT32-C. Ensure that operations on signed integers do not result in ...  
<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/.../c/INT32-C. =Ensure+that+operations+on+signed...>

VOID INT33-CPP. Ensure that division and modulo operations do not ...  
<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/.../VOID+INT33-CPP+Ensure+that+division+and...>

INT30-C. Ensure that unsigned integer operations do not wrap - CERT ...  
<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/.../c/INT30-C. =Ensure+that+unsigned+integerope...>

The CERT C Coding Standard: 98 Rules for Developing Safe, Reliable, ...  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0133806298>

The CERT® C Coding Standard, Second Edition: 98 Rules for Developin ...  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0133806298>

**INTC33-C. Ensure that division and remainder operations do not result ...**  
<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/.../c/INT33-C. =Ensure+that+division+and+remaind...>

# Lessons Learned From Project



## Theory



## Practice



# Disposition of Materials



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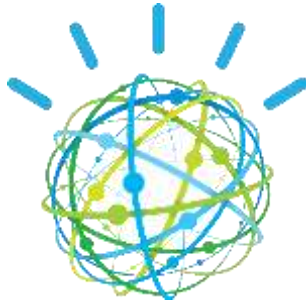




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