Programming With Everybody

If we observe how people adapt a code snippet to their project, can we make it easier for other people to adapt it to theirs?

Strategy:
1. Observe how users edit code snippets
2. Present crowd-created alternatives

Platform: Ditty, our web-based IDE

Motivation
The goal of completing their current task does not intrinsically motivate users to complete the Copy-Adapt-Publish feedback loop.

Current Implementation
When a user modifies another user’s command, a fork is automatically created:

Users can walk the graph of derivations, sorted by metrics like:
- Times copied and referenced
- Times executed
- # exceptions thrown

Future Work
We’re investigating:
- Effectiveness of listing derivatives
- “Auto-completion” of edits: guess what the user will change next
- Publicity as a motivator to write easily reusable code

Try It!
http://playditty.com/
Username: uist2012
Password: dittytime

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