NEWS

Editor's Note: *Empirical Software Engineering* and COVID-19 research

In a very short time, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread all over the world and affected us all, our societies, and the organizations we work for. Its effects have been tragic in many cases, and we stand with those that have been and will be affected.

For this reason, *Empirical Software Engineering* has decided to release a dedicated **topical collection**, with the goal of making relevant research quickly available to researchers studying the pandemic and its effects. We hope that this research will help our community of software engineers and that they, in turn, can help those working in the healthcare field, from epidemiologists studying the curve of this pandemic to nurses on the frontlines who are spread too thin.

The pandemic is already reshaping the way we work, in the field of software engineering and elsewhere, and is driving changes to processes, methods, the use of collaboration tools, and so on. More effects will likely be seen in the years to come. While our main focus must be on saving lives, the empirical software engineering community can also help study and understand the effects of the pandemic and its many, broad repercussions to our working styles and, in turn, to our economy.

This collection will contain papers where the pandemic is directly and/or indirectly driving the change and/or phenomena under study. The connection between the pandemic and submitted papers must be clear and explicit. Submitted papers must have a strong empirical basis/component to be eligible for this collection. The submissions will all be reviewed using *Empirical Software Engineering* standards.

For further information, visit: https://www.springer.com/journal/10664/updates.

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