

From Runtime Failures to Patches: Study of Patch Generation in Production

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Partnership between *INRIA & Microsoft Research*

**Chromium is taking on average 48
days for handling blocking issues¹**

¹Valdivia Garcia and Shihab, “Characterizing and predicting blocking bugs in open source projects”, *MSR'14*

Automatic Patch Generation

Automatic Patch Generation²



Buggy Application



Repair Strategy



Oracle (e.g. Crash)

²Monperrus, "Automatic software repair: a bibliography", *CSUR'18*.

Test-based Automatic Patch Generation



Buggy Program



GenProg³,
Nopol⁴,
CapGen⁵, ...



Regression Oracle:

● Passing Tests

Failure Oracle:

● Failing Tests

³Le Goues et al., "GenProg: A generic method for automatic software repair", *TSE'12*

⁴Xuan et al., "Nopol: Automatic repair of conditional statement bugs in Java programs", *TSE'16*

⁵Wen et al., "Context-Aware Patch Generation for Better Automated Program Repair", *ICSE'18*

Test-based Automatic Patch Generation

Uses the test suite as the specification of the program.

Status	Tests
●	Test Feature 1
●	Test Feature 2
●	Test Feature 3

Test-based Automatic Patch Generation

Uses the test suite as the specification of the program.

Common practice: Developer reproduces a bug with a test

Status	Tests
●	Test Feature 1
●	Test Feature 2
●	Test Feature 3
●	Reproduced Bug-X

Test-based Automatic Patch Generation

Uses the test suite as the specification of the program.

Goal: Patch generation techniques make all the tests passing

Status	Tests
●	Test Feature 1
●	Test Feature 2
●	Test Feature 3
●	Reproduced Bug-X

Problem 1: Automatic patch generation techniques rely on a failing test-case to reproduce the bug.

Solution 1: To connect the automatic patch generation techniques to the production environment where real bugs happen on a daily basis.

Overview of the Dissertation Structure

Chapter 3. Automatic patch generation techniques at runtime

- DynaMoth: patch synthesizer (AST'16)
- NPEFix: metaprogramming patch generation (SANER'17)

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Chapter 4. Patch generation search space at runtime

- NPEFix repair search space (ICST'18)

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- NPEFix repair search space (ICST'18)

Chapter 5. Patch generation in production

- BikiniProxy: JavaScript client-side (ISSRE'18)
- Itzal: Java server-side (ICSE NIER'17)

Error in the field.⁶

⁶Screeencast: durieux.me/bikiniproxy.mp4

Outline

Automatic Patch Generation

BikiniProxy: Patch Generation for JavaScript Client-side applications

BikiniProxy Architecture

BikiniProxy Evaluation

Itzal: Patch Generation for Server-side Applications

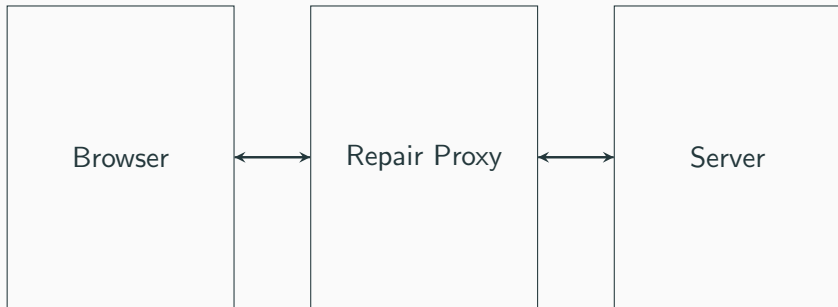
Itzal Architecture

Itzal Evaluation

Conclusion

BikiniProxy

BikiniProxy is a HTTP proxy that handles JavaScript errors by rewriting the JavaScript and HTML HTTP requests.



BikiniProxy – Related Works

- JavaScript errors
 - **Vejovis** by *Ocariza et al.* at ICSE'14 provides suggestions for DOM errors
 - **TypeDevil** by *Pradel et al.* at ICSE'15 detects API misuses
- ⇒ Are offline techniques
- JavaScript transformation in production
 - **Automatic Workarounds** by *Carzaniga et al.* at TOSEM'15 based on manually written API-specific alternative rules
 - **AjaxScope** by *Kiciman et al.* at OSR'07 is a proxy that instruments the JavaScript code to monitor the performance.

⇒ Do not generate patches

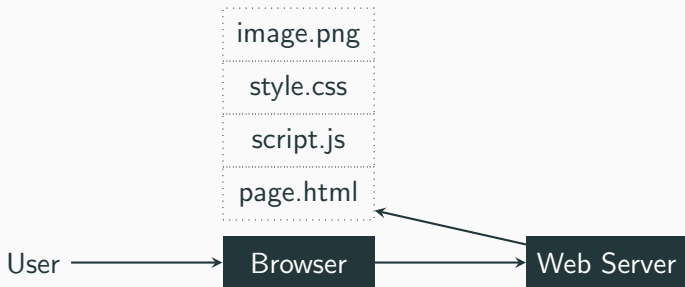
BikiniProxy – Architecture



Browser: e.g. Firefox or Chrome

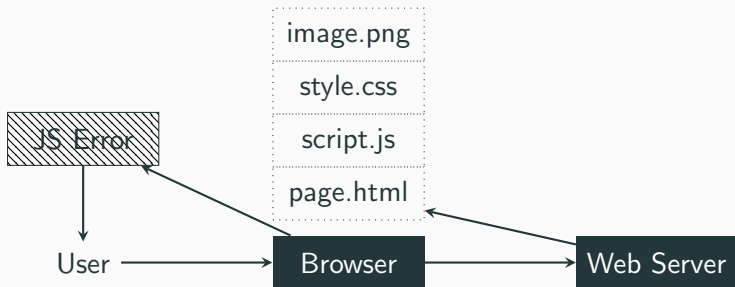
Web server: traditional HTTP server

BikiniProxy – Architecture



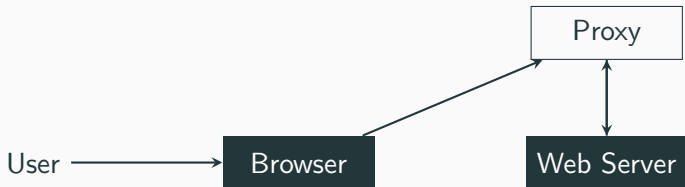
page.html: web resource.

BikiniProxy – Architecture



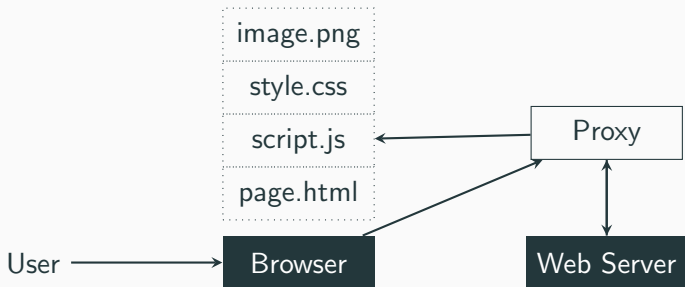
JS Error: JS error faced by the user in the browser.

BikiniProxy – Architecture

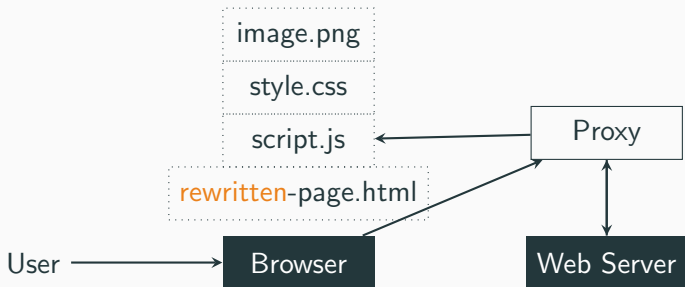


Proxy: BikiniProxy that handles failures by rewriting the resources.

BikiniProxy – Architecture

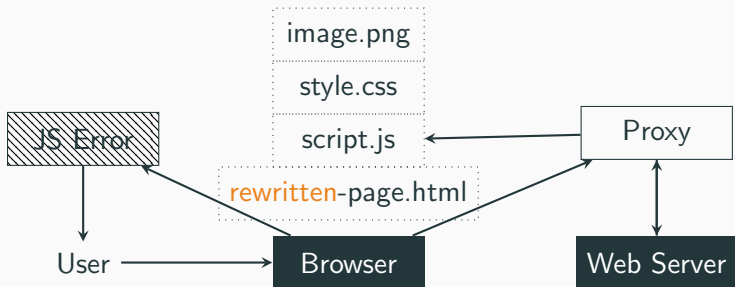


BikiniProxy – Architecture

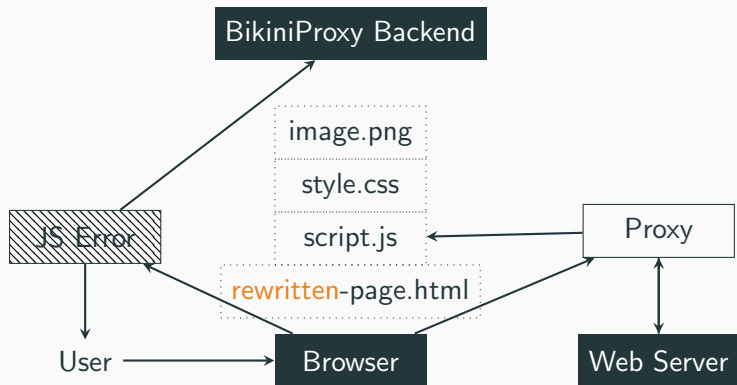


rewritten-page.html: web page with BikiniProxy framework.

BikiniProxy – Architecture



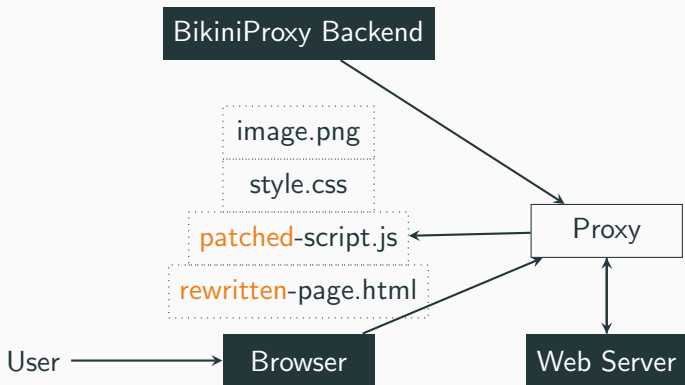
BikiniProxy – Architecture



BikiniProxy Backend: stores the errors faced by the User.

Goal: Collect JavaScript errors.

BikiniProxy – Architecture



BikiniProxy Backend: Send the known errors for a given page.

patched-*.js: web resource's rewritten by BikiniProxy.

Goal: Handle the known errors.

BikiniProxy – Repair Strategies

JavaScript Strategies

1. **HTTP/HTTPS Redirector** changes HTTP to HTTPS
2. **HTML Element Creator** creates HTML elements
3. **Library Injector** injects missing libraries

Generic Strategies

4. **Line Skipper** adds a precondition to the buggy statement
5. **Initialize Variable** initializes a null variable

Evaluation Protocol

1. Create a benchmark of JavaScript production errors
2. Evaluate BikiniProxy with the benchmark

```
▲ ▼ ReferenceError: $ is not defined \[Learn More\] birchj1:20:1  
  <anonymous> http://personal.lse.ac.uk/birchj1/:20:1
```

DeadClick: a Benchmark of JavaScript Errors

Crawling statistics	Value
# Visited pages	96174
# Pages with errors	4282 (4.5%)
Benchmark statistics	Value
# Pages with reproduced errors	555
# Errors	826
# Errors per page	1-10 (avg. 1.49)
Average page size	1.98mb

DeadClick is the first benchmark of reproducible JavaScript errors.

BikiniProxy – Evaluation Protocol

1. Access each web page of DeadClick with BikiniProxy enabled
2. Collect the triggered errors
3. Compare the errors with the DeadClick errors

BikiniProxy – Evaluation Results

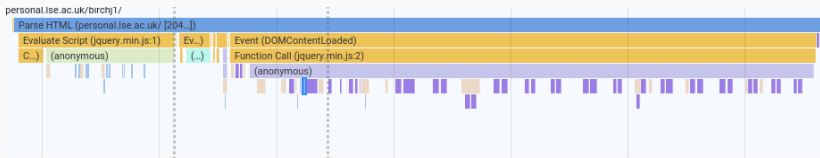
53 error types	# handled error
xxx is not defined	184/307 (60%)
Cannot read property xxx of null	42/176 (24%)
xxx is not a function	11/111 (10%)
Unexpected token x	2/61 (3%)
Cannot set property xxx of null	11/24 (46%)
Invalid or unexpected token	0/21 (0%)
Unexpected identifier	0/15 (0%)
Script error for: xxx	2/10 (20%)
...	...
	248/826 (30%)

BikiniProxy is able to handle 30% of the errors.

BikiniProxy – Discussion

Future work: How to characterize errors in a dynamic context?

Long term goal: To assist humans and automatic approaches by providing additional information from dynamic context in order to characterize errors.



BikiniProxy – Conclusion

BikiniProxy is presented in Chapter 5 of the dissertation, will be presented at ISSRE'18 and is nominated for the best paper award.

Key Novelties

- First proxy-based repair technique
- New repair strategies for JavaScript errors
- First benchmark of JavaScript field errors

Problem 2: Automatic generated patches can alter the state of the applications.

Solution 2: To shadow the production application in a sandboxed environment for patch generation techniques.

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- BikiniProxy Architecture

- BikiniProxy Evaluation

Itzal: Patch Generation for Server-side Applications

- Itzal Architecture

- Itzal Evaluation

Conclusion

Itzal – Related Works

- Test-based patch generation
 - **GenProg** by *Le Goues et al.* at ICSE'09 uses the existing code of the application to repair it.
 - **CapGen** by *Wen et al.* at ICSE'18 uses the context of the buggy statement to identify patch candidates.

⇒ Rely on failing test-case
- Runtime repair in production
 - **Assure** by *Sidiroglou et al.* at ASPLOS'09 is a self-healing system that relies on checkpointing.
 - **Ares** by *Gu et al.* at ASE'16 uses existing error handler to handle unexpected errors.

⇒ Change the production state

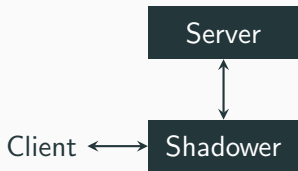
Itzal – Architecture



Client: e.g. a browser

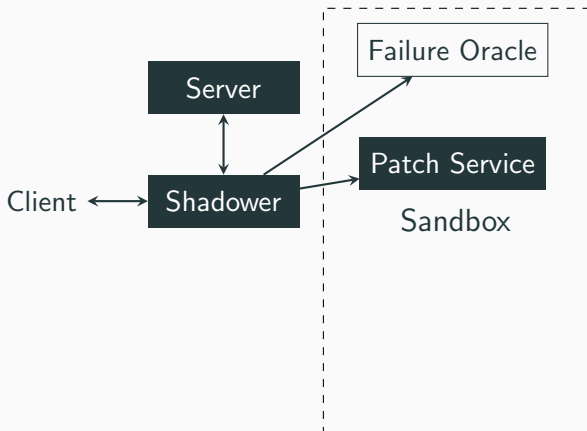
Server: e.g. a web server

Itzal – Architecture



Shadower: intercepts and duplicates the requests

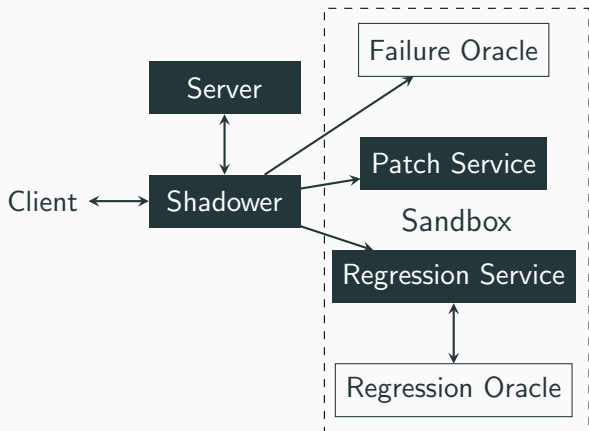
Itzal – Architecture



Patch Service: generates patches that fix the requests

Failure Oracle: detects if a request is passing or failing

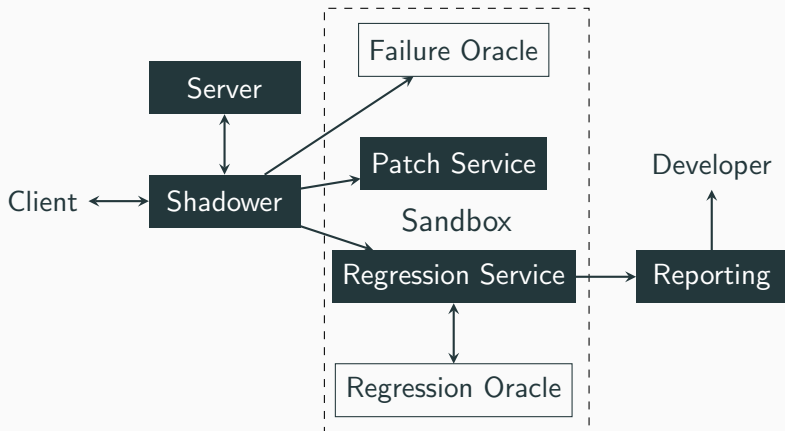
Itzal – Architecture



Regression: executes passing request on patched server

Regression Oracle: compares the output of the original server and the patched server

Itzal – Architecture



Reporting: communicates the patches to the developers
(Dashboard, Pull Request, ...)

- Failure Oracle: decides if a response is valid or not (e.g. $HTTP_{status} \neq 5xx$)
- Regression Oracle: decides if a patch does not modify the behavior for all non-failing requests.

Itzal – Evaluations

Three evaluations:

Evaluation 1: Patch Generation Service

- Assert that the **patch generation service** can generate patches from a failing execution.

Evaluation 2: Regression Service

- Assert that the **regression service** can detect behavior changes between a valid and an invalid patch.

Evaluation 3: Itzal Architecture

- Assert that all the services of Itzal work together by evaluating it with two **cases studies**.

Itzal – Evaluation 1 Protocol

Goal: Assert that the **patch generation service** can generate patches from a failing execution.

1. Collect 34 null pointer exception bugs from six benchmarks
2. Repair the bugs with NPEFix and Exception-Stopper
3. Verify that the generated patches handle the buggy request

Itzal – Evaluation 1 Results

	Repair Strategies			
	NPEFix		Exception-Stopper	
	# Valid	# Invalid	# Valid	# Invalid
34 bugs from 14 applications	23 118	31 060	198	592

NPEFix and Exception-Stopper can generate patches from a failing request.

Itzal – Evaluation 2 Protocol

Goal: Assert that the **regression service** can detect invalid patches.

1. Take two e-commerce applications
2. Inject bugs in the e-commerce applications
3. Generate patches with NPEFix
4. Create synthetical production traffic for the e-commerce applications
5. Compare the regression oracles effectiveness to detect behavior change in the applications

Itzal – Evaluation 2 Regression Oracles

Visual behavior:

- **HTTP Status** $HTTP_{status} \neq 5xx$
- **HTTP Content** $Response_{patched} == Response_{original}$

Program behavior:

- **Execution trace at method level**
 $Method_{patched} \simeq Method_{original}$
- **Execution trace at block level**
 $Block_{patched} \simeq Block_{original}$

Itzal – Evaluation 2 Results

Patches	Differences				Is Valid Patch?
	HTTP status	HTTP content	Trace Method	Trace Block	
Patch 1	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	Yes
Patch 2	⊗	●	●	●	No
Patch 3	⊗	●	●	●	No
...	
80 patches	16 ●	42 ●	39 ●	42 ●	23

Regression oracles can detect behavior changes by observing the application behavior.

Itzal – Evaluate 3 Protocol


Goal: Assert that all the services of Itzal work together by evaluating it with two **cases studies**.

1. Find null pointer exceptions in e-commerce applications
2. Identify the workflow to reproduce the bugs
3. Setup the application in Itzal architecture
4. Replay the buggy requests and synthetical requests
5. Collect the generated patches

Itzal – Evaluation 3 Case Study

NPE in cart when no price is defined in shipping strategy #231

New issue

 Closed jvelo opened this issue on Dec 9, 2014 · 0 comments



jvelo commented on Dec 9, 2014

Owner + 👤

No description provided.



jvelo added the **bug** label on Dec 9, 2014



jvelo self-assigned this on Dec 9, 2014



jvelo added a commit that closed this issue on May 29, 2015

Fixes #231 NPE in cart when no price is defined in shipping strategy

ce04282



jvelo closed this in ce04282 on May 29, 2015

Assignees

 jvelo

Labels

bug

Projects

None yet

Milestone

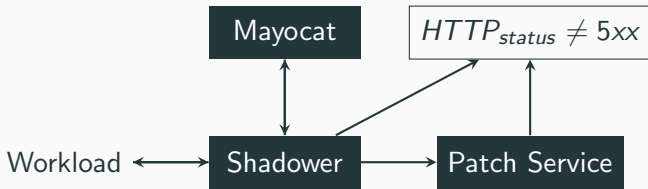
No milestone

Notifications

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Itzal – Evaluation 3 Architecture



Itzal – Evaluation 3 Results

Repair Strategy	# Valid	# Invalid
NPEFix	105	182

Valid generated patch by Itzal for Mayocat

```
@@ FlatStrategyPriceCalculator.java
@@ -37,2 +37,5 @@
+   if (carrier.getPerItem() == null) {
+       return null;
+   }
+       price = price.add(carrier.getPerItem().
multiply(BigDecimal.valueOf(numberOfItems)));
```

Future work: Which regression oracle can be used to identify incorrect behavior in applications?

Long term goal: To create new approaches based on regression oracle to detect execution anomalies.

Itzal – Conclusion

Itzal has been presented in Chapter 5 of the dissertation and has been presented at ICSE NIER'17.

Key Novelties

- Patch generation in production.
- Patch regression with production inputs.
- Shadowing the production environment to a repair environment to not introduce regression in the application.

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- Itzal Architecture

- Itzal Evaluation

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This thesis is the first work to show that automatic patch generation in production is feasible with:

- BikiniProxy: a patch generation technique for JavaScript client-side applications
- Itzal: a patch generation architecture for server-side applications

Perspectives

- Characterizing errors in dynamic environment
- Studying new regression oracles that can be used to detect behavior execution anomalies.
- Creating new repair strategies for JavaScript errors
- How to integrate automatic patch generation techniques in developer's workflow

All the artifacts produced during this thesis are open-science.
They are available on GitHub:

```
https://github.com/spirals-team/  
https://github.com/SpoonLabs/  
https://github.com/tdurieux/
```

Publications

Five first author papers:

- Fully Automated HTML and JavaScript Rewriting for Constructing a Self-healing Web Proxy, ISSRE'18, **Distinguished Paper**
- Exhaustive Exploration of the Failure-oblivious Computing Search Space, ICST'18
- Dynamic Patch Generation for Null Pointer Exceptions Using Metaprogramming, SANER'17

Short Papers

- Production-Driven Patch Generation, ICSE NIER'17
- Dynamoth: dynamic code synthesis for automatic program repair, AST'16

Publications

Five collaborations:

- Towards an automated approach for bug fix pattern detection, VEM'18, **Best Paper Award**
- Dissection of a Bug Dataset: Anatomy of 395 Patches from Defects4J, SANER'18
- Test Case Generation for Program Repair: A Study of Feasibility and Effectiveness, EMSE'17
- Automatic Repair of Real Bugs in Java: A Large-Scale Experiment on the Defects4J Dataset, EMSE'16
- Nopol: Automatic repair of conditional statement bugs in Java programs, TSE'16

Summary

Test-based Automatic Patch Generation



Buggy Program



GenProg³,
Nopol⁴,
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Regression Oracle:
● Passing Tests
● Failure Oracle:
● Failing Tests

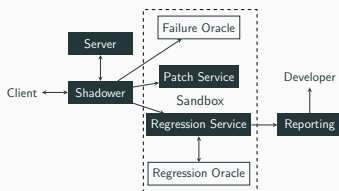
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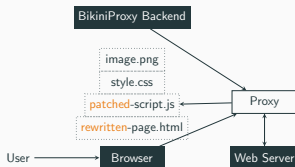
Itzal – Architecture



Reporting: communicates the patches to the developers (Dashboard, Pull Request, ...)

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BikiniProxy – Architecture



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patched-*.js: web resource's rewritten by BikiniProxy.

Goal: Handle the known errors.

12

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- Itzal: a patch generation architecture for server-side applications

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DeadClick

DeadClick Creation Protocol

DeadClick is a benchmark of reproducible JavaScript errors from production web applications.

1. Browse randomly web pages
 - Select 3 words in the English dictionary
 - Request Google
 - Open the first link
2. Collect the web pages and their errors
3. Reproduce the errors

DeadClick Creation Protocol

DeadClick is a benchmark of reproducible JavaScript errors from production web applications.

1. Browse randomly web pages
2. Collect the web pages and their errors
 - Open the web page
 - Wait for 7 seconds
 - Collect the body, header of requests that are triggered by the web page
 - Collect the JavaScript errors in the console
 - Collect a screenshot of the page
3. Reproduce the errors

DeadClick Creation Protocol

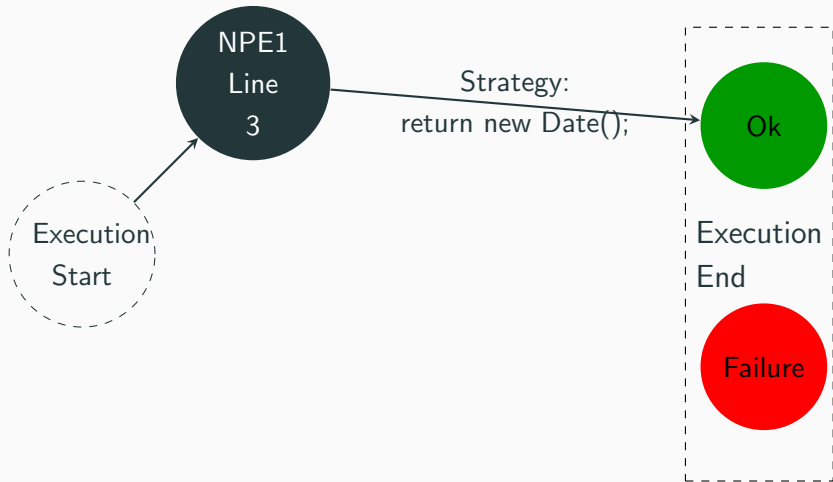
DeadClick is a benchmark of reproducible JavaScript errors from production web applications.

1. Browse randomly web pages
2. Collect the web pages and their errors
3. Reproduce the errors
 - Wait 3 weeks
 - Open each collected the web page
 - Collect the JavaScript errors
 - Compare the reproduced errors with the errors previously collected

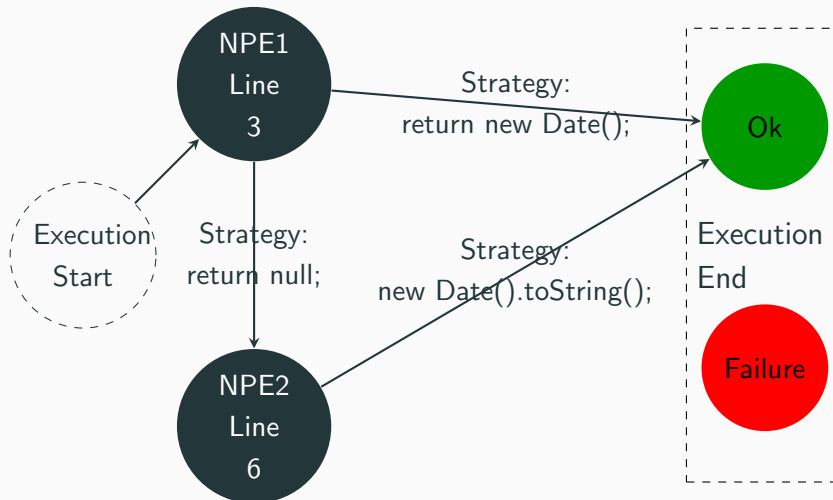
NPEFix



NPEFix



NPEFix



NPEFix

