

Graduate School of Science and Technology Master's Thesis Abstract

Laboratory name (Supervisor)	Software Engineering (Ken-ichi Matsumoto (Professor))		
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Thesis title	An Empirical Study of The Impact of Tweets on GitHub Sponsors (ツイートのGitHub Sponsors への影響に関する実証研究)		
Abstract			
<p>GitHub Sponsors was launched in 2019 to allow people to donate to open-source software developers to provide financial support, in line with GitHub's slogan: "Invest in the projects you depend on." However, a 2022 study of GitHub Sponsors found that only two-fifths of developers who requested sponsorship received a donation. The study found that in addition to internal actions (such as offering perks to sponsors), developers had promoted their GitHub Sponsors profiles on social media such as Twitter. Therefore, this thesis investigates the impact of tweets containing links to GitHub Sponsors profiles on sponsorship, as well as their reception on Twitter. The thesis further characterizes these tweets to understand their context and find that (1) such tweets have the effect of increasing the number of sponsors acquired, (2) compared to other donation platforms such as Open Collective and Patreon, GitHub Sponsors has significantly fewer interactions but is more visible on Twitter, and (3) developers tend to contribute more to open source software during the week of posting such tweets. This thesis is the first step in investigating the impact of social media on open-source software funding.</p>			