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Technical debt tracking: Current state of practice a survey and multiple case study in 15 large organizations

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Highlights

- The cost of managing TD in large software organizations is substantial and it is estimated to be, on average, 25% of the whole development time.
- We list the tools that are currently used to track TD, and we provide a first assessment of which ones create less management overhead.
- We report the state of practice related to the introduction of a TD management process in 15 Scandinavian organizations.
- We report the lessons learned from three companies that have started tracking Technical Debt: their starting process, the perceived benefits and the challenges.
- We propose a Strategic Adoption Model for Tracking Technical Debt (SAMTTD), aimed at helping companies in assessing their Technical Debt management process and in taking decisions on its improvement. The model also defines the next research challenges to be addressed in theory and to be evaluated in practice.

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