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IFIP – The International Federation for Information Processing

IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

> *IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people.*

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.

Jolita Ralyté Isabelle Mirbel
Rébecca Deneckère (Eds.)

Engineering Methods in the Service-Oriented Context

4th IFIP WG 8.1 Working Conference
on Method Engineering, ME 2011
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Proceedings

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Preface

Over the last two decades the discipline of method engineering has evolved from simple ad-hoc method construction to situational and domain-specific method engineering approaches as a response to the increasing complexity and diversity of software and information systems developments. Several theories, approaches and tools have been proposed to support the construction of project-specific information system development methods where each method would be based on the particular project situation and requirements. To attain such a high degree of flexibility, methods are understood to be modular, built from so-called method fragments or method chunks, which are stored in method repositories and can be assembled in situation-specific methods.

Despite the great advance in this domain, many issues are still open for fundamental research. The notion of situation, its characterization and evaluation as well as the suitability of method fragments to the situation have been investigated but still need more theory and experimentation. How to evaluate the quality of a newly constructed method? What is the best granularity of method fragments and method chunks? How to guide assembly of method fragments? All these questions still need an answer.

Furthermore, the evolution of enterprise software and information systems and especially their shift toward service-oriented architectures demands new ways of working, thinking and designing systems that we now call service-oriented systems. New methods, techniques and tools based on the concept of service and better fitting the current development situations are under development and experimentation and are the main topic of this volume. Besides, the notion of service is also emerging in the domain of method engineering as a new type of method building block and therefore becomes a new fundamental concept of the discipline.

Engineering methods, techniques and tools for the analysis, design and evolution of information systems is one of the main research areas of the IFIP Work Group 8.1. Successful Working Conferences have been organized on this topic in Atlanta in 1996, in Kanazawa in 2002 and in Geneva in 2007. A new edition of the IFIP WG 8.1 Working Conference on Method Engineering with a subtitle "Engineering Methods in the Service-Oriented Context" was held at the University of Paris 1 – Pantheon Sorbonne, in France, during April 20–22, 2011.

The 19 papers (13 full papers and 6 short papers) included in this volume were carefully selected by an international Program Committee out of 30 submissions. Each submission was evaluated by three Program Committee members, recruited from IFIP WG 8.1 members and other researchers active in the method engineering field. The overall quality of the papers was high and very well fitting to the scope of the conference.

The conference program featured two keynote talks by renowned method engineering researchers: Naveen Prakash from MRCE, Faridabad, India, presented "An Assessment of Method Engineering," while Marko Bajec from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, discussed the "Application of Method Engineering Principles in Practice." Moreover, a tutorial on "Creating Self-Describing Method Component Repositories with ISO/IEC 24744" was given by Cesar Gonzalez-Perez from the Spanish National Research Council. The format of a working conference provided the participants with an opportunity to have extensive and interactive paper discussions in plenary sessions.

We wish to thank the members of the international Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their valuable and professional work in crafting a high-quality program for this conference. A special word of thanks goes to the keynote speakers and the tutorial lecturer for their willingness to present the latest views and achievements in the discipline. We finally would like to thank all the participants and the conference organizers for their valuable contributions.

We wish you a pleasant reading and a fruitful use of these research results in your research and applications.

April 2011

Jolita Ralyté
Isabelle Mirbel
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