Ontology-based Software Architecture Documentation

de Graaf, K.A.

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The knowledge in software architecture documentation should be retrieved quickly and correctly, to prevent wasted time and errors in software projects. Retrieving knowledge from file-based documents is often difficult. Can we improve knowledge retrieval efficiency and effectiveness using ontology-based architecture documentation? This question guided four years of doctoral research reported in this thesis, which investigates and compares knowledge retrieval from file-based and ontology-based architecture documentation.

This thesis details on;
– An ontology-based documentation approach.
– An ontology engineering approach.
– Industrial case studies.
– Search behaviour analysis.
– Experimental evaluation of knowledge retrieval efficiency and effectiveness.
– An analysis of how knowledge organisation affects knowledge retrieval.
– Cost-benefit analysis.
– Qualitative evaluation via surveys.

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Klaas Andries de Graaf

Ioan. Stradanus inuent. Phls Galle excud.

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VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM