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The second international symposium on constructing software engineering tools (CoSET2000)

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The Second International Symposium on

Constructing Software Engineering Tools (CoSET2000)

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1 THEMES AND GOALS

Automated tools play an important role in the promotion and adoption of software engineering methods and processes, both within a particular organisation and within the software engineering community generally. The development of these tools is itself a significant software engineering task, requiring a considerable investment of time and resources. There are a large number of different kinds of automated software engineering tool, variously known as Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE), Computer Aided Method Engineering (CAME), Integrated Project Support Environments (IPSE), Software Engineering Environments (SEE), and meta-CASE tools. Although these tools differ in the particular methods, activities, and phases of the software development cycle to which they are applied, constructors of these tools often face similar implementation issues. Decisions about host computing platform, implementation language, conformance with standards and reference models, choice of repository, integration and interoperability mechanisms, and user interface style have to be made. The different strategies adopted by tool constructors when solving these tool development problems is the theme of this symposium.

The symposium is based around the participants' experience reports of constructing their software engineering tools. The purpose of the symposium is to bring together an international audience of researchers and practitioners with similar interests and experience, to exchange ideas, and to learn about different technologies and techniques for software engineering tool development. The symposium focuses principally on practical software engineering issues encountered by tool developers.

The symposium complements the themes and aims of the co-located ICSE conference, and it should be of interest to many practicing software engineers.

The inaugural CoSET symposium was held at ICSE'99 in Los Angeles, May 1999 [1]. We received 25 submissions from authors representing 12 different countries. All the submissions were fully refereed by the Programme Committee, and 16 of these were selected for publication in the symposium proceedings [2]. A selection of papers from CoSET'99 were subsequently republished in a special issue of the Journal of Information and Software Technology that appeared in January 2000 [3].

CoSET'2000 continues the investigation of themes and concerns explored in CoSET'99, including:
- specification and generation techniques;
- interchange formats and tool API's
- forward and re-/reverse- engineering tools
- tool evaluation, usability issues, and cognitive support
- tools for tool builders
- languages, frameworks, and component-based development

2 PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVITIES

We requested two categories of symposium submission:
- short papers, of typically 2000-4000 words;
- full papers, of 5000-6000 words plus figures/tables.

The Call for Papers generated 34 submissions. Papers in both categories of submission were fully refereed by the international programme committee. The accepted short and full papers are published in the Symposium Proceedings. The symposium organisers will select the most promising full papers for submission to IEEE Software for possible publication after a further process of peer review. The Symposium programme consists of:
- an introduction/overview session;
- invited speaker(s);
- experience reports and software demonstrations;
- discussion and plenary sessions.

3 ORGANISATION

Jonathan Gray is a senior lecturer in the School of Information Technology and Computer Science at the University of Wollongong, Australia. He has worked for a number of years in the UK and Australia in the areas of software design methods and CASE tool implementation. Dr Gray has organised many workshops and conferences including a number of recent tools related events. In 1998, Gray and Scott organised the Australian Workshop on Constructing Software Engineering Tools (AWCSET'98), Adelaide, South Australia, and in 1999 Dr Gray organised the second workshop in this series, AWCSET'99, Sydney, Australia, October, 1999. In 1999, Dr Gray was the Symposium Chair, of CoSET'99, a 2-day workshop of ICSE'99, and he recently ran a HICSS-33 minitrack on Software Engineering Tools, Hawaii, January 2000.

Louise Scott is a researcher at the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE), Germany, and she is currently working on meta-CASE and process modeling tool development. In 1997 Dr Scott was an organiser of the Second Australian Workshop on Requirements Engineering (AWRE'97), Sydney, Australia. She has been a co-organiser with Dr Gray of AWCSET'98 and CoSET'99.

Ian Ferguson is a lecturer in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Sunderland, UK. Dr Ferguson's research interests lie in the area of object-oriented methods and tools and meta-CASE. In 1995, Dr Ferguson was a co-organiser of the MetaCASE'95 conference in Sunderland, UK.

To keep informed about future CoSET events, and to participate in CoSET related discussion, there is a mailing list maintained by Ian Ferguson. This can be found at the URL http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/coset/.

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