The Second IEEE International Workshop on Program Debugging
IWPD 2011

Message from the Workshop Organizers

Welcome to the Second International Workshop on Program Debugging (IWPD 2011).

Software today is inherently large and complex, in fact more so than ever before. Consequently, debugging when failure is observed is also progressively becoming much more difficult and time-consuming. Manual debugging is quickly losing its viability as a practical option, and yet at the same time, techniques that aim for automatic fault localization are still not accurately and consistently able to pinpoint the locations of faults to a desired degree. Distinguishing executions that fail because of different causative faults, reliably recording and replaying failed executions, and fixing bugs without introducing new faults are but some of the debugging-related problems faced by developers today. Furthermore, formal verification techniques suffer from complexity and scalability issues, static techniques can often be imprecise, and the heavy performance overhead of dynamic techniques can prohibit their application. While studies are being conducted to resolve these problems, researchers often make unrealistic assumptions, and subject software may not be representative of large-scale industrial applications. Such concerns can induce in practitioners a lack of faith with regard to what research proposals can offer and deliver.

This workshop brings to light the latest challenges and advances in research and practice associated with program debugging, with a special emphasis on methodology, technology, and environment. Thus, IWPD 2011 serves as a platform for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, present new advancements, and identify further challenges in the context of program de-bugging.

We have organized a full day workshop. There will be two keynote speeches by internationally renowned researchers in program testing and debugging — T.Y. Chen from Australia and W.K. Chan from Hong Kong. We are grateful to them for their support of our workshop. We have 2 regular papers and 1 short paper. Each paper was thoroughly reviewed by at least three PC members. There will also be an interesting and possibly controversial discussion panel on pro-gram debugging.

IWPD 2011 would not have been successful without the hard work of the program committee, consisting of renowned researchers and practitioners in program testing and debugging from all over the globe. We are indebted to them for their impartial reviews.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the organizers of COMPSAC 2011 for encouraging us to host this workshop here in Munich, Germany.

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