Workshop for e-Government via Software Services (WeGovS2 2009)

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e-government is a strategic direction to reduce administrative burden and make government more efficient and service-directed. Despite recent achievements in research and actual implementation of e-Government in practice, numerous questions still remain on how to achieve full interoperability and dynamic reconfiguration of e-government services, with better accessibility, more transparency and manageability.

The Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) paradigm provides the necessary theoretical and technological support for the desired electronic government systems to become a reality. It satisfies the demand for a highly distributed heterogeneous environment with a large number of autonomous services and their providers together with users with their own goals and preferences. Therefore, the combination of the e-Government domain and SOA appears to be natural, as SOA provides an ideal platform to achieve the goal of a citizen-oriented and citizen-centric government organization.

This workshop will provide a forum to discuss how the SOA paradigm may facilitate further advances in e-Government research as well as best practice examples of already implemented and applied solutions in the context of e-Government. We plan to have both formal and informal presentations on theoretical, technical and implementation aspects of the application of SOA for e-Government challenges and issues.

The workshop's primary topic is an adaptation of SOA research results in the context of e-Government. As the WETICE primary interest this year deals with services and service applications, the workshop is perfectly suited within the WETICE main theme. The demand of the e-government domain for a solid collaborative infrastructure provided an additional interest for workshop participants to attend co-located WETICE workshops, and vice versa.

The workshop will be held at the University of Groningen on June 29–July 1, 2009, it is in its first edition and forms part of the 18th IEEE International Workshop on Enabling Technologies: Infrastructure for Collaborative Enterprises (WETICE 2009). An international programme committee of academic and industrial experts in the fields of service-oriented computing, software architecture, distributed computing, Quality of Service in e-government platforms, variability management, e-service delivery, and of various aspects of social, technical, and economical aspects of e-Government. The chairs received several papers, one of which was accepted for presentation. Each paper was reviewed by at least three members of the programme committee.

The accepted paper *A Classification of Software Engineering Approaches to Service Oriented Architectures in Various Fields* by A. Kontogogos and P. Avgeriou covers the main aspects of the workshop by providing a survey of the existing work in the area of service-oriented computing, and its applicability to e-government. The paper presents a high-level description and comparison of the SOA approaches by illustrating six different frameworks and summarising their key features. Authors present and analyze some of the most influential approaches from a software engineer's point of view that belong either to the academic or to the industrial field. Despite their differences though, all of these approaches share a service oriented mentality, with the purpose of lessening the issues of clients and companies, students and teachers, citizens and government employees alike.

The workshop will host an invited keynote speaker, Dr. Carsten Hentrich, an experienced architect in the domain of SOA in e-Government. Dr. Hentrich will elaborate on the major drivers for this domain: long term influences like EU law and demographic changes can already be observed as important drivers for change in European governments. Those influences shape how governmental institutions provide their services, how they operate internally and with each other; even across national boundaries and according to international European regulations. The IT of governmental institutions needs to deal with these long term influences. SOA as a strategy is a possible way to deal with these changing circumstances. Dr. Hentrich will illustrate how those different influences drive changes towards SOA in governmental institutions in Germany. In this context, the specific challenges of SOA in e-Government will be highlighted according to examples from

Germany. SOA will be presented as a possible means for those long term goals while providing the necessary stable strategy in a likely dynamic political environment.

The workshop will also facilitate a panel discussion on the topic of e-Government via the Service-Oriented Architecture and Software as Service paradigms. The panel consists of architects with large experience on this particular domain, researchers that are involved in progressing the state of the art, as well as politicians and end-users of e-Government systems. The panelists will attempt to identify the current issues and challenges for the domain that are 'hot' topics for research in the years to come. Emphasis will be given on learning from the experience (and mistakes) of building e-Government systems in the past. The discussion will also revolve around the trends, both technological and political, that will probably shape the architecture of e-Government systems. The panel will be moderated by the workshop organizers to ensure a good coverage of the topics as well as a lively discussion and participation of the audience.

We thank the programme committee for their work, the authors of the submitted papers for their interest, and the local organizers for the logistic support.

Finally, we acknowledge the support and endorsement of the Software as Services for Local e-Governments (SaS-LeG) consortium.[1]