



Proceedings of the Workshop on the
Layout of (Software) Engineering Diagrams
(LED 2007)

Preface

2 pages

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This volume contains the proceedings of the First International Workshop on Layout of (Software) Engineering Diagrams (LED'07), held in Coeur d'Aléne, Idaho, USA, on September 27th, 2007, as a satellite event of the 2007 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human Centric Computing (VL/HCC 2007).

Traditionally, diagrams play an important role in many disciplines such as electrical engineering (e. g. Karnaugh-diagrams), civil and mechanical engineering (construction plans), geography (maps), etc. In Software Engineering today, diagrammatic languages like IDEF, UML or ARIS are commonplace, and with the rise of model-driven development and domain-specific languages, the use of such languages will become even more widespread in the future. All in all, diagrams play an important role in communication between engineers. Given the visual nature of diagrams, it is obvious that the quality of diagram layout greatly contributes to the quality of communication based on these diagrams. However, creating task-adequate layouts is surprisingly hard, and the cognitive factors involved are not very well understood. Furthermore, tool support is rarely satisfactory (e. g. consider the sorry state of automatic layout support in UML tools).

With this workshop, we tried to bring together scientists and professionals interested in the layout of diagrams. Our goal was to create a stimulating environment to start discussions, share knowledge and incite fertilization across disciplinary boundaries. The five papers presented here were each reviewed by three programme committee members, and provide an insight into some of the interesting combinations of logic and visualisation currently being investigated. Additionally, the programme included an invited talk given by John Hosking (University of Auckland, New Zealand) about diagram layout support in meta-modelling tools.

As anyone who has organised such a meeting knows, success depends on many people. We wish to thank the members of the Programme Committee, who, despite being given a very short time to complete their tasks, provided prompt and helpful feedback. Thanks are also due to the VL/HCC 2007 organisers for providing the opportunity to run LED'07. We are grateful to the editors Tiziana Margaria, Julian Padberg, and Gabriele Taentzer of ECEASST for their support and the smooth publication. Finally, we wish to thank the LED'07 presenters, without whom there would be no workshop.

Andrew Fish, Alexander Knapp, and Harald Störrle

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