IWSSA 2008 PC Co-chairs' Message

The development of software systems is of vital concern to industry, society, and government. However, quality software systems will be possible only if their architectures are designed in a manner to accommodate and satisfy certain requirements. Designing such software architectures mandates the understanding of the high-level pictures of the environment in which the developed software will be used, under a variety of usage scenarios. In this regard, the papers that appear in these proceedings address innovative techniques, methodologies and processes to design software architectures, which are all intended to meet requirements and constraints one way or another. In particular, the papers cover important quality attributes of software systems ranging from users' requirements (security, reliability, usability) to developers' requirements (reusability, maintainability). These papers highlight what appears to be a clear trend in recent technologies (frameworks, ontologies, aspects, services, etc.) towards developing quality architectures from the viewpoint of the various phases in the software lifecycle, namely: requirements modeling, design, prototyping, implementation and evaluation, etc.

Most papers include both theoretical contents and real-case studies for systems with varying scopes and applications, such as enterprise, control, pervasive computing and collaboration. In all probability, they will contribute to a more successful workshop with enriching discussions. We sincerely hope that the workshop will be an appropriate forum where the sharing of knowledge and experiences about system/software architectures promotes new advances in both research and development. We also hope that readers can enjoy the papers in the proceedings.

This will be the 7th International Workshop on System/Software Architectures (IWSSA 2008), and the first time it has joined with the On The Move Federated Conferences and Workshops (OTM 2008). As was the case for previous IWSSA workshops, the present edition received an excellent response and a total of 23 submissions out of which 14 were selected as full papers and 2 as short papers. The rest of the papers also deserve special mention because they were well rated. This time again, authors of selected quality papers, from those presented at IWSSA 2008, will be invited to submit significantly extended versions to a special issue of the Journal of Science of Computer Programming (Elsevier).

We would like to sincerely thank all of the chairs for their constant help and support, the Program Committee members for their excellent work, and most importantly the authors of the papers for their very interesting and high-quality contributions, which make possible this workshop series every year.

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