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# Advances in Learning Software Organizations

6th International Workshop, LSO 2004  
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# Preface

Software-intensive organizations cannot help but learn. A software organization that does not learn will not exist for long, because the software market is continuously on the move, because of new customer demands and needs, and because of new competitor products and services. Software organizations must adapt quickly to this ever-changing environment, and the capability to adapt is one of the most important aspects of learning. Smart organizations will attempt to predict future software demands, and develop a corresponding knowledge road map that identifies the capabilities needed over time in order to meet these demands.

Organizational learning typically occurs when experienced organization members share their knowledge with colleagues, such that the organization as a whole can profit from the intellectual capital of its members. While knowledge is typically shared in an ad hoc fashion by means of direct, face-to-face communication, a learning software organization will want to ensure that this knowledge sharing occurs in a systematic way, enabling it whenever and wherever it is needed.

Since 1999, the annual International Workshop on Learning Software Organizations (LSO) has provided a communication forum that brings together academia and industry to discuss the advancements in and to address the questions of continuous learning in software-intensive organizations. Building upon existing work on knowledge management and organizational learning, the workshop series promotes interdisciplinary approaches from computer science and information systems, business, management and organization science as well as cognitive science.

The LSO workshop series differs from other conferences in that it puts a particular focus on organizational (rather than mere technological) questions such as: How to introduce knowledge management approaches in a software organization in minimally intrusive ways? What IT support is successful in fostering a culture of knowledge sharing? What roles are required to effectively disseminate available knowledge? How can information overload be avoided, while ensuring that relevant information is not overlooked? What knowledge management approaches scale up to the needs of large, multisite organizations? Approaches that address these issues often have to integrate a number of diverse techniques, methods, and tools.

This volume contains 13 full papers and 3 short papers selected by the program committee for presentation at the 6th International Workshop on Learning Software Organizations (LSO 2004). The workshop was held in conjunction with the 16th International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering (SEKE 2004) which allowed for further fruitful, inter-disciplinary discussions between both groups of participants. In addition to the oral presentation of the papers contained in this volume, the LSO 2004 program included a keynote talk by Philippe Kruchten.

As the workshop chairs, we would like to thank the authors and presenters for their willingness to share their expertise and report on their latest results. Moreover, our thanks go to the members of the program committee who did a great job reviewing

the submitted papers. Last but not least, we would especially like to thank our keynote speaker Philippe Kruchten for sharing his insights with us.

We hope that this volume conveys to its readers at least some of the vital and interesting discussions that were stimulated by the presentation given at the LSO 2004 workshop.

June 2004

Grigori Melnik  
Harald Holz

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- University of Calgary, Canada
- German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) GmbH, Germany

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## **LSO Workshop Series**

Materials of past and upcoming workshops in the Learning Software Organizations series are available from:

<http://www.iese.fhg.de/Publications/lso>



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