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Advisory Board: W. Brauer D. Gries J. Stoer

Jacky Estublier (Ed.)

Software Configuration Management

ICSE SCM-4 and SCM-5 Workshops
Selected Papers



Springer

Series Editors

Gerhard Goos
Universität Karlsruhe
Vincenz-Priessnitz-Straße 3, D-76128 Karlsruhe, Germany

Juris Hartmanis
Department of Computer Science, Cornell University
4130 Upson Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA

Jan van Leeuwen
Department of Computer Science, Utrecht University
Padualaan 14, 3584 CH Utrecht, The Netherlands

Volume Editor

Jacky Estublier
LGI LSR, BP 53
F-38041 Grenoble Cedex 09, France
Jacky.Estublier@imag.fr

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Preface

This workshop is the fifth in a series. The previous workshops were held in Grassau (Germany, 1988), Princeton (USA, 1990), Trondheim (Norway, 1991), and Baltimore (USA, 1993). The goal in this workshop series is to merge the work of researchers and practitioners in an attempt to discuss and establish concepts and techniques, and to gather experiences in the field of Software Configuration Management.

The proceedings for the Baltimore workshop (SCM-4) were never published, which is why this issue begins with 4 papers selected among the best presented at Baltimore.

The SCM-5 workshop attendance was restricted to 35 persons, selected on the basis of the quality of a paper or position paper. From the 35 selected papers, only 18 are published in this volume. Attendance split up nicely: 13 persons from university, 13 from industry, and 9 'in between'. This is a perfect ratio for Software Engineering. 16 persons were SCM designers or researchers, 12 SCM developers, 4 involved in development, and 4 users.

This workshop was held at a point in time where the second generation SCM systems are becoming widely available, and when it is increasingly understood that SCM is mandatory in today's software engineering. It is required by a number of standards (ISO) and constantly flagged as the major tool for controlling software production (SEI, CMM...). As a consequence, the SCM market is booming, attracting attention from researchers, industrialists, and vendors.

Whatever the reason, this workshop was one of the best in the series, with a clear increase in interest. It was remarkable for the balance between university and industry and for the presence of major vendors and research groups. Throughout these two days, rich and vivid interchanges took place, making this workshop appreciated by attendants.

This workshop also showed a shift in focus. The traditional topics 'versioning' and 'rebuilding' were not very much discussed, while new topics like process modelling support, distribution, and evaluation were discussed at length.

The new SCM generation did not sterilize the field, but instead raised the level of expectation and identified new challenges. The SCM field is still attracting the attention of both researchers and practitioners, and should remain for the years to come a major Software Engineering research and development domain.

Thanks to the committee who helped me to set up this event, and the ICSE team for the tremendous work done in organizing the whole week.

September 1995

Jacky Estublier, Chair
(LGI, France)

Programme Committee

Reidar Conradi (NTH, Norway)
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