First Announcement and Call for Papers

Workshop On Open Distributed Processing: Enterprise, Computation, Knowledge, Engineering and Realisation WOODPECKER'2001

July 6-7, 2001 – Setúbal, Portugal

In conjunction with the Third International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems - ICEIS 2001

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Aim of the Workshop

The goal of information systems is to support business processes and solve business problems. To do that, both the business and the information systems have to be appropriately understood by all stakeholders. This understanding is demonstrated in business, IT system and technological infrastructure specifications. There is a general misconception that these types of specification are substantially different. This leads to very serious problems -- particularly in cooperation, or lack thereof, between groups of people speaking very different and obscure languages. But these languages should be neither very different nor obscure: it is possible to put our specifications in order.

In the last 50 or so years it became possible to formulate the common concepts underlying various seemingly different areas of mathematics; similarly, in the last 30 or so years it became possible to formulate the common concepts underlying various seemingly different areas of information management. In both cases, the concepts have been around for a long time, but only recently they have become well-defined and successfully employed in applications.

The semantics of fundamental concepts and constructs of information management was clearly and explicitly defined in an international (ISO) standard -- the Reference Model of Open Distributed Processing (RM-ODP). These definitions are neutral with respect to a methodology, technology, or tool(set). This made the following possible: - to provide clarity and understandability for all stakeholders who could use the same explicitly defined contracts instead of handwaving or slide shows; - to provide for traceability between and maintainability of specifications (and of products and services that ought to satisfy these specifications) instead of relying on folklore or on tacit knowledge of gurus; - to define explicitly the relationships between software artefacts visible to the business and the appropriate fragments of business specifications; - to understand, before it's too late, the damage to a business that implementation of a particular IT service or system will inflict, and correct it.

Abstraction and precision are the most important characteristics of a good specification. Only a precise specification can be validated by subject matter experts and satisfied by implementors. Only an abstract specification, i.e., a specification in which irrelevant details are suppressed, can be understood by humans. Since different details of a specification may be relevant for different people, viewpoints are used to provide for specifications focussed on specific concerns.

Areas of Interest

Our workshop is the first one concerned with the semantics of RM-ODP. It will consider the RM-ODP concepts and constructs from various viewpoints. We invite submissions from both academia and industry about at least the following:

- making specifications clear and understandable to widely varying audiences using RM-ODP
- business patterns based on RM-ODP
- cutting across artificial boundaries of different specifications using RM-ODP
- new developments in RM-ODP and in RM-ODP-based standards, as well as applications of these developments
- (re)use of RM-ODP concepts and constructs in all kinds of specifications whether traditional or leading edge (e.g., in both "old" and "new" economy)
- mathematical foundations of RM-ODP concepts and constructs (e.g, using category theory)
- RM-ODP concepts and constructs in non-technological areas (ranging from philosophical foundations and semiotics to business process change and "meta-capitalism").

Submission of Papers

Prospective authors are invited to submit papers for oral presentation in any of the areas listed above. Only full papers in English will be accepted. Postscript versions of the manuscript should be sent electronically to the workshop chair (Haimk@acm.org).

Important Dates: Full Paper Submission: **1st March 2001** Author Notification: 1st April 2001 Final Camera-Ready Submission and Registration: 1st May 2001

Conference Location

The workshop will be held at the Escola Superior de Tecnologia of the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal. Setúbal is located at the south bank of Tagus river, about 50 km from Lisbon.

Secretariat
ICEIS Secretariat -Workshop On Open Distributed Processing: Enterprise, Computation, Knowledge, Engineering and Realisation

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