Formalizing and Automating the Software Process

The theme Formalizing and Automating the Software Process identifies the two essential activities for realizing the potential of Software Engineering. The first is to rigorously define software creation and evolution processes. The second is to create organizational and automated systems supporting these processes. This theme has guided the definition of a Technical Program organized into Process, Formalism and Automation Tracks, a Tutorial Program providing background information, and a Tools Fair in which a variety of available technology will be demonstrated.

Each of the tracks in the Technical Program includes major talks, papers, workshop reports and panels that collectively expose and integrate relevant, current activities. The Process Track concerns approaches to defining, measuring, assessing, modifying and evolving software processes. Automated and organizational systems supporting these processes are the subject of the Automation Track. The Formalism Track covers both the use of formalism within the processes and the rigorous definition of the processes, their constituent activities and the supporting organizational and automated systems.

The Tutorial Program precedes the other activities and provides in-depth, one-day introductions to a variety of technology pertinent to formalizing and automating the software process. The program covers database technology supporting software engineering, software development environments, knowledge-based programming environments, formal specification and verification techniques, and software reusability.

The Tools Fair includes demonstrations of both production and prototype tools. It also includes in-depth, technical presentations covering particularly interesting and innovative tools. The Tools Fair parallels the Technical Program and its activities are scheduled to allow attendance at both activities.

CHAIR
William E. Riddle
Software Productivity Consortium

PROGRAM CHAIRS
Robert M. Balzer
USC Information Sciences Institute
Kouichi Kishida
Software Research Associates, Inc.

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