About IWCase

The demand for software to manage information in business, to drive computer-controlled products and manufacturing processes, and to enable advanced scientific exploration is growing faster than our ability to produce it. Simultaneously, there is a growing realization of the vital nature of software in virtually all industry segments. "Mission-critical," a term once reserved for software controlling key military systems, is now applied to strategic applications for business and potentially life-threatening commercial applications from nuclear reactors to air traffic control systems. Software is not only a larger and more important component of our products and services, it is now a key factor in global competition, and is rapidly becoming a dominant, if largely unnoticed, fact of our daily lives.

How can software development managers and practitioners become more effective? How can they meet the exponentially growing demand? How can they ensure that software is built efficiently and the result is highly reliable? These are questions the emerging discipline of software engineering is trying to answer. Rooted in the "structured methods revolution" of the 1970's, software engineering attempts to go beyond single-domain notations and design strategies, to embrace a comprehensive engineering approach to software development, similar to mechanical, electronic or civil engineering.

The potential for leveraging the intelligence and creativity of software engineers using the power of computers seems obvious. Yet, advances in computer-aided software engineering have lagged other disciplines-partly because software developers were too busy automating other industry segments, and partly because the software industry itself grew far more rapidly and with less foundation in formal science than other fields. We also must allow that software, by its very nature, exhibits degrees of freedom not enjoyed by its sister disciplines more securely anchored in the physical world. This freedom, while enabling more abstract and powerful solutions to human problems, creates a daunting challenge to tool builders who would assist software developers in their work. Evidence of this is apparent in the large and growing array of software methods and notations in use, and the highly fragmented character of the software industry itself. As a result, while no one argues about the great potential of computer-aided software engineering (CASE) methods and tools, the implementation of CASE solutions on an industry-wide basis has proved difficult.

Not that there is a shortage of effort expended to solve software development problems. Over the last five years a new CASE industry has grown up encompassing hundreds of suppliers from every corner of the globe. Methods have proliferated and research consortiums have added exponentially to the body of knowledge documenting the software problem and potential solutions.

The vast majority of these efforts explore software engineering problems in minute detail, segmenting the problem space and searching for the answer to a single, well-defined question. They foster highly unique perspectives in an effort to create new theories and technology.

Yet, the fragmentation of the software industry, its diversity of constituencies, and its plethora of approaches and perspectives, begs for an integrative force. We need a forum to help researchers, suppliers and users communicate their respective accomplishments and their unmet needs.

It is this need for a "forum of industry participants" that inspired the formation of the International Workshop on Computer-Aided Software Engineering (IWCase), an organization which sponsors workshop events on an annual basis.

The typical attendance at these working meetings is from 200 to 300 professionals from around the world. Many are prominent contributors in the field of software engineering methods and tools, and virtually all are active users or suppliers of CASE technology.

As the sponsoring organization, the International Workshop on CASE Inc. is an independent non-profit 501(c)(6) corporation with the mission to exchange, synthesize, and disseminate ideas among users, developers, researchers and supporters of CASE with the goal of advancing the technology and its effective use. CASE 'xx Workshops have been co-sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society with the cooperation of supporting corporations and universities.
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