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Abstract

The goal of the BPMN workshop is to bring together practitioners and researchers that share an interest in business process modeling using the Business Process Modeling Notation. The Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN) has seen a huge uptake in both academia and industry. While BPMN evolves and usage increases, a number of research questions around BPMN arise. This report of the workshop gives an overview of the presented papers at the workshop.

1. Introduction

With the rising complexity of business operations and the need for quick adaptation to changing business requirements, business process modeling is a centerpiece of understanding how organizations work, of optimizing operations and of automating business activities. The Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN), standardized through the Object Management Group, enjoys broad interest and acceptance in both industry and academia. It has become very popular with business analysts, tool vendors, practitioners and end users. BPMN promises to bridge business and IT, and brings as-designed and as-implemented closer together. While BPMN evolves and usage increases, a number of research questions around BPMN arise. This report of the workshop gives an overview of the presented papers at the workshop.

2. Overview of the Papers

Submitted papers were evaluated on the basis of significance, originality and technical quality. Out of the 16 submitted papers, 8 have been accepted to be presented at the workshop. The papers can be related to four major topics: semantical foundations of BPMN, conceptual extensions, usability issues, and graphical layout.

Two papers address the semantical foundations of BPMN. The paper by Weidlich, Grosskopf and Barros discusses control flow in BPMN with a focus on advanced synchronization concepts. The authors show how dead path elimination can be used for a formal definition of control flow to achieve such synchronization. Chinosi and Trombetta discuss the conceptual clarity of BPMN. The authors propose a re-worked metamodel, which directly maps to a corresponding XML serialization format.

Two papers discuss conceptual extensions to BPMN. The work by Gagné and Trudel presents an extension of BPMN for time-related aspects. Their Time-BPMN proposal permits the specification of temporal constraints within a BPMN diagram. The paper by Auer, Geist and Draheim investigates how Submit/Response interaction can be included in BPMN. Their extension is useful for user interaction modeling.

Two papers relate to usability of BPMN models. The paper by Rolon, Sanchez, Garcia, Ruiz, Piattini, Caivano and Visaggio approaches maintainability issues using an experimental design. In particular, they identify correlations between structural metrics of BPMN models and both understanding and modification performance. The work by Smirnov identifies the need to provide suitable abstractions for BPMN models on a structural level. The author presents an abstraction mechanism that is order-preserving and capable of handling graph-based process models in general.

Two papers address layout challenges of BPMN. Kitzmann, König, Lübbe and Singer point to comprehension issues if a process model is drawn with unappropriate layout. The authors propose an automatic layout algorithm that is tailored to meet the control-flow features of BPMN. The work by Effinger, Siebenhaller and Kaufmann follows the same observation and provides an alternative layout solution. In contrast to the before-mentioned paper, the authors also consider interactively defining the layout.

We thank all authors of submitted papers, the reviewers of the program committee, the CEC workshop chairs, and the local organization team of the CEC conference for their support in making this workshop a successful event.