PROCEEDINGS

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Edited by
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Rick Kazman
Chris Verhoef
Elliot Chikofsky

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Message from the Chairs
Program Committee
Additional Reviewers
Conference Committee

Report of Conference Sessions

EQUITY 2007 Report
Gijs Hillenius (editor), Laurenz Eveleens, Peter Kampstra, Łukasz Kwiatkowski, Sander Sman

Technical Papers

Life expectancy: managing the IT portfolio of a pension administrator
George Labrujere, Hans de Weme, Adri van der Wurff

Methods and Metrics to improve the Yield of IT using the IT-CMF - An Intel Case Study
Martin Curley, Jim Kenneally

Activity Based Costing of IT
Geert Jan Beekman

Practicing What is Preached: 80-20 Rules for Strategic IV&V Assessment
Dan Port, Rick Kazman, Haruka Nakao, Masa Katahira

A Model for Measuring the Relation “Information-Value” in Companies
Paraskevi Mentezelou, Tanya Kyriakidou

Weighing the impact of ICT on modular SMEs
Alessandro Marchetto, Mattia Monga, Andrea Trentini

A Light Functional Dimension Estimation Model for Software Maintenance
D.A. Adamo, S. Fabrizi, M.G. Vergati

The ROI of Systems Engineering: Some Quantitative Results
Barry Boehm, Ricardo Valerdi

Choosing the Best Design Strategy from Requirements. A Value-Based Approach
Daniel Cabrero, Javier Garzás, Mario Piattini

Assessing the cost of Outsourcing: Efficiency, Effectiveness and Risk
Todd Little

Measuring the business value of availability
Ton Tijdink, Eric Nieuwland

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Message from the Chairs

Chris Verhoef, Rick Kazman, and Elliot Chikofsky

EQUITY 2007, the first conference on Exploring Quantifiable Information Technology Yields, was held in the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in the city of Amsterdam in March 2007, sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and by the Reengineering Forum industry association. EQUITY is a new platform for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas and results on exploring value creation, sustainment, and growth through information technology.

The focus of this first EQUITY conference was on quantitative methods for measuring, predicting, and understanding the relationship between information technology (IT) and value and, in particular, on the "Return On Investment (ROI) of software engineering". The goal of this endeavor is to have IT be driven more by scientific, empirically grounded analysis and sound business cases than is the current practice, where approximately 300 billion dollars are spent annually on IT investments that fail.

CASE tools, CMM, RUP, inspections, XP, SPI, software product lines, and many other processes and methods are claimed to be beneficial. The challenge is to determine how can we validate and ensure such claims. How can we determine how beneficial they truly are? What are the important factors and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)? And how can we apply these results in practice? EQUITY has a goal of addressing the major challenges confronting quantitative approaches towards managing IT.

Research topics that were covered in the first EQUITY conference include the quantitative aspects of: IT governance, IT due diligence, IT auditing and assessments, IT outsourcing, IT portfolio management, IT investment management, IT value management, IT risk management, software cost estimation, IT benchmarking, IT productivity, and IT return management.

The 2007 conference included keynotes from Barry Boehm (USC), Jan Pieter Herweijer (former CIO of Ahold and Akzo Nobel) and Paul Strassmann (former CIO of the US DoD and NASA). EQUITY has encouraged technical presentations and discussions from both academia and industry. We endeavored to make the conference one where there was a free exchange of ideas about theories, case studies, empirical research, and other efforts that contribute to the academic body of useful information while at the same time benefiting the industrial community. To that end, EQUITY was constructed to be participatory, involving collaborative sessions and presentations of industry practice as well as academic explorations. It had a strong emphasis on discussion and collaboration, and not just presentations, resulting in a rich set of session notes. We hope that you both enjoy and benefit from the results of this start of the EQUITY exchange.
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