Message from the Testing Tool Track Chairs

Software testing is a research topic that has a concrete goal: allowing programmers to find bugs in their code in a better way. Building tools is at the core of much of the work presented at ICST. It is however difficult to present tools in a paper from the research track, because it would have to focus more on the concepts than the actual implementation and engineering feat.

For the first time at ICST, tools also have their track! The high number of submissions (41), indicates that this track was a necessity for ICST.

The track focused on selecting the best tools based on the following criteria:
- Whether the tools solve significant research and engineering challenges.
- Innovation (the tools are the result of research or can be compared to research prototypes in terms of conceptual complexity).
- Usability and feasibility (through open source, as trial versions, or as demos).
- Quality of the presentation (summarizing the principles on which the tools rely and explaining the main challenges in a comprehensive way).
- Presentation of lessons learned targeted at researchers and practitioners looking to develop or adopt similar tools.

The selection was performed through a rigorous reviewing process: a program committee member was appointed and reviewed tools papers over a period of three months. Each paper had three reviews. Two accepts and no rejection meant that the paper was accepted right away, two rejections and no accept meant that the paper was rejected right away, all other papers were discussed. In case papers were submitted early, in some occurrences, authors have been given the opportunity to submit an updated version. Eventually, the selection was also fierce: out of 41 submissions, only 15 tools papers made it.

We thank the ICST main organizers for their support and their strong willingness to make it happen, we also thank the many reviewers for adjusting to tight schedule and high reviewing loads and, we express our gratitude to the many authors who trusted this track with their work.

We hope that you will enjoy the presentations and demos as much as we enjoyed trying out tools and reading the papers!

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