Introduction

We welcome your participation in the Fifth International Symposium on Software Metrics. We believe you will find a program and a setting that will make this symposium successful for you in every way.

We are delighted to host the symposium in Bethesda, Maryland, a vibrant business and professional hub, famous for its nightlife and excellent restaurants, and close to the museums and tourist attractions in Washington, D.C. It is especially fitting that the symposium convene in the United States National Capital Region, because measurement and performance accountability are growing in visibility and importance at the highest levels of the U. S. Government.

Our symposium is co-located in space and time with the International Conference on Software Maintenance (ICSM) and the Workshop on Empirical Software Maintenance (WESS), increasing the opportunities for you to network with colleagues while hearing the latest advances in software engineering.

We made a point of evolving the short-hand name for our symposium from METRICS ‘98 to METRICS 1998, a small gesture in recognition of the coming millennium. Our keynote speaker, Thomas J. McCabe, Sr., Founder and Chairman of the Board of McCabe and Associates, addresses the multiple roles for software measurement in the Year 2000 conversion, which now consumes the time and talent of countless software professionals. The world is learning first hand the impact of a couple of digits.

Mr. McCabe’s over 25 years of contributions have spanned all the aspects of software metrics featured in our METRICS 1998 logo: science, measurement, experimentation, engineering, and applications. Effective technology depends upon measurement, and effective measurement depends upon a three-pronged approach of science to develop metrics; engineering to evaluate and test metrics; and applications that use metrics in business and government. We solicited a broad range of software metrics papers to address all these areas.

METRICS 1998 technical papers reflect leading theoretical insights, state-of-the-practice industrial applications, and increasing maturity in the use of statistical and experimental methodology to evaluate software measures. We intentionally opted not to divide the tracks into research and applications, wanting to bring metrics researchers and practitioners together. In this spirit, a closing panel highlights what academic researchers and industrial metrics practitioners can do to help each other. A new feature is the offering of five state-of-the art reports so attendees can use METRICS 1998 to get quickly up-to-date on the leading ideas and practices in selected metrics areas.

We are proud to be sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society Technical Council on Software Engineering, and thank Mary-Kate Rada of the Computer Society for assistance with symposium planning and Kristine Kelly for the production of the proceedings. We especially thank the members of the organizing committee and program committee who worked diligently to make the symposium a success for all who attend.

We wish you a most rewarding and enjoyable experience at METRICS 1998!

Bill Agresti
General Chair

Marv Zelkowitz
Program Chair