Welcome from the Chairs

Welcome to the MSR 2009, the Sixth IEEE Working Conference on Mining Software Repositories, held May 16–17 in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and co-located with the 2009 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2009).

This is the second year that MSR has been a Working Conference, building on the strong foundation of four years as a successful ICSE workshop. We are happy to report that the community of MSR researchers continues to grow, while at the same time the research being performed is maturing. This year saw a record number of submissions: 47 full papers (10 pages) and 18 poster papers (4 pages) for a total of 65. This total is up 55% from last year’s total of 42 submissions (21 full and 21 short), and in particular we note that the number of full paper submissions more than doubled! Of the 47 full paper submissions 13 were ultimately accepted, giving a full paper acceptance rate of 28%. For poster submissions, the conference accepted 12 (some of which were shortened from full paper submissions), and 10 of those will be presented at the conference.

While the ultimate decisions were made by the program chairs, this year we used an “open reviewing” model in which all program committee members were able to read and comment on the reviews of all submissions (apart from those where there was a conflict-of-interest). We found that this model worked extremely well; the program chairs acted more as discussion facilitators than mere judges, and we were able to achieve clear consensus among concerned PC members on most of the submissions.

In the content of the papers, this year sees a continuation of previous topics, as well as the emergence of some new ones. Several papers focus on defect prediction, adding to the growing body of knowledge in this area. This year also sees a continuation of interest in characterizing developers, their activities, and their expertise by analyzing the traces in software repositories. A new theme this year is very large-scale software mining, and the infrastructure required to examine and manipulate large amounts of software project data.

Organizationally, MSR 2009 made a few changes to the existing MSR conference template. Full papers still receive a full 15 minutes for presentation within a block of papers where each paper is allocated 30 minutes. This leaves ample time for discussion on papers in a session, staying true to MSR’s roots as a working conference. In a change from previous years, the results in short papers are presented as a poster in a dedicated poster session. To improve awareness of all short papers, each short paper is given a quick summary in a “one minute madness” presentation before the poster session. This shift to poster presentations ensures that the ideas in the short papers can be understood and discussed in depth by conference attendees.
In another change, MSR 2009 takes advantage of the co-location of the 17th IEEE International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC 2009) to hold a joint half-day session between the two conferences. This joint session includes a shared keynote (Thomas Ball, Microsoft Research), and a shared poster / tool demo session. We hope this will build shared understanding and encourage interaction between these two research communities.

On the topic of keynotes, we have two this year. Michael McAllister, who is the Director of Academic Research Centres (ARC) at SAP Business Objects, presents a talk entitled, *Success Factors of Business Intelligence*; this talk should provide a strong industrial perspective of the value of the research we work on. We are also pleased that MSR pioneer Thomas Ball, Principal Researcher Microsoft Research, joins us to present his talk, *A Brief History of Software — From Bell Labs to Microsoft Research*.

We are pleased to continue the tradition of the MSR challenge track, where researchers from across the community apply their mining techniques to a common problem. This year, the focus was the GNOME desktop suite, and submissions were invited to either discover interesting facts about the history of this suite, or predict the code growth in core GNOME projects in terms of source lines of code from February 1st to April 30th, 2009. The conference received 9 challenge track submissions, of which 5 were accepted and will be presented at the conference.

We are also delighted to announce that a selection of the best papers from this year’s conference will be invited to submit an extended version for consideration in a special issue of the journal *Empirical Methods in Software Engineering*. The invitees will be announced during the opening session of MSR 2009.

Finally, we would like to thank the program committee and invited reviewers for their diligence in reviewing and discussing the submissions, especially given our increase in volume this year. We also thank the MSR challenge judges for evaluating the challenge submissions. We thank Abram Hindle for his speedy website updates, Miryung Kim for agreeing to be poster chair at the last minute, and Dirk Beyer for his role as local arrangements chair.

We look forward to working with you at MSR 2009! Please enjoy the conference!

Katsuro Inoue, Osaka University, Japan
*MSR-09 General Chair*

Mike Godfrey, University of Waterloo, Canada
Jim Whitehead, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA
*MSR-09 Program Co-Chairs*

Christian Bird, University of California, Davis, USA
*MSR-09 Challenge Chair*