

Panel Session

Systems or Software: What should the 'S' in SRE stand for?

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Abstract

Are we putting the cart before the horse in making software the focus of Requirements Engineering? Although requirements analysis has long been at the heart of Systems Engineering, the community that is moving forward many of the methodologies for Requirements Engineering is primarily the Software Engineering community. Over the years, separate requirements specialist groups have grown up within the systems engineering community and within the software engineering community. The problems and solutions addressed by these groups are similar, but the level of communication between them had been minimal. Software Engineers recognise the unique complexities of software, but tend to assume that all the interesting problems are software problems. Systems engineers take a broader perspective of the the system as a whole in order to avoid solution bias, but tend to assume that software is just one component to which requirements can eventually be allocated.

The purpose of this panel is to have a frank disscussion about the schism that has occurred over the years between how the Software Engineering community approaches requirements and how the Systems Engineering community approaches requirements. The panel will explore commonalities between the disciplines with regards to RE, and discuss the role of each discipline as we push the frontiers of requirements engineering.