

Foreword

Welcome to the fifth International Symposium on Requirements Engineering, held at the historic Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada. Requirements Engineering (RE) lies at the heart of software development. RE is concerned with identifying the purpose of a software system, and the contexts in which it will be used. Hence, RE acts as the bridge between the real world needs of users, customers, and other constituencies affected by a software system, and the capabilities and opportunities afforded by software-intensive technologies.

RE'01 continues the successful series of symposia that began with RE'93 in San Diego (USA), followed by RE'95 in York (UK), RE'97 in Annapolis (USA), and RE'99 in Limerick (Ireland). As with previous symposia, RE'01 provides a forum for the presentation and exchange of current research results and experiences in requirements engineering (RE), and is aimed at an audience of RE researchers, practitioners, and students.

The core of RE'01 is a strong technical programme comprising 26 papers selected from 127 submissions, representing 25 countries. Each submission was reviewed by at least three members of the international programme committee (PC), who also engaged in email discussions of papers prior to the PC meeting, which was held in London on 23-24 April 2001, and where the final selection of papers was made. The full papers are complemented by a series of posters and research demonstrations, describing novel research ideas and preliminary results of work-in-progress. These are represented by short summaries in the proceedings.

The RE'01 programme also comprises a number of invited presentations by world renowned RE researchers and practitioners. These include 4 keynote presentations, 2 mini-tutorials, and 14 state-of-the-practice presentations. The keynote presentations cover four areas of crucial importance to requirements engineering. Dr. Pamela Zave (AT&T Laboratories, USA), discusses RE for the particular problem domain of telecommunications; Professor Gene Spafford (Purdue University, USA), discusses issues of requirements and security; Professor Lucy Suchman (Lancaster University, UK) addresses the social and contextual factors in the design of interactive technology; and Dr. Mike Lowry (NASA Ames Research Center, USA) discusses the relationship between requirements engineering and program synthesis in the context of critical systems of the future. The mini-tutorials provide in-depth accounts on the state-of-the-art in two areas of RE: goal-oriented requirements engineering by Professor Axel van Lamsweerde (Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) and Systematic Documentation of Requirements by Professor David Parnas (McMaster University, Canada).

The state-of-the-practice track is a novel addition to the symposium programme this year, and features a series of highly respected speakers reporting on their experiences and ideas. This track focuses on the challenges faced by requirements practitioners, and identifies practical solutions and techniques that are relevant to today's practitioners. We hope that this track will be of value, both to practitioners attending the conference, and to researchers in improving their understanding of the problems facing today's requirements engineers.

Three fundamental RE issues are discussed during the three panel sessions. One panel discusses ongoing questions about the relationship between software and systems requirements engineering, and the difficult but crucial task of defining system boundaries. Another panel discusses what we call "extreme requirements engineering", and asks the question often asked by busy practitioners: how do we do RE when there is no time to do RE? Finally, the Knowledge Media and Design Institute (KMDI) in Toronto

are sponsors of an evening panel session on how users' requirements can be incorporated into the design process.

All this is preceded by a packed two-day programme of tutorials on 27-28th August 2001, including two full-day tutorials and four half-day tutorials, and a doctoral workshop on 28th August 2001 providing an opportunity for PhD students to discuss their research with fellow students and a panel of experts.

Together with a packed exhibition featuring leading RE tool vendors and publishers, we feel that we have put together an exciting programme of events to meet the requirements of a very diverse and demanding audience!

The organisation of RE'01 would not have been possible without the hard work, ideas, and commitment of many professional individuals. Our sincere thanks goes to the hard-working PC members who reviewed an average of 10 papers each, engaged in email discussions of papers, and travelled long distances to participate in the PC meeting in London. Thanks also to the organizing committee and track chairs for organising their individual components of the programme. Finally, thanks to George Mourmos, Oliver Ray, Nicola Rogers, Alessandra Russo at Imperial College, Marsha Chechik and Joan Allen at University of Toronto, Jo Atlee, Jean Webster, Anne Jensen and Wendy Rush at the University of Waterloo, and Frances Titsworth of the IEEE Computer Society Press, for their support at different stages of the symposium organisation.

We hope you enjoy RE'01, we thank you for attending, and we look forward to seeing you at RE'02 in Germany in September 2002!

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