Welcome to the 10th Software Product Line Conference

The diversity of SPLC attendees shows that product line practice is impacting a wide range of domains and industries. The community of people interested in software product lines spans the ranks from executives to managers to software engineers. SPLC provides an opportunity for interaction with those who have common experiences but different perspectives.

SPLC 2006 is the 10th conference devoted to software product lines. The progression of topics presented at these conferences over the years shows how the software product lines field has matured. While research progress has continued to be chronicled in the conference’s research tracks, the increasing number of tested and proven techniques has led to an increased number of tutorials and experience reports. One topic that has continued to be a focus of interest is the need to understand and control variability. Regions of commonality and points of variation are at the heart of the software product line strategy and of SPLC 2006 as well.

The rewards for adopting the software product line strategy are great: faster time to market, increased productivity, and mass customization. The effort required to successfully establish a software product line is also great: greater process discipline, organizational cohesiveness, and control of product variability. We hope that SPLC will motivate and guide you through the presentation of documented successes and proven techniques.

SPLC offers many opportunities:
- World-class keynote speakers will challenge you to expand your horizons.
- Tutorials, ranging from beginner to advanced, will give you the chance to experience new ideas or dig deeper into familiar ground.
- The research workshops will offer you the chance to talk to peers who share your interests.
- The research papers will give you access to the latest peer-reviewed work.
- The experience sessions will give you the opportunity to find solutions to problems your organization is facing.

This year, we’ve chosen panels that will critically examine issues and engage you in the exchange of ideas. In a new feature, some paper presentations will be followed by a formal discussion led by another researcher.

I would like to thank the research and experience paper authors, the panelists, the keynoters, the tutorial presenters, and the workshop leaders—they all provide the content that makes SPLC such a valuable experience. I would also like to thank the supporters of SPLC who made it possible for us to keep registration fees at 2004 levels while still providing an environment in which learning and networking can take place. In addition, I would like to thank the many volunteers who made this all possible and work to ensure the long-term health of SPLC: the chairs of various program pieces and other members of the organizing committee, the program committees who reviewed content, and the steering committee. Finally, I want to thank the SEI staff who worked to support all of us.

On behalf of all of these people, we are glad you are here, we hope this conference meets your expectations, we hope to see you at future SPLCs.

August 2006 John D. McGregor