About STEP

Software Technology and Engineering Practice (STEP) is a unique workshop-style conference that brings together software practitioners and technology providers (both commercial and research-based) to develop road maps for “best practices” and to guide and inform the development of new technologies to meet future needs. STEP workshops were initiated by IWCASE (International Workshop on CASE) in 1997 to meet the need for such a forum to facilitate the exchange of ideas on emerging technologies.

The distinctive feature of STEP is its highly interactive workshop style, which helps to leverage the insights of practitioners and researchers. Each workshop reviews and extends a road map for software technologies with contributions on new development, practical experience, technology evaluation, and gap analyses. Contributions are synthesized during debate and discussion and consolidated in the workshop reports and papers that are included in this volume.

The STEP format has been a successful one and has led to the establishment of a number of communities of interest. The 2003 STEP conference represented a transition in sponsorship. In previous years STEP was sponsored by IWCASE,¹ the IEEE Computer Society’s Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE), and the Reengineering Forum, with the primary financial responsibility being assumed by IWCASE. The IEEE Computer Society took over sponsorship and financial responsibility for STEP beginning in 2003. IWCASE and Reengineering Forum remained as cosponsors for 2003.

About the Sponsors

IEEE Computer Society Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE). The Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE) is the world’s premier software engineering special interest group. TCSE works to advance our understanding of software engineering, enhance the careers of professionals involved in research and practice, and create an effective network connecting its members to each other and to related organizations. TCSE sponsors over 20 software engineering conferences, including STEP.

IWCASE is an international association of users, researchers, and developers of software tools, methods, and technology. It was founded in 1986 to be the principal technical meeting for researchers in the field of computer-aided software engineering (CASE). Since 1997, its scope broadened until it became the current STEP conference, which was founded to provide a forum to help researchers, suppliers, and users communicate their respective accomplishments and their unmet needs. IWCASE also sponsors the Stevens Lecture on Software Development Methods (the Stevens Award) to advance the state of software development methods and enhance their continuing evolution.

The Reengineering Forum is an industry association that encourages combined industry/research review of the state of the art and the state of the practice in reengineering of software, systems, and business processes.

In 2003 IWCASE merged with the Reengineering Forum.

¹ “IWCASE” and the IWCASE logo are trademarks of the International Workshop on CASE Inc. IWCASE is a non-profit U.S. 501(c)(6) tax-exempt organization, incorporated in Massachusetts.