Foreword

This collection of papers represents the work of an exciting set of workshops that took place at Software Technology and Engineering Practice (STEP 2004). STEP 2004 brought together software practitioners and technology providers (both commercial and research-based) to develop roadmaps for ‘best practice’ and to guide and inform the development of new technologies to meet future needs.

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

These proceedings capture the current state of an ongoing dialogue. They surfaced issues that are critical for the future of software engineering practice, and a number of the ideas continue to be implemented. Several of the workshops will have follow-up sessions at STEP 2005 from September 24-25 in Budapest.

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