About The TOOLS Conference Series

We hope you enjoy this volume, reflecting the contributions to one of the conferences in the TOOLS Series.

The Conference Series was started in 1989 to provide an international forum for the dissemination and advancement of object-oriented technology. The conferences emphasize the applications and practical aspects of the object-oriented methods; it also accepts theoretical and conceptual contributions provided they have a strong relevance to practitioners.

The conferences provide an opportunity for managers, developers and researchers interested in the progress of the field to meet, review the state-of-the-art and exchange experiences. Each conference consists of the following elements:

- Invited lectures by leading international experts.
- In-depth tutorials, by innovators in the field, on elementary, intermediate and advanced aspects of object-oriented technology.
- Submitted contributions, selected by the TOOLS international program committee through a rigorous refereeing process, to ensure technical soundness, relevance, and timeliness.
- Interactive workshops and lively panel debates providing experts with a setting to discuss advanced aspects of the technology.
- A teaching symposium for everyone involved in training, whether in the academic or corporate arena.
- Supplementary events such as user group and standards meetings, working group discussions, BOFs, etc.
- Exhibition of the latest commercial and academic tools, products and services in the O-O field.
- And of course an attractive social program in the area where the conference is being held.

Reflecting the international nature of interest and contributions to object-oriented development, the conference is held three times a year on three different continents: TOOLS EUROPE, TOOLS USA and TOOLS PACIFIC. In 1997, the three became four, with the addition of TOOLS ASIA in Beijing.

The following table gives a rough schedule for each event, and of the corresponding deadlines for submitting papers. Please note that this information is only approximate and that the actual dates may vary; check the details with the conference organization at the addresses below, especially if you wish to submit a paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deadline for Submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOOLS EUROPE</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>December of previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOOLS USA</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Early August</td>
<td>March of the same year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOOLS PACIFIC</td>
<td>Pacific Region</td>
<td>Late November</td>
<td>July of the same year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOOLS ASIA</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>May of the same year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Proceedings of previous TOOLS Conferences are available worldwide, and from the conference organization at the address below:

**TOOLS Conferences**  
270 Storke Rd, 2nd Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93117-2972, USA  
Phone: (805) 6851006, Fax: (805) 6856869  
Email: tools@tools.com  
World Wide Web: http://www.tools.com

Prospective authors should also contact the TOOLS organization to get a copy of the *Guidelines for TOOLS Authors* and maximize the likelihood of having their paper accepted.