Greetings and welcome to VISSOFT 2007, the 4th IEEE International Workshop on Visualizing Software for Understanding and Analysis. In this workshop we specifically focus on visualization techniques that draw on aspects of software maintenance, program comprehension, reverse engineering, and reengineering. That is, we focus on how visualization can help programmers understand and analyze large-scale software systems.

We are very pleased to have co-located in Banff, Canada with the 15th IEEE International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC) 2007. The VISSOFT workshop, in large part, originated from the Program Comprehension community and was first co-located with IWPC in Paris during June of 2001. VISSOFT then co-located with the International Conference on Software Maintenance (ICSM) in 2003 (in Amsterdam) and in 2005 (in Budapest). This year makes the first North American venue for VISSOFT. In the future, we hope to run the event every two years, alternating between Europe and North America.

After VISSOFT 2005 (a successful event with more than 40 attendees), the organizers decided to form a Steering Committee to plan and oversee the long-term goals and directions of the workshop. The members of this committee are listed on a following page of the proceedings and represent individuals who played an important part in organizing and realizing the previous events. The mandate of the Steering Committee is first to develop and approve a set of bylaws for VISSOFT. This will include a mechanism to rotate members on-and-off the Steering Committee via election by the participants to the workshop.

This year there were 34 technical papers submitted to the workshop, an increase of approximately 30% from 2005. Each submission was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee. On the basis of these reviews the program committee accepted 15 full papers and 6 short papers for inclusion in the technical program. Papers accepted in the short category were those that the program committee felt contained important contributions for the workshop but would require further technical work or maturity to warrant a full paper publication. Additionally, two of the papers submitted were accepted as tool demonstration summaries along with two papers specifically submitted in this category. This year a tool challenge has been organized and three papers were submitted, which summarized the author’s findings and they were accepted for publication.

We would like to thank the members of the program committee for their diligence and attention to reviewing the submissions. Their input was invaluable in making the exciting program we have this year. We also thank Michael Collard for his support and expertise in running the submissions and reviewing software. The reviewing process would not have run smoothly without his efforts. Marco D’Ambros did an outstanding job as tool demonstrations chair and we thank him for his work, especially in organizing the tool challenge. We would like to acknowledge Denys Poshyvanyk and Bogdan Dit for their important assistance with publicity and the web page. We also thank Huzefa Kagdi for his work on putting together the proceedings and making sure the authors could get their final versions ready for publication.

Last but not least, we greatly thank the General Chair of ICPC 2007, Kenny Wong, for allowing us to co-locate and for his support and help in organizing the local arrangements.

General Chair
Andrian Marcus

Program Co-Chairs
Alexandru Telea
Jonathan I. Maletic