Abstract

Recently several tools and techniques for the reverse engineering of existing code have been proposed and implemented but very rarely any attempt was made to empirically validate usability and usefulness in the field are uncommon. This workshop addresses this gap and offers an open discussion forum to present techniques and results relating to this topic.

1. Introduction

During the last ten years tools and techniques for the reverse engineering of existing code have been proposed and implemented. However, systematic attempts to empirically validate usability and usefulness in the field are uncommon. In order to accompany this discipline toward its maturity, lessons learned concerning these validations need to be shared among the reverse engineering community. The resulting increased awareness of cost-effective validation methods supports the introduction of proposed tools and techniques in the software development and evolution process.

2. Goal

The first objective of the workshop will be a recognition of the current ongoing and concluded empirical studies in the area of reverse engineering. These will form the map of the known world in this area.

Second, we aim at surveying the techniques and methods used to conduct the studies; they are the candidates to populate the researcher's toolbox.

Third, we wish to map the studies to a taxonomy of reverse engineering techniques and tools, in order to understand what the coverage of the studies is.

Fourth, networking of researchers to design and conduct studies replicated at different locations.

3. History

WESRE builds on the success of the 1st edition, that was held in Budapest, within STEP 2005, co-located with the IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance (ICSM 2005). WESRE 2005 had good attendance and participants reported very positive feedback about the outcome. The same format of WESRE 2005 will be kept in the 2006 edition: short paper presentations followed by discussion.

4. Topics

The topics of interest include but are not limited to the following: tools and techniques for empirical studies, lessons learned in running empirical studies, experimental designs for RE, usability assessments, cost-effectiveness of various approaches, indications for tool improvement, frameworks and infrastructures.

5. Results

The main results the participants of the workshop can achieve are:

- Establishment of a research network in empirical studies in reverse engineering.
- Promotion of best practices both in conducting and publishing empirical studies.
- Identification of critical success / failure factors in empirical studies.
- Organization and planning of experiment replication

6. Organizers

Chair: Marco Torchiano.
Program committee: Filippo Ricca, Giuseppe Di Lucca, Bart Du Bois, Tarja Systa, Paolo Tonella.