Message from the Chairs

Welcome to the 19th Working Conference on Reverse Engineering (WCRE)! We are proud to announce that this year’s WCRE received a record number of 138 submissions making the task of selecting papers very challenging. All submissions went through a rigorous review process: each paper was reviewed in detail by at least three Program Committee members from Industry and Academia. All decisions were open for discussion by the entire Program Committee before finalizing them. In the end, we have selected 43 full papers and 3 short papers, originating from 30 countries. The authors of the best papers from WCRE’12 will be invited to submit extended versions of their work to a special issue of the Journal of Software Maintenance and Evolution: Research and Practice, to be published by Wiley.

WCRE is a working conference and particularly encourages and welcomes papers that stir discussion and which touch upon non-traditional topics. Past venues of WCRE have shown that WCRE attendees want to learn about the exciting and up-coming research opportunities in reverse engineering, not only the past innovative results.

Short papers help touching on important and up-coming areas in our growing and evolving community. Short papers are important to the community and that is why we integrate them into the technical program, creating sessions that contain both full and short papers. This year’s program includes sessions on exciting topics such as mining software repositories, reverse engineering, security, dynamic analysis, re-modularization and re-engineering, program comprehension, and software evolution.

As always, WCRE paper sessions foster presentations followed by an open and energetic discussion. A trademark of WCRE is that there is much more than a recital of papers – there is vigorous and open discussion so please contribute your ideas and be part of a WCRE tradition!

The technical sessions are accompanied by two outstanding keynotes. We are very fortunate this year to have great keynotes given by two top software engineering researchers: Hausi Müller, Professor of Computer Science and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Victoria, and Yuan Xiang Gu, Co-Founder and Chief Architect of Cloakware, and Senior Director of Irdeto Research. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to both of these outstanding keynote speakers.

WCRE is one of the most highly respected and well-cited conferences in Software Engineering. And over the past 19 years our community has come up with some great ideas and innovations. Since WCRE 2008, we are looking back at the achievements of the reverse engineering community, by awarding the most influential paper award from 10 years ago. This year we are looking back at WCRE 2002, held in Richmond, Virginia USA. From a range of papers the WCRE 2012 Program Committee elected the paper titled "Java Quality Assurance by Detecting Code Smells" by Eva Van Emden and Leon Moonen as the most influential paper from WCRE 2002. With this paper Evan and Leon provided one of the corner stone approaches for detecting code smells and improving quality of Java applications. We are looking forward to hear the authors’ reflections on ten years of research in the field of code smell detection, today’s state of the art and open challenges in their most influential paper talk.

The conference program of WCRE 2012 features industrial experience paper and talks reporting on success stories and challenges in applying reverse engineering techniques in industry. Furthermore, the program hosts a Doctoral Symposium, in which two promising young reverse engineering
scientists will present and discuss their work. Finally, there will be four tool demonstrations featuring state-of-the-art tools in the field. These tools represent important contributions to research reverse engineering and re-engineering and we are looking forward to the demonstrations.

We also have two workshops co-located with WCRE: The Workshop on The Legal Status of Reverse Engineering, organized by Keith Gallagher, Cem Kaner and Jenifer Deignan, and the Workshop on Mining Unstructured Data (MUD), organized by Alberto Bacchelli, Nicolas Bettenburg and Latifa Guerrouj. These workshops build the basis for strong research work and new collaborations among the participants. For future editions of WCRE, we will work hard to raise the interest of researchers in organizing follow-up and new WCRE workshops.

We would like to thank all the people who helped us to organize this program: James R. Cordy and Thomas R. Dean (General Chairs), Elliot Chikofsky (Financial Chair), Massimiliano di Penta and Yann-Gaël Guéhéneuc (Doctoral Symposium Chairs), Mark Grechanik and Brian Robinson (Industrial Experience Chair), Filippo Ricca and Bram Adams (Workshop Chairs), Chanchal Roy and David Lo (Tool Demonstration Chairs), Huzefa Kagdi (Proceedings Chair), Romain Robbes (Publicity Chair), Gabriele Bavota (Web Chair), and Bob Werner from the IEEE Computer Society for managing the publication process. We would especially like to thank the Program Committee and many additional reviewers for their substantial effort and great work. They provided detailed and constructive reviews in time and actively participated in the discussion. Last, but not the least, we thank all the authors for submitting to WCRE 2012 a set of very high quality papers.

Enjoy the conference!

Rocco Oliveto and Denys Poshyvanyk
Program Chairs

James R. Cordy and Thomas R. Dean
General Chairs