Welcome to 4th International Workshop on Emerging Trends in Software Metrics (WETSoM 2013)

Welcome to WETSoM 2013, the 4th International Workshop on Emerging Trends in Software Metrics. Since its start, WETSoM has attracted a blend of academic and industrial researchers, creating a stimulating atmosphere to discuss the progresses of software metrics. A key motivation for this workshop is the low impact that software metrics still has on current software development, raising the need for empirically evaluating the effectiveness of existing metrics, as well as to identify directions for development of new metrics.

We are pleased that this year WETSoM features 10 full technical papers, 3 short position papers, and an exciting keynote on Metrics for Search-Based Refactoring by Profess Mark Harman of University College London. The ten accepted full papers and three position papers present a broad and vibrant reflection of software metrics, trends in software metrics and areas which are emerging as important indicators of software quality. This makes for a vibrant, complementary and thought-provoking set of presentations. Object-oriented measurement features strongly in half of the papers as befits its status in the commercial development world. However, emerging languages to compete with Java, such as Scala are beginning to make an appearance; one paper assesses both C# and Scala. There are also strong influences from the agile community. A paper on code smells is in the program as well a healthy industrial presence (at least one paper addresses adoption of metrics in a large organisation). There is also a strong focus on faults (one paper) and the important wider topic of maintainability and its measurement. Reflection on the work of the metrics community and how that takes us forward is included. Finally, tool support – an essential component of metric collection and assessment – features in the program.

Overall, the accepted set of papers relect a diverse research theme, which together form areas for both researchers and practitioners to understand and tackle.

The program of WETSoM2013 is the result of hard work by many dedicated people; we especially thank the authors of submitted papers and the members of the program committee. Above all, the greatest richness of this workshop is its participants, who shape the discussion and points into new directions for software metrics research and practice. We hope you will have a great time and an unforgettable experience at WETSoM2013.

Steve Counsell, Michele Marchesi, Ewan Tempero, Aaron Visaggio
Workshop chairs

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