The First International Workshop on Quality and Architectural Concerns in Open Source Software Information Services (QACOS 2008)

Foreword

Welcome to the IEEE International Workshop on Quality and Architectural Concerns in Open Source Software (QACOS 2008). The workshop aims at bringing together both researchers and practitioners from open source software, software architecture, and software quality backgrounds to discuss the importance and challenges of quality assurance, quality assessment, and architectural concerns involved in selecting and using open source components in large scale software intensive systems.

The OSS movement, which originated from a pragmatic need to share code among individuals has grown to become a major force behind inter-organizational reuse of platforms, components and code. However, there are several research questions that remained unanswered. Some of these questions are:

This year, we received 12 submissions, each of which was carefully refereed by at least 3 PC members against the defined criteria of originality, significance, quality and relevance. 7 papers were accepted as full paper and 1 as short paper. In addition, there are also three invited talks given by eminent academicians/industrialists from China, India and UK. The final program is organised into four sessions:

- What are the challenges of quality assurance of open source components?
- How can the cost and impact of using low quality components be measured?
- What is known about the architectural approaches that support seamless integration of open source components?
- What is currently known about the strengths and limitations of quality assurance and quality assessment approaches being used for selecting open source components?
- How to improve architecture and quality information exchange between open source communities and OS component users?

The overall goal of the workshop is to develop a common research agenda based on the above-mentioned research questions and inputs from three communities to identify the research issues that should be addressed in the short to long term. This event will also provide a platform to present mature and ongoing research aimed at:

- Bridging the gap between practitioners (open sources and commercial) and researchers on the selection, use and/or integration of open source components into in-house software;
- Bridging the gap between open source, software quality and architecture-centric approaches.

We received fifteen full paper, 1 short paper, and 2 position papers. Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members or additional reviewers. Eight papers have been eventually accepted for publication and presentation at the workshop. The papers address a range of important issues concerning software architectures and quality in developing and using open source software, including models for developing software using open source software, architectural and quality issues in using open source software, Ontological approaches to quality attributes for quality attributes, and relating quality of open source software with the maturity of an open source software project. We are grateful to all the authors who submitted their work for consideration by QACOS 2008.

We would like to thank the Program Committee members for their efforts on the paper review and selection process. We are also grateful to the COMPSAC 2008 Organizing Committee for their support, and in particular to its Workshop Chairs, Lin Liu and Mehmet Orgun, for their support and coordination.

We hope you find the workshop both interesting and rewarding.

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