Foreword

In the last 20 years over 250 Software Engineering Standards (SES) have been developed by more than 50 international, national, professional and industry organizations. Applications of SES range from information processing, management information systems, business transaction processing to process control systems. An increasing number of applications is safety critical, financial critical, security critical or mission critical. Yet, this proliferation of standards is inadequate to satisfy diverse users' needs to produce quality and reliable software products in a systematic and cost-effective manner, due to perceived omissions, inconsistencies, overlap and contradiction.

This second in a series of International Symposia on Software Engineering Standards aims to promote active international cooperation among practitioners, educators, standards developers, regulatory organizations, industrial users and software engineering researchers. The goal of this event is to capture user experience with software engineering standards, in technical and business terms, both positive and negative, and feed it back to standards development activities.

This event, consisting of three distinct units: tutorials, the symposium, and an interactive forum, begins with a set of tutorials covering specific standards' aspects, and continues with paper presentations and panel discussions addressing user experiences and standards-developer plans. It concludes with a forum consisting of parallel workshop sessions addressing major current standards issues. This format was deliberately chosen to enhance active participation by ISESS'95 delegates.

The symposium consists of nine separate sessions. Each session consists of paper presentations related to the session theme and a panel of invited participants that further elaborate on the session theme. A total of 31 papers were accepted after review and rigorous selection by the Symposium program committee. Several papers were specifically invited to closely fit with the session themes. The papers selected address key issues like:

- standards for high-integrity and reliable software applications;
- future directions for standards;
- integration of standards;
- harmonization of standards;
- improvement to standards' development activities;
- assessing conformance to standards;
- software process assessment;
- software product assessment.

The Symposium is immediately followed by a Forum consisting of a set of six parallel workshops to address key software engineering standards issues. The findings and recommendations of each workshop are then presented to the leadership of ISESS'95 and those actively involved in the future evolution of software engineering standards in a concluding plenary session.

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