

Preface

Declarative languages have traditionally been regarded by the mainstream computing community as too impractical to be put to practical use. At the same time, traditional conferences devoted to declarative languages do not have issues related to practice as their central focus. Thus, there are few forums devoted to discussion of practical aspects and implications of newly discovered results and techniques related to declarative languages. The goal of the First International Workshop on Practical Aspects of Declarative Languages (PADL) is to bring together researchers, practitioners and implementors of declarative languages to discuss practical issues and practical implications of their research results. The workshop was held in San Antonio, Texas, during January 18-19, 1999. This volume contains its proceedings.

Fifty three papers were submitted in response to the call for papers. These papers were written by authors belonging to twenty one countries from six continents. Each paper was assigned to at least two referees for reviewing. Twenty four papers were finally selected for presentation at the workshop. Many good papers could not be included due to the limited duration of the workshop. The workshop included invited talks by Mark Hayden of DEC/Compaq Systems Research Center, speaking on “Experiences Building Distributed Systems in ML,” and Mark Wallace of Imperial College Center for Planning And Resource Control (IC-PARC), speaking on “ECLiPSe: Declarative Specification and Scalable Implementation.” The workshop also included a panel discussion on “What can declarative paradigms contribute to meet the challenges of Software Engineering?”

The workshop is sponsored and organized by COMPULOG AMERICAS (<http://www.cs.nmsu.edu/~complog>), a network of research groups dedicated to promoting research in logic programming and related areas, by the Association for Logic Programming (<http://www.cwi.nl/projects/alp>), and the Department of Computer Science, New Mexico State University (<http://www.cs.nmsu.edu>). The workshop is being held in cooperation with the ACM Special Interest Group on Programming Languages (ACM SIGPLAN). The support of many individual was crucial to the success of this workshop. My thanks to Enrico Pontelli for his tremendous help in managing and organizing every aspect of the workshop. He also took upon himself the time-consuming task of developing and maintaining the PADL’99 web-pages. Thanks are also due to Krzysztof Apt, President of ALP, and David S. Warren, past President of ALP, for their support, help, and encouragement, to Andrew Appel, POPL General Chair, and Donna Baglio and Maria Triver of ACM, for answering various organizational questions, and to the referees for their prompt reviewing of papers. My thanks to the program committee members for all their help in reviewing and their advice. Finally, my thanks to all the authors who took interest in PADL’99 and submitted papers.

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