

# Preface

The last decade has been one of great progress in the field of software architecture research and practice. Software architecture has emerged as an important subdiscipline of software engineering. A key aspect of the design of any software system is its architecture, i.e. the fundamental organization of a system embodied in its components, their relationships to each other, and to the environment, and the principles guiding its design and evolution (as defined in the Recommended Practice for Architectural Description of Software-Intensive Systems – IEEE Std 1471-2000).

The First European Workshop on Software Architecture (EWSA 2004) provided an international forum for researchers and practitioners from academia and industry to discuss a wide range of topics in the area of software architecture, and to jointly formulate an agenda for future research in this field.

EWSA 2004 distinguished among three types of papers: research papers (which describe authors' novel research work), experience papers (which describe real-world experiences related to software architectures), and position papers (which present concise arguments about a topic of software architecture research or practice).

The Program Committee selected 19 papers (9 research papers, 4 experience papers, and 6 position papers) out of 48 submissions from 16 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA). All submissions were reviewed by three members of the Program Committee. Papers were selected based on originality, quality, soundness and relevance to the workshop. In addition, the workshop included five invited papers presenting European Union projects related to software architecture: ARCHWARE, CONIPF, FABRIC, MODA-TEL, and OMEGA. Credit for the quality of the proceedings goes to all authors of papers.

We would like to thank the members of the Program Committee (Ilham Alloui, Dharini Balasubramaniam, Jan Bosch, Harald Gall, David Garlan, Mark Greenwood, Valérie Issarny, Volker Gruhn, Philippe Kruchten, Nicole Levy, Radu Mateescu, Carlo Montangero, and Dewayne Perry) for providing timely and significant reviews, and for their substantial effort in making EWSA 2004 a successful workshop.

The EWSA 2004 submission and review process was extensively supported by the Paperdyne Conference Management System. We are indebted to Volker Gruhn and his team, in particular Dirk Peters and Clemens Schäfer, for their excellent support.

The workshop was held in conjunction with the 26th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2004). We would like to acknowledge Michael Goedicke and the other members of the ICSE Organizing Committee for their assistance, during the organization of EWSA 2004, in creating this co-located event.

We would also like to acknowledge the prompt and professional support from Springer-Verlag, who published these proceedings in printed and electronic form as part of the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series.

May 2004

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## Sponsorship

EWSA 2004 was sponsored by the ArchWare European R&D Project: Architecting Evolvable Software – [www.arch-ware.org](http://www.arch-ware.org). ArchWare is partially funded by the Commission of the European Union under contract No. IST-2001-32360 in the IST-V Framework Program.

Software Architecture

First European Workshop, EWSA 2004, St Andrews, UK,

May 21-22, 2004, Proceedings

Oquendo, F.; Warboys, B.; Morrison, R. (Eds.)

2004, IX, 283 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-22000-8