

Preface

Over the last few years Web Engineering has begun to gain mainstream acceptance within the software engineering, IT and related disciplines. In particular, both researchers and practitioners are increasingly recognizing the unique characteristics of Web systems, and what these characteristics imply in terms of the approaches we take to Web systems development and deployment in practice.

A scan of the publications in related conference proceedings and journals highlights the diversity of the discipline areas which contribute to both the richness and the complexity of Web Engineering.

The 5th International Conference on Web Engineering (ICWE 2005), held in Sydney, Australia, extends the traditions established by the earlier conferences in the series: ICWE 2004 in Munich, Germany; ICWE 2003 in Oviedo, Spain; ICWE 2002 in Santa Fe, Argentina; and ICWE 2001 in Cáceres, Spain. Not only have these conferences helped disseminate cutting edge research within the field of Web Engineering, but they have also helped define and shape the discipline itself. The program we have put together for ICWE 2005 continues this evolution. Indeed, we can now begin to see the maturing of the field.

For possibly the first time, there was very little debate within the Program Committee about which papers were in and out of scope, and much more debate as to the each papers contributions to the field.

We are now reaching a point where we are gaining a common understanding of the nature of our own discipline!

The ICWE 2005 conference received a total of approximately 180 submissions, with authors from 32 countries and 6 continents. It was particularly pleasing to see a much greater representation of papers from South East Asia compared with previous conferences. All submitted papers were rigorously reviewed by the excellent program committee, and 33 were eventually selected as full papers (18% acceptance), 36 as short papers (20%), and 17 posters and demos. The selected papers cover a broad spectrum, including: modelling and frameworks, architectures, content and media, testing, Web services and ontologies, security, design, querying, measurement, users and usability, and tools and environments. The conference was also host to an excellent suite of tutorials and workshops over 2 days.

To enrich the program even further, four outstanding speakers agreed to give keynotes. Virgilio Almeida provided a view from within the discipline, highlighting several key areas which must be addressed within the design of Web systems. Al Davis provided a view from outside the discipline looking in, giving considerable insight into the context which drives Web development. Craig Errey brought a fascinating commercial perspective, illustrating what we can learn from other discipline areas (in this case psychology). And Lars Rasmussen discussed issues that affect the integration of new functionality into existing systems, particularly within the context of extraordinarily 'high-load' systems.

We wish to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to making ICWE 2005 a success. We are particularly grateful to the core members of our Organizing Committee and Program Committee: Yogesh Deshpande, Steve Hansen, Ka-Kit Fung, Athula Ginige, Aditya Ghose, Daniel Schwabe, Bebo White, Emilia Mendes, Gustavo Rossi, Rafael Calvo, and Xiaoying Kong, as well as several other key contributors, particularly Rosa Tay, and Richard van de Stadt.

We would also like to thank the workshop and tutorial organizers. Particular thanks go to the Program Committee members and reviewers, who with enormous care and insight, provided reviews which helped us build an excellent program.

Finally, enormous thanks go to the authors of the papers which were submitted to the conference. It is really their work which is at the core of the ICWE conference series, and which has helped shape our discipline. Thank you!

We hope you find the papers presented in this volume useful and that they help in further advancing Web Engineering through research, education and practice.

May 2005

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Web Engineering: Managing Complexity

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