

Preface

The Safety-critical Systems Symposium (SSS), held each February for sixteen consecutive years, offers a full-day tutorial followed by two days of presentations of papers. This book of Proceedings contains all the papers presented at SSS '08.

The first paper accompanies the tutorial, which is on the important topic of the safety case. In recent years, the emphasis of papers has shifted from defining and describing the safety case and its purposes to reporting on experiences of its use and developments in its theory. Two further papers in the book do this.

The Symposium is for engineers, managers, and academics in the field of safety, across all industry sectors, so its papers always cover a range of topics. Each year a number of papers address themes raised in the previous year, and the papers in the section on the safety case are examples of this. In addition, there is a section of individual papers, on the relationship between safety and security, safety process improvement, and software development.

Over the years, there has been increasing emphasis on the role of humans, not only in contributing to accidents but also in achieving safety. Thus, 'human factors' is a recurring topic at the Symposium. And the need to develop and maintain a good safety culture has also come to be recognised as an important topic. This year there are papers on both subjects.

In the final two sections, a number of papers address the key subjects of risk analysis and the achievement and assessment of overall safety. These topics are perennial, for they require both good process and methodical technique, and every year there are papers that make observations, present reports on informative experiences, and offer new ideas. This year is no exception, and the five papers in the two sections do all of these things.

Overall, the papers address many of the topics that are currently of special interest in the safety-critical-systems community, and we are grateful to the authors for their contributions. We also thank our sponsors for their valuable support, and the exhibitors at the Symposium's tools and services fair for their participation. And we thank Joan Atkinson and her team for laying the event's foundation with their planning and organisation.

FR & TA
October 2007

Improvements in System Safety

Proceedings of the Sixteenth Safety-critical Systems
Symposium, Bristol, UK, 5-7 February 2008

Redmill, F.; Anderson, T. (Eds.)

2008, X, 266 p. 42 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-1-84800-099-5