

Editorial

SoSyM at three

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This issue marks the end of three years since the first issue of the International Journal on Software and System Modeling (SoSyM) was published. We sincerely thank the authors, reviewers, and editors who have contributed to the success of the journal as a media for collecting and disseminating high quality papers on software and system modeling. As we have done on previous anniversaries, we take this opportunity to give a “state of the journal” report and to acknowledge the reviewers, editors, and publication staff that have contributed to another year of publication that has exceeded our expectations.

The “state of the journal” 2004 report

It has been a very busy year for the journal. We saw significant increases in new submissions, in requests for special issues, and in new subscriptions. The editorial board and the reviewers have responded well to the challenges posed by increasing submissions and they have demonstrated their commitment to making SoSyM a high-quality publication. The feedback we have received from readers indicate that the articles published thus far are timely and of outstanding quality.

The rate of new paper submissions, approximately seven new papers per month (including special section papers), exceeded our expectations and the number of high quality submissions accepted thus far is enough for us to maintain a healthy pipeline of papers for future issues. This has led to a recent decision to increase the number of pages per issue from 80 to 100 pages. In 2003 a similar situation resulted in an increase in page count from 60 to 80 pages.

The increase in new submissions strained the manual review management process we were using. We inevitably encountered difficulties with moving some pa-

pers through the review process in a timely manner. This has resulted in a few submissions taking a significantly long time in the review process. To alleviate this problem, we decided to move to an automated paper management system that will streamline the paper management workflows. The automated system that we finally selected and adapted, with the help of Springer, fully integrates the workflows of the editors-in-chief, editors, reviewers, and authors. The automated system was made available to authors, editors and reviewers in late October 2004.

To date, one hundred and forty four (144) regular papers have been submitted since the inception of SoSyM (this number does not include special issue and Expert Voice papers). Twenty-four (24) regular papers have been accepted to date, of which sixteen (16) have been published thus far. This reflects an acceptance rate of about seventeen percent (17%). Twenty-four (24) special issue papers and seven (7) Expert Voice papers have been published thus far. A total of one hundred and eleven (111) authors have papers published in SoSyM. We currently have eight (8) regular papers, four (4) special issue papers and one (1) Expert Voice paper awaiting publication in future SoSyM issues. The list of accepted papers in the pipeline for future publication has grown and we now expect a delay of one year for newly accepted papers. The increase in pages per issue that we negotiated for 2005 should help us reduce the publication turnaround time.

Our editors and reviewers have done an outstanding job this year and we thank them for their effort. Without their patience and labor this journal would simply not exist in its current form. Below we list the reviewers (excluding members of the editorial board) who have reviewed one or more papers for the journal in the last year. A complete list of reviewers that includes editors can be found on our website <http://www.sosym.org/>.

Alain Abran
Bernhard K. Aichernig
David H. Akehurst
Omar Alawawud
Thomas A. Alspaugh
José Ambrosio Toval Álvarez
Scott W. Ambler
Pascal Andre
João Araújo
Colin Atkinson
Luciano Baresi
Bernard Bauer
Xavier Blanc
Conrad Bock
Maha Boughdadi
Alan W. Brown
Robert Busser
Gerardo Canfora
Eddy Cheung
David Clark
Alistair Cockburn
Agnes Conte
Kendra Cooper
Luis Correia
Goeff Coulson
Dr. Karl Cox
Ivica Crnkovic
John Daniels
Christine Daun
Nancy Day
Dennis De Champeaux
Serge Demeyer
Philippe Desfray
Heiko Dörr
Dieter Ehrich
Alexander Egyed
Rik Eshuis
Jean-Marie Favré
José Luiz Fiadeiro
Bernd Finkbeiner
Don Firesmith
Kathi Fisler
Stephan Flake
Frederic Fondement
Agnes Front
Lidia Fuentes
Nathalie Gärtner
Laurent Gallon
Ruben Gamboa
Marie-Pierre Gervais
Eran Gery
Jean-Pierre Girardin
Sudipto Ghosh
Holger Giese
Andy Gordon
Katerina Goseva-Popstojanova
Emanuel Grant

Guido Grohmann
Nicolas Guelfi
Öner Güngöz
Dr. Elsa Gunter
Axel Hahn
Anthony Hall
Jon G. Hall
Nabil Hameurlain
Rachel Harrison
John Hatcliff
Øystein Haugen
Jan Hendrik Hausmann
Keijo T. Heljanko
Scott Henniger
Tprsten Heverhagen
Rich Hilliard
Eckhardt Holz
Jozef Hooman
Marc-Philippe Huget
Paola Inverardi
Herr Jansen
Mario Jeckle
Jan Jürjens
Gabor Karsai
Jörg Kienzle
Dae-Kyoo Kim
Florian Kupsch
Luciano Lavagno
Shari Lawrence-Pfleeger
Johan Lilius
David Luckham
Tom Maibaum
Andrew Miner
Richard Mitchell
Birger Møller-Pedersen
Sandro Morasca
Peter D. Mosses
Philippe Palanque
John Penix
Kasi Periyasamy
Mauro Pezze
Michael Poppleton
Lutz Prechelt
Paulo Quaresma
Vaclav Rajlich
Gianna Reggio
Martin Robillard
Colette Rolland
Gregg Rothermel
Pete Sawyer
Peter H. Schmitt
Kristof Schneider
Johann Schumann
Andy Schürr
Ed Seidewitz
Shane Sendall
Björn Simon

Martin Sheppard
 Jeff Smith
 Harry Sneed
 Paul Strooper
 Kleanthis Thramboulidis
 Christian Tschudin
 T. H. Tse
 Lars Tufvesson
 Daniel Turk
 Mark R. Tuttle
 Alain Vailly
 Timothy A. Wahls
 Chris Wallace
 Philipp Walter
 Gill Waters
 Jos Warmer
 Michael Weber
 Torben Weis
 W. Eric Wong
 Fabrice Zangl
 Henk Zeevat

We take this opportunity to also thank the guest editors of the special section on Graph Transformations and Visual Modeling Techniques (GMT-VT in issue 2004/2), namely, Paolo Bottoni and Mark Minas, and the guest editors of the special section on Modeling of Object-Oriented Information Systems (OOIS in issue 2004/4), namely, Yingxu Wang and Shushma Patel. We also thank the authors who submitted high quality papers to the journal. Their contributions are the primary determinants of the reputation and credibility of the journal.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the publishing staff at Springer, namely:

Anita Bürk,
 Hermann Engesser,

Ria Frauenfeld,
 Dorothea Glaunsinger,
 Elke Janosch, and
 Wayne Yuhasz.

They all provided significant assistance during the year. In particular, Hermann Engesser continued to provide us with indispensable assistance and advice on matters pertaining to the management of the journal.

The journal's reputation and quality is a direct result of the outstanding support provided by authors, reviewers, editors and the publishing staff. The publishers and editors have given every indication that they are committed to ensuring quality. We optimistically look forward to the future of the SoSyM journal.

Contents of this issue

This issue consists mainly of papers in a special section on Modeling of Object-Oriented Information Systems edited by Yingxu Wang and Shushma Patel. Their editorial describes the current state of the research in this area and introduces the respective papers.

This issue also contains an Expert Voice paper titled *Model driven architecture: Theory and practice*, by Alan W. Brown, a Distinguished Engineer at IBM. The paper presents a spectrum of model usages from “code-only”, through “code visualizations”, and “roundtrip engineering”, to “model-only” approaches. He argues that MDA can be used to (1) connect business and IT through appropriate, predefined and reusable mappings based on business as well as technical models and (2) abstract applications from target specific platforms. We hope that you find the papers in this issue interesting and useful.

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