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EDITORIAL

Feedback on our editorials

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In our editorials we give our perspective on the current state of the research and practice with respect to the use of models in software and systems development. In some cases we highlight what we consider to be promising new and emerging research directions, and we sometimes give our perspective on problems arising from immature and incorrect use of models. The editorials are written to stimulate discussion and encourage exploration of new areas of research in modeling software-based systems.

There is some evidence that the editorials are being read by subscribers. Our editorials have been cited by young as well as established researchers. We also get comments on editorials from our readers. Writing an editorial requires some effort and thus these comments are greatly appreciated. More importantly, these comments are valuable in that they help us determine the value of the editorials and they indicate that discussions around the topics addressed are taking place in the community. We would like to enhance the role of the editorials by encouraging readers to send comments via email or write publishable letters that comment on the contents of the editorials. We encourage both positive and negative comments that include clear points of agreement or disagreement. We also encourage our readers to send in letters commenting on the contents of articles we publish. These letters will be published in a section titled "Letters to the Editors". In summary, we strongly encourage you to send us

- feedback on articles and editorials via email, or
- letters that we can publish to foster ongoing discussion.

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Contents in this issue

This issue contains two regular papers. In the first paper, titled "**Informal description and analysis of geographic requirements: an approach based on problems**", the authors *Maria Nelson, Paulo Alencar* and *Donald Cowan* provide classes of common geographic problems that can be used to promote analysis and description of spatial real-world problems. Geographic problems are presented as problem frames showing domain properties, requirements and specifications. This study provides a good demonstration of how modeling concepts can be shared between software development and other disciplines.

The second paper, "**A Concern Architecture View for Aspect-Oriented Software Design**", by *Mika Katara* and *Shmuel Katz* provides a conceptual framework and an outline of a UML profile to support the independent description of aspect designs and of dependencies among aspects. Overlap and a partial ordering among aspects are visualized using a Concern Architecture Diagram. Furthermore well-formedness requirements for composition are defined.

The second part of this issue contains the special section on "**Graph Transformation**" organized by *Francesco Parisi-Presicce.* It consists of three papers described in the editorial by Francesco.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this issue.

Robert France, Bernhard Rumpe
Editors in Chief