Editorial

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Welcome to the last Software and System Modeling (SoSyM) journal issue for the year 2003. In this editorial, we give a "state of the journal" report and thank the reviewers, editors, and publication staff that have contributed to a publication year that has exceeded expectations.

1 A "state of the journal" report

Just over one year has passed since the launch of the SoSyM journal at the «UML'02» conference in Dresden, Germany. It has been a very busy year and we have grappled with the usual problems associated with starting a new journal, but it was worth the effort. The current status and the outlook for the journal are very good. We have exceeded first year expectations with respect to the number of submissions and the number of subscriptions. The quality of the reviewing on average has been rather good, but generally took too long, and the editorial board has demonstrated that it is committed to accepting only high-quality and relevant papers for publication. These observations indicate that the SoSyM journal is on track to becoming a first-tier software engineering journal. At the second editorial meeting held at the «UML'03» conference that took place in San Francisco we discussed the "state of the journal" with the editorial board members that were present. This editorial gives an overview of our presentation to the editorial board.

The SoSyM journal was conceived in York, England at a meeting of the UML Conference Steering Committee held at «UML'2000». It took us almost three years to put together the plans, publication team, and editorial board that would enable us to produce the quality journal we envisaged. The journal was officially launched October 2002 at the «UML'02» conference in Dresden, Germany. After over one year in circulation it is useful to reflect on the progress that the journal has made towards its goal of publishing relevant and high-quality scientific papers on software and system modeling in a timely manner.

Performance projections after one year into a venture made by persons with vested interests tend to be optimistic, and so it may come as no surprise to most readers that we believe the SoSyM journal has a very promising future. In this case we do have valid reasons to be optimistic. From the feedback we have received from readers, the articles published so far are considered to be of outstanding quality. Editor, reviewer and author feedback has also been constructive and positive. The rate of new paper submissions, approximately seven new papers per month (including special section papers), exceeds 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 output of the journal, starting in 2004, by 33%. This increases the number of pages per issue from 60 to 80 pages.

There also have been problems. We encountered difficulties with moving some papers through the review process in a timely manner. This has resulted in a few submissions taking a significantly long time in the review process. The reasons tend to differ across the affected submissions. In some cases, conflicting reviews are submitted and additional reviews have to be sought. In other cases, the very busy schedules of reviewers and editors who are experts in the modeling and specification field make it difficult to get reviews in quickly. To better improve the process we are considering an automated system that would help speed-up the parts of the process that are directly under our control.

Our editors and reviewers have done an outstanding job and we thank them for making the first year of publication a success. 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:

Bernhard Aichernig	Steve Easterbrook	Jonas Högström
Dave Akehurst	Jürgen Ebert	Eckhardt Holz
Mehmet Aksit	Alexander Egyed	Jozef Hooman
Omar Aldawud	Hans-Dieter Ehrich	John Howse
Perry Alexander	Claudia Ermel	Marc-Philippe Huget
Roger Alexander	Martin Erwig	Anders Ivner
Thomas Alspaugh	Martin Feather	Lalita Jagadeesan
Daniel Amyot	Joao Miguel Fernandes	Farnam Jahanian
Annie Anton	Ed Fernandez	Anthony Jansen
Giuliano Antoniol	Filomena Ferrucci	Thomas Jensen
Joao Araujo	Jose Fiadeiro	Stefan Joos
Myla Archer	Hugo Fierz	Rajeev Joshi
Erik Arisholm	Bernd Finkbeiner	Jan Jürjens
Colin Atkinson	Don Firesmith	Gerti Kappel
Paolo Baldan	Ingrid Fischer	Rick Kazman
Franck Barbier	Kathi Fisler	Haim Kilov
Roswitha Bardohl	John Fitzgerald	Dae-Kyoo Kim
Luciano Baresi	Stephan Flake	Ekkart Kindler
Leonor Barroca	Jean Flower	Paul Kogut
Sanjoy K. Baruah	Frédéric Fondement	Ralf Kollman
Bernhard Bauer	István Forgás	Yehuda Koren
Zohra Bellahsene	Ulrich Frank	Jeff Kramer
Ramesh Bharadwaj	Lidia Fuentes	Shriram Krishnamurthi
Robert Binder	Nathalie Gaertner	Fred Kröger
Yves Bontemps	Harald Gall	Florian Kupsch
Jan Bosch	Laurent Gallon	Sabine Kuske
Christian Botta	Gerald Gannod	Jochen Küster
Paolo Bottoni	Thomas Genssler	Yvan Labiche
Jonathan Bowen	Geri Georg	Robin Laney
Ruth Breu	Sébastien Gérard	Philippe Laublet
Roger Burkhart	Marie-Pierre Gervais	Luigi Lavazza
Bob Busser	Sudipto Ghosh	Ulrike Lechner
David Carrington	Jean-Pierre Girardin	Rustan Leino
C.W. Chan	R.van Glabbeek	Yves Le'Traon
Marsha Chechik	Martin Glinz	Stefan Leue
Mei-hwa Chen	Hassan Gomaa	Horst Lichter
Pascal Cherrier	Cesar Gonzalez-Perez	Mikael Lindvall
David Clark	Ian Graham	Christopher Lott
Edmund Clarke	Jeff Gray	David Luckham
Siobhan Clarke	Guido Grohmann	Robyn Lutz
Alistair Cockburn	Martin Große-Rhode	Jeff Magee
Larry Constantine	Giancarlo Guizzardi	Tom Maibaum
Agnes Conte	Elsa L. Gunter	Neil Maiden
Kendra Cooper	Benedikt Gursch	Eda Marchetti
Andrea Corradini	John Hall	Vincenzo Martena
Luis Correia	Robert Hall	Girish Maskeri
D.D. Cowan	Terry Halpin	Ken McMillan
John Daniels	Jan Hendrik Hausmann	William McUmber
Nancy Day	Jane Hayes	Tom Mens
Camil Demetrescu	Reiko Heckel	Stephan Merz
Birgit Demuth	Mats Heimdahl	Bernd Meyer
Jörg Desel	Keijo Heljanko	Joaquin Miller
Philippe Desfray	Scott Henninger	Zoran Milosevic
Jin Song Dong	Maurice Herlihy	Mark Minas
Jing Dong	Wolfgang Hesse	Richard Mitchell
Dov Dori	Rob Hierons	Bernhard Mitschang
Mathew Dwyer	Anja Hofer	Alan Moore

The reviewers have produced 752 reviews of 192 papers (expert voice papers are not included in this count) submitted by 349 authors as of October 22nd, 2003. We have published 24 papers, including expert voice papers, thus far. Other submissions have been rejected, are under review, are in the final preparation stages, or are in the pipeline for publication in future issues. The acceptance rate is currently 19.6%, which we consider to be good for a new journal. The list of accepted papers in the pipeline for future publication has grown and we now expect a delay of almost one year for newly accepted papers. The recent increase in pages per issue should help us reduce the publication turnaround time.

We take this opportunity to also thank the guest editors of special issues and sections that include best papers from the «UML'01» and «UML'02» conferences as well as the German conference on modeling, called "Modellierung 2002":

We also thank the authors who have submitted high quality papers to the journal. Their contributions are the primary determinants of the reputation and credibility of the journal.

At last, but not least, we thank the publishing staff at Springer, namely

who helped us a lot in various issues that we had to deal with. In particular Hermann Engesser provided indispensable help in making the vision of the journal become a reality.

The journal's current reputation and quality is a direct result of the outstanding support received by authors,

reviewers, editors and publishing staff in the past years. 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.

2 Contents of this issue

This issue starts with the last paper of the «UML'03» special issue *A relational approach to defining and implementing transformations between metamodels* by David Akehurst, Stuart Kent, and Octavian Patrascoiu, which was described in the guest editorial by Jean-Marc Jézéquel and Heinrich Hußmann in the previous issue.

In the expert voice paper *Dinosaur meets Archaeopteryx? or: Is there an alternative for Rational's Unified Process?,* Wolfgang Hesse discusses the problems associated with current model-based development processes. In particular he identifies that phases still dominate the process too much, that the notion of software architecture is not well-understood and incorporated into the development process, and that the powerful and transparent structuring principles behind recursion are not given the attention they deserve. He then demonstrates an alternative approach that addresses these problems.

In the regular paper *Emerging OCL tools*, the authors Ambrosio Toval, Víctor Requena and José Luis Fernández present a study on currently available tools for the Object Constraint Language (OCL). Development methods, need proper tool assistance and the selection of the appropriate tools and methods to handle given problems is often not easy. Studies like the one presented in this paper give developers a better understanding of the value and drawbacks of existing tools, methods and notations.

In the regular paper *A toolkit for model manipulation* the author Ivan Porres describes a tool supporting model transformations. Model manipulations are assisted within and between languages and are thus e.g. the basis of transforming UML class diagrams into an implementation language, or expanding stereotypes.

3 2nd editorial board meeting

The second Editorial Board meeting was held at the UML'03 conference. During the meeting we announced our plans to evolve the editorial board in order to diversify the topic areas covered by the journal.

We would like to thank the departing editors, Scott Ambler, Jaelson Castro, Desmond D'Souza and Ivar Jacobson for the good job they have done on the Editorial-Board and welcome the following new editors:

Franck Barbier, University of Pau, France
Francis Bordeleau, Carleton University, Canada
Alessandra Cavarra, Oxford University, UK,
Ana Moreira, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal,
Oscar Nierstrasz, University Bern, Switzerland,
Jim Odell, USA, and
Jon Whittle, NASA Ames Research Center, USA

These editors add expertise in modeling topics in combination with languages such as LOTOS, SDL, and Z, and in areas such as software agents, functional programming, theorem proving, Testing, OO patterns, reengineering, software composition and evolution.

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