



Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing

434

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Software Business


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Proceedings

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Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Software Business (ICSOB 2021). This edition of the conference was hosted by the School of Business at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) and the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo (UiO), Norway. USN has 88 undergraduate programs, 44 master's degree programs, and eight PhD programs. Measured in terms of the number of students, USN is among the largest providers in higher education in Norway. UiO is Norway's oldest institution for research and higher education and celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2011. UiO has 28,000 students and 7,000 employees and offers 40 master's degree programs. In 2020, a total of 497 students completed their doctoral degree. UiO has eight faculties, two museums, and numerous research centers including 10 Norwegian Centres of Excellence. UiO is one of the world's top 100 universities, according to the Shanghai Ranking. Five Nobel laureates have been employed at the UiO.

The special theme of ICSOB 2021 was 'Software Sustainability'. Sustainability is derived from the concept of sustainable development and is defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as "a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs". Research about software sustainability addresses sustainability concerns regarding aspects such as software products, software development processes, strategy and policy, people, partnerships, ecosystems, and business models.

For ICSOB 2021, we received 39 submissions covering a wide range of research topics. Each submission was reviewed by three to five independent expert reviewers. After a round of discussion among reviewers and program chairs, the Program Committee accepted 13 full papers and five short papers. The papers were primarily selected for the quality of the presented work and their relevance to the community. The conference covered a range of topics including software sustainability, Agile development, DevOps, software startups, prototyping, software ecosystems, crowdsourcing platforms, technical debts, and risk management. The authors of the selected papers came from Finland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Estonia, Brazil, the UK, and Spain.

The conference offered two interesting keynotes: the first one titled "From Software through Art to Sustainability", given by Letizia Jaccheri from Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and the second one titled "Software Sustainability: Wake-Up Call for Taking Responsibility", given by Jutta Eckstein.

As a part of the conference this year, the ICSOB community collaborated with the Founder Institute to organize two events that connected researchers, practitioners, and startup founders. The first one was "Lightning Talks on Sustainability in Software Startups" bringing together researchers seeking to connect with software startups about particular phenomena and software startups seeking to explain their business model and

traction. The second one was a workshop on “Bridging the Gap: Entrepreneurial Theory and Practice in Software Businesses”. The events were hosted by Bruno Pešec and Dimitris Polychronopoulos.

On the behalf of the organization team, we would like to thank the members of the Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their efforts in evaluating the submissions and ensuring the high quality of the conference. The efforts of the Steering and Organizing Committees and all the chairs were of enormous value in building a successful conference. We extend our gratitude to all the scholars who submitted papers to the conference, all the authors who presented papers, the various audiences who participated in very inspirational discussions during the conference, and the practitioners who shared their experiences and thoughts during the workshops.

October 2021

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Contents

Software Sustainability

Elements of Sustainability for Public Sector Software – Mosaic Enterprise Architecture, Macroservices, and Low-Code	3
<i>Manu Setälä, Pekka Abrahamsson, and Tommi Mikkonen</i>	
How Could We Have Known? Anticipating Sustainability Effects of a Software Product	10
<i>Jari Porras, Colin C. Venters, Birgit Penzenstadler, Leticia Duboc, Stefanie Betz, Norbert Seyff, Saeid Heshmatisafa, and Shola Oyediji</i>	
Software Sustainability: Academic Understanding and Industry Perceptions	18
<i>Shola Oyediji, Hatef Shamshiri, Jari Porras, and Dominic Lammert</i>	

Engineering and Management

Tailored Design Thinking Approach - A Shortcut for Agile Teams	37
<i>Dominic Lang, Selina Spies, Stefan Trieflinger, and Jürgen Münch</i>	
Deliberative Technical Debt Management: An Action Research Study	50
<i>Nichlas Bødker Borup, Ann Louise Jul Christiansen, Sabine Hørdum Tovgaard, and John Stouby Persson</i>	
Blockchain Governance: A Dynamic View	66
<i>Gabriella Laatikainen, Mengcheng Li, and Pekka Abrahamsson</i>	
Framework for Creating Relevant, Accessible, and Adoptable KPI Models in an Industrial Setting.	81
<i>Arttu Leppäkoski, Outi Sievi-Korte, and Timo D. Hämäläinen</i>	
Risk Exposure and Management in Software Development – A Survey of Multiple Software Startups	98
<i>Gholamhossein Kazemi, Orges Cico, Quang-Trung Nguyen, and Anh Nguyen-Quang</i>	

Software Startups

Supporting Entrepreneurship with Hackathons - A Study on Startup Founders Attending Hackathons	107
<i>Maria Angelica Medina Angarita and Alexander Nolte</i>	

User Experience Practices in Early-Stage Software Startups - An Exploratory Study	122
<i>Guilherme Corredato Guerino, Nayra Suellen Borges Cruz Dias, Rafael Chanin, Rafael Prikladnicki, Renato Balancieri, and Gislaïne Camila Lapasini Leal</i>	
A Study of Factors on Women from the Tech Sector and Entrepreneurship	137
<i>Yekaterina Kovaleva, Sonja Hyrynsalmi, Andrey Saltan, and Jussi Kasurinen</i>	
Making Internal Software Startups Work: How to Innovate Like a Venture Builder?	152
<i>Anastasiia Tklich, Nils Brede Moe, and Rasmus Ulfnses</i>	
Software Platforms and Ecosystems	
The Economic Anatomy of Paid Crowdsourcing Platforms.	171
<i>Egor Iankov and Andrey Saltan</i>	
Power Relations Within an Open Source Software Ecosystem.	187
<i>Victor Farias, Igor Wiese, and Rodrigo Santos</i>	
When Player Communities Revolt Against the Developer: A Study of Pokémon GO and Diablo Immortal	194
<i>Samuli Laato and Sampsa Rauti</i>	
Continuous Improvement	
Design Principles for a Crowd-Based Prototype Validation Platform	205
<i>Sebastian Gottschalk, Muhammad Suffyan Aziz, Enes Yigitbas, and Gregor Engels</i>	
What Are Critical Success Factors of DevOps Projects? A Systematic Literature Review	221
<i>Nasreen Azad and Sami Hyrynsalmi</i>	
Towards Federated Learning: A Case Study in the Telecommunication Domain	238
<i>Hongyi Zhang, Anas Dakkak, David Issa Mattos, Jan Bosch, and Helena Holmström Olsson</i>	
Author Index	255