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Applications of Declarative Programming and Knowledge Management

15th International Conference on Applications of Declarative Programming and Knowledge Management, INAP 2004 and 18th Workshop on Logic Programming, WLP 2004 Potsdam, Germany, March 4-6, 2004 Revised Selected Papers



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Preface

This volume contains a selection of papers presented at the 15th International Conference on Applications of Declarative Programming and Knowledge Management, INAP 2004, and the 18th Workshop on Logic Programming, WLP 2004, which were held jointly in Potsdam, Germany, from March 4th to 6th, 2004.

Declarative programming is an advanced paradigm for the modeling and solving of complex problems. This specification method has become more and more attractive in recent years, for example, in the domains of databases, for the processing of natural language, for the modeling and processing of combinatorial problems, and for establishing knowledge-based systems for the Web.

The INAP conferences provide a forum for intensive discussions of applications of important technologies around logic programming, constraint problem solving, and closely related advanced software. They comprehensively cover the impact of programmable logic solvers in the Internet society, its underlying technologies, and leading-edge applications in industry, commerce, government, and social services.

The Workshops on Logic Programming are the annual meeting of the Society for Logic Programming (GLP e.V.). They bring together researchers interested in logic programming, constraint programming, and related areas like databases and artificial intelligence. Previous workshops have been held in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

The topics of the selected papers of this year's joint conference concentrate on three currently important fields: knowledge management and decision support, constraint programming and constraint solving, and declarative programming and Web-based systems.

During the last couple of years a lot of research has been conducted on the use of declarative programming for the management of knowledge-based systems and for decision support. Reasoning about knowledge wrapped in rules, databases, or the Web allows us to explore interesting hidden knowledge. Declarative techniques for the transformation, deduction, induction, visualization, or querying of knowledge, or data mining techniques for exploring knowledge have the advantage of high transparency and better maintainability compared to procedural approaches.

The problem when using knowledge to find solutions for large industrial tasks is that these problems have an exponential complexity, which normally prohibits the fast generation of exact solutions. One method that has made substantial progress over the last few years is the constraint programming paradigm. The declarative nature of this paradigm offers significant advantages for software engineering both in the implementation and in the maintenance phases. Different interesting aspects are in discussion: how can this paradigm be improved or com-

bined with known, classical methods; how can practical problems be modelled as constraint problems; and what are the experiences of applications in really large industrial planning and simulation tasks?

An emerging topic in knowledge management is the use of the World Wide Web to distribute, store, and use knowledge. This spans vision, technology, and the application of non-monolithic cooperating Web-based systems. With respect to declarative programming, representation languages, transformation, and search procedures are of interest, and they are easily adaptable to the fast-changing content and structure of the Web, for example, in W3C Web services and queries. Other aspects are commercial Web-based consulting or the use of the Web as a platform for concurrent engineering or program development for effective distributed collaborative design.

The two conferences INAP 2004 and WLP 2004 were jointly organized at the University of Potsdam, Germany by the following institutions: the Society for Logic Programming (GLP e.V.), the Hasso Plattner Institute for Software Systems Engineering (HPI), and the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Architecture and Software Technology (FhG FIRST). We would like to thank all authors who submitted papers and all conference participants for the fruitful discussions. We are grateful to the members of the Program Committee and the external referees for their timely expertise in carefully reviewing the papers, and we would like to express our thanks to the Hasso Plattner Institute for hosting the conference at the modern campus in the traditional atmosphere of Potsdam.

December 2004

Dietmar Seipel, Michael Hanus, Ulrich Geske, Oskar Bartenstein



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