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Software Reuse: Advances in Software Reusability

6th International Conference, ICSR-6
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Message from the Program Chair

People like to make predictions about software reuse. Some of us have predicted that systematic reuse via domain engineering will produce a paradigm shift in software engineering. Others have predicted that reuse will be universally accepted as good practice, and therefore die as a research discipline. While significant progress has been made in systematic reuse, the paradigm shift is not yet complete, nor has reuse research died.

What has happened in the past few years is that the concerns of the reuse research community have fragmented into many subareas. These include componentry, product line architectures, design patterns, functional languages, economics, and object oriented methods. The ICSR6 program reflects this diversity. This fragmentation means that it is ever harder to keep up with developments in reuse. To address this problem, the ICSR6 program contains several summary talks on various areas of reuse research.

There is also diversity in the origins of the papers: There are contributions from Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Australia. ICSR6 has many new contributors and committee members, along with many long time contributors. The many kinds of diversity should make for an interesting and productive conference. Enjoy ICSR6 in Vienna.

June, 2000

Bill Frakes

Message from the General Chair

The International Conference in Software Reuse has always had a special relationship with Europe, dating back to its modest beginnings as a workshop in 1991 in Germany. During this first edition, and again in its second edition in Italy two years later, the workshop matured and acquired a critical mass of visibility in the software engineering community. These formative experiences in Europe permitted the workshop to reincarnate itself as a full-fledged conference in a number of locations in North and South America in the decade that followed.

Now, nearly ten years after that first workshop, we are pleased to welcome ICSR back to Europe for the first time since its transformation into the world's premier conference on software reuse, to Vienna, at the very center of Europe. The past decade has seen many concepts first articulated by that small group of original participants, such as component-oriented development, pass into the general vocabulary. Yet as satisfying as it is for us to see the validation of reuse as the dominant software development paradigm today, much remains to be done. Product line architectures are only beginning to reach their full potential. Systematic reuse processes are only beginning to be codified and implemented. The full impact of reuse on the economics of enterprise information technology is only now beginning to be analyzed. No other conference can address these issues as directly as ICSR.

ICSR owes an immense debt of gratitude to ARCS, the Austrian Research Centers, whose extraordinary generosity has literally made this conference possible. Special thanks for this opportunity are due to my longtime colleague Professor Günter Koch, a prominent champion of European software engineering for the past twenty years, and now a leading figure in the transformation of ARCS from its traditional role in support of government research into a dynamic participant in the commercial IT industry. As part of that transformation, ARCS has made a deep commitment to the very technologies that are the subject of our conference.

The Executive Committee thanks all of the volunteers who have contributed their efforts to the organization of this conference. Most of all, however, our sincerest thanks are reserved for Dr. Dieter Donhoffer of ARCS, whose seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy and resourcefulness has created an event that will not only be a useful contribution to the software engineering community but a memorable one for its participants as well.

June, 2000

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