Lecture Notes in Computer Science 1445

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis and J. van Leeuwen

Eric Jul (Ed.)

ECOOP'98 – Object-Oriented Programming

12th European Conference
Brussels, Belgium, July 20-24, 1998
Proceedings

Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication data applied for

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Object oriented programming : 12th European conference ; proceedings / ECOOP '98, Brussels, Belgium, July 20 - 24, 1998 / Eric Jul (ed.). - Berlin ; Heidelberg ; New York ; Barcelona ; Budapest ; Hong Kong ; London ; Milan ; Paris ; Singapore ; Tokyo : Springer, 1998
(Lecture notes in computer science ; Vol. 1445)
ISBN 3-540-64737-6

CR Subject Classification (1991): D.1-3, H.2,F.3, C.2, K.4.3, K.6

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN 3-540-64737-6 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author
SPIN 10638091 06/3142 – 5 4 3 2 1 0 Printed on acid-free paper

Preface

For the twelfth time, the European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming, ECOOP, provides a gathering place for researchers and practitioners in the field of object technology. Despite numerous other conferences on object-related topics, ECOOP has established itself as the premier object technology conference. One reason is the composition of the conference week and the high quality of the presented material. The first two days of the conference are devoted to a comprehensive tutorial program running in parallel with a very selective workshop program. The remaining three days are devoted to the technical program and organized as a single track where about two dozen high quality technical papers are presented and discussed intermixed with panels and invited talks. The size of the conference and the choice of sites typically leads to a very cozy and informative atmosphere that fosters significant scientific exchange and learning.

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the Twelfth ECOOP held in Brussels, Belgium in July 1998. Previous ECOOP conferences were held in Paris (France), Oslo (Norway), Nottingham (England), Ottawa (Canada, jointly with OOPSLA), Geneva (Switzerland), Utrecht (the Netherlands), Kaiserslautern (Germany), Bologna (Italy), Århus (Denmark), Linz (Austria), and Jyväskylä (Finland).

The ECOOP'98 technical programme consists of 24 technical papers (selected from 124 submissions), two invited speakers, and two panels. The programme committee, consisting of 29 distinguished researchers in object orientation, met at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark on January 29 and 30. All papers were reviewed by between three and six members of the programme committee. The accepted papers cover a number of different topics both practical, such as garbage collection, and more theoretical, such as type theory. It is our hope that you will find the resulting mix interesting and enlightening.

I would like to express my appreciation to the authors of submitted papers, the programme committee members, the external referees, the invited speakers and panel members, and the many others who have contributed to the ECOOP'98 technical programme. We hope that the resulting technical programme is another solid step towards advancing object-oriented software technology, just as previous ECOOPs have been.

Finally, I would like to thank the numerous people in AITO and at VUB who are responsible for organizing ECOOP'98.

Ultimately, the success of any conference is measured by the number of attendees who actually feel that they spent their time well—a feeling that we all can share by active participation in the conference. Have fun!

May, 1998

Eric Jul
ECOOP'98 Programme Chair

Organization

ECOOP'98 is organized by the Programming Technology Lab of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, under the auspices of AITO (Association Internationale pour les Technologies Objets), and in cooperation with ACM SIGPLAN (Association for Computing Machinery, Special Interest Group for Programming Languages).

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