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Learning Software Organizations

Methodology and Applications

11th International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, SEKE'99
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Series Editors

Gerhard Goos, Karlsruhe University, Germany
Juris Hartmanis, Cornell University, NY, USA
Jan van Leeuwen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Volume Editors

Günther Ruhe
Frank Bomarius
Fraunhofer Institut, Experimental Software Engineering
Sauerwiesen 6, 67661 Kaiserslautern, Germany
E-mail: {ruhe/bomarius}@iese.fhg.de

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Preface

Today we see many industrial companies that extend their Software Process Improvement activities to explicitly capture the knowledge gained and make it available to the entire enterprise. Organizational Learning, Organizational Memories, Knowledge Management, Data Warehouse, and Experience Factory have become important topics in industrial practice.

The 11th International Conference on Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering (SEKE'99) was held from 16 to 19 June, 1999 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. As in the previous ten years, the conference provided a unique, centralized forum for academic and industrial researchers and practitioners to discuss the application of either software engineering methods in knowledge engineering or knowledge-based techniques in software engineering. Due to the valuable contribution of the international program committee a very attractive scientific program was presented. After a rigorous review process, 19 full-paper presentations, 19 short-paper presentations, and 16 poster presentations were held during the conference.

The workshop on Learning Software Organizations (LSO'99) brought together practitioners and researchers to discuss ongoing activities regarding the set-up of learning organizations in software industries. In order to foster interdisciplinary approaches, contributions that extend into and integrate the fields of social sciences, psychology, management science, AI, and computer science were presented.

This book provides an overview of current activities, approaches and trends in building LSOs. The first part of the book gives an overview of the topic of Learning Software Organizations. This includes the foundations of organizational learning in the Software Engineering domain, enabling techniques for organizational learning, and techniques to support learning. The most interesting papers regarding LSO issues from SEKE'99 and the adjunct workshop LSO'99 were selected and compiled into the second and third part of this book. The papers are improved and extended versions of the conference or workshop contributions. They deal with the question of how to build and run LSOs for software development organizations. Some investigate the question more from a practitioner's point of view, i.e. reporting from practical experience in industry. Others take a more academic perspective, i.e. reporting applied research results in this area.

We wish to thank DaimlerChrysler, Deutsche Telekom, Ericsson Finland, IBM Germany, Insiders, Q-Labs, sd&m, Softlab and tecinno for sponsoring the conference. We are also grateful to the authors for providing high-quality papers, and to the program committee, including all the reviewers, for their effort in ensuring the quality of the contributions.

Last, but not least, many thanks to Kornelia Streb, Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (Germany) for copyediting this volume.

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Günther Ruhe
Frank Bomarius

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