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Guest Editor's Introduction to the Special Section on the 2009 Software Quality Management conference

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The papers in this section are extended versions of papers presented at the Software Quality Management conference held in London in 2009.

In "Proposing a multi-agency development framework", Phil Clipsham, Elaine Major, Dr. Liz Bacon and Pradeep Manickam discuss the problems of developing systems for use in complex, multi-agency environments. In such systems, more than one group of people have a vested interest in the data the system holds. Such systems are commonly found in public sector organisations and are difficult to build and prone to failure. A case study modelling approach was used to develop a framework to assist in building such systems.

Suzi Holland and Ray Dawson, in the paper, "Classification and selection of tools for quality knowledge management", discuss how knowledge managers can decide which knowledge management tool is appropriate for a given problem and environment. A graphical tool, based on the "House of Quality Matrix", has been developed as an aid to this decision-making.

Ali Fouad, Keith Phalp, John Mathenge Kanyaru and Sheridan Jeary, in the paper "Embedding requirements within Model Driven Architecture", discuss the computation independent model (CIM) phase of model driven architecture. They argue that models and notations that are currently used in this phase are not sufficient to fully support software requirements and specification. A framework extension to model driven architecture is introduced, which embeds requirements and specifications into the CIM.

The paper "Artefact generation in Second Life with Case Based Reasoning" by Ahmad Shubati, Christian Dawson and Ray Dawson discusses how users who have bought "Land" in Second Life can populate this with artefacts such as buildings. Although many large organisations have developed a "presence" in Second Life, there is no appropriate methodology in place for undertaking such developments. They discuss why existing software development methods are not suitable for this purpose and describe a method using case-based reasoning.

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Jean-Marc Desharnais, Alain Abran and Witold Suryn, in the paper "Identification and Analysis of Attributes and Base Measures within ISO 9126", consider the current version of ISO 9126 and the revision of this standard that is currently being undertaken. They argue that the 80 "base measures" used in the current version are presented only at a fairly abstract level and are highly susceptible to individual interpretation. They propose a process to determine which of the base measures should be improved in the timeliest fashion.

In "The Role of Comprehension in Requirements and Implications for Use Case Descriptions", Keith Phalp, Anita Adlem, Sheridan Jeary, Jonathan Vincent and John Mathenge Kanyaru consider how to write specification documents that will be simple for the users to comprehend. Using discourse process theory, they examine guidelines that have been proposed for writing use case descriptions and suggest refinements based on this theory.