

## IWSSA 2009 PC Co-chairs' Message

Important changes in society are being predicted for the very near future. In many countries, governments look ahead by increasing reserve funds and budgets for strategically critical areas in order to identify key issues and find effective solutions. Not surprisingly, many institutions are launching research and development programs focused on health-care, elderly people, quality of life, social inclusion, energy, education, ecology, etc. Innovation is required for systems supporting such a new assisted, interactive and collaborative world. System and software designers have to be able to address how to reflect in the same system/software architecture a great amount of (sometimes conflicting) requirements. In particular, user-oriented non-functional requirements and developer-oriented non-functional requirements (or design constraints) gain special relevance due to the new environments in which the systems have to operate.

These are the proceedings of the 8th International Workshop on System/Software Architectures (IWSSA 2009), and it was the second time that the workshop was held in association with On The Move Federated Conferences and Workshops (OTM). As in the previous series of this workshop, the present edition received an ever increasing response with a total of 36 abstract submissions out of which, on the basis of the reviews and of the topics of the workshop, 15 papers were finally selected as full papers. The rest of the papers also deserve special mention because they were well rated – we regret that we could not accommodate more papers, but we hope to be able to see submissions of improved versions to IWSSA 2010. This time again, authors of selected quality papers, from those presented at IWSSA 2009, were invited to submit significantly extended and improved versions to the review process for a special issue of a well-recognized journal.

The papers included in the proceedings address cutting-edge techniques, methodologies and processes for designing system and software architectures intended to connect requirements (both functional and non-functional) to architectural models and work spaces. In particular, the selected papers cover important quality attributes of software systems ranging from users' requirements (security, reliability, usability, collaboration, etc.) to developers' requirements (reusability, change management and evolution, maintainability, scalability, etc.). These papers highlight what appears to be a clear trend in recent technologies (model-driven approaches, aspects, services, business process modeling, etc.) towards developing quality architectures along different phases in the software lifecycle, namely: requirements modeling, design, implementation and assessment, etc.

Most papers include both theoretical contents and real case studies for systems with varying traditional scopes and applications, such as enterprise and collaboration, and also for emerging ones such as mobile and ubiquitous computing and ambient assisted living. These papers contributed to a successful workshop with enriching discussions. The workshop aimed at being an appropriate forum where the sharing of knowledge and experiences about system/software architectures promotes new advances in both research and development. We hope that readers can enjoy the papers in the proceedings.

We would like sincerely to thank all OTM organizers for their constant help and support, the Program Committee members for their excellent work and invaluable support during the review process, and most importantly the authors of the papers for their very interesting and quality contributions, which make possible this workshop series every year.

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