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Open Source Application Spaces: 5th Workshop on Open Source Software Engineering

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Abstract

Building on the success of the first four workshops in the series, which were held at ICSE 2001 (Toronto), ICSE 2002 (Orlando), ICSE 2003 (Portland) and ICSE 2004 (Edinburgh), the 5th Workshop on Open Source Software Engineering, ("Open Source Application Spaces") brought together researchers and practitioners for the purpose of building a roadmap of the ways in which various computing application spaces have been impacted by open source software and also by open source development methods, tools and organizational structures.

1. Introduction

Open Source Software (OSS) is now well recognized as an important research area within both the Software Engineering and Information Systems fields, as evidenced by the growing number of related journal papers, conference papers, workshops and seminars. As part of this community of research, the *Open Source Software Engineering* workshop series has consistently attracted high quality position papers and large numbers of active participants from academia, government and industry. The position papers and presentation slides from each workshop are hosted at the *Open Source Resources* website (http://opensource.ucc.ie), and are downloaded by hundreds of readers each month.

The first workshop on open source software engineering, "Making Sense of the Bazaar", demonstrated the existence of a lively and motivated community of software engineering practitioners and researchers interested in OSS. The goal of the second workshop in the series, "Meeting Challenges and Surviving Success", was to nurture this community, and to focus the discussion on both the short and long term sustainability of the OSS phenomenon. Based on the discussion at the second workshop, "Taking Stock of the Bazaar", the third workshop, focused on the diverse array of techniques – as well as supporting tools and social contexts – that can be observed in the domain of OSS. We believed such a "stock taking" exercise would lay the foundation for more a fruitful exchange of ideas between open source software and other forms of software engineering. The fourth workshop, held at ICSE 2004 in Edinburgh, took up one of the themes that emerged from the third workshop, namely the need to understand more fully how members of open source software communities communicate, collaborate, and cope with change and conflict.

The fifth workshop, held at ICSE 2005 in St. Louis, was motivated by the discussions from the fourth workshop where many in attendance continually commented on the impact, perceived or not, that OSS is having on software products (to include free, open source,

corporate source and commercial) as well as the engineering methods employed to build those products.

2. Workshop Theme

The overarching theme of the 5th workshop was "Open Source Application Spaces." Specifically, the goal of the workshop was to bring together researchers and practitioners for the purpose of discussing building a roadmap of the ways in which various computing application spaces have been impacted by open source software and also by open source development methods, tools and organizational structures.

To this end, we solicited position papers presenting field reports, case studies, provisional data, analytical frameworks and key research questions, which serve to improve our knowledge of the impact of open source products, methods, tools and organizational structures in a variety of application spaces. Such spaces include (but are not limited to):

- mobile computing
- embedded computing
- ambient intelligence
- business domain verticals and horizontals
- Internet and Web services
- the Semantic Web
- consumer desktop computing
- thin-client computing
- mission-critical systems

The workshop comprised four open discussion sessions, each beginning with a brief mini-presentation based on selected position papers.

3. Workshop Position Papers

Fifteen position papers, from 33 authors based in 8 countries, were accepted to be published in the workshop proceedings (available in hardcopy from ACM/IEEE and in PDF format on the workshop website at http://opensource.ucc.ie/icse2005). The papers covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Adaptive reuse of open source software supporting online collaboration systems
- Case studies of OSS's use in non-OSS product offerings and subsequent challenges
- Need for estimation models for OSSE
- Comparisons of OSSE and standardized maintenance processes
- Use of OSS and OSSE methods as a stimulus for creating new market opportunities for businesses
- Empirical studies of OSS products and development methods, including reliability and quality
- Software team structures emerging from OSSE
- Impact of OSSE on large-scale systems engineering

4. Future Workshops

For information on upcoming workshops and related events, visit http://opensource.ucc.ie, http://opensource.mit.edu, or http://www.calibre.ie.