Matthew B. Dwyer Antónia Lopes (Eds.)

# Fundamental Approaches to Software Engineering

10th International Conference, FASE 2007 Held as Part of the Joint European Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software, ETAPS 2007 Braga, Portugal, March/April 2007, Proceedings

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## Fundamental Approaches to Software Engineering

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#### Foreword

ETAPS 2007 is the tenth instance of the European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software, and thus a cause for celebration.

The events that comprise ETAPS address various aspects of the system development process, including specification, design, implementation, analysis and improvement. The languages, methodologies and tools which support these activities are all well within its scope. Different blends of theory and practice are represented, with an inclination towards theory with a practical motivation on the one hand and soundly based practice on the other. Many of the issues involved in software design apply to systems in general, including hardware systems, and the emphasis on software is not intended to be exclusive.

#### History and Prehistory of ETAPS

ETAPS as we know it is an annual federated conference that was established in 1998 by combining five conferences [Compiler Construction (CC), European Symposium on Programming (ESOP), Fundamental Approaches to Software Engineering (FASE), Foundations of Software Science and Computation Structures (FOSSACS), Tools and Algorithms for Construction and Analysis of Systems (TACAS)] with satellite events.

All five conferences had previously existed in some form and in various colocated combinations: accordingly, the prehistory of ETAPS is complex. FOSSACS was earlier known as the Colloquium on Trees in Algebra and Programming (CAAP), being renamed for inclusion in ETAPS as its historical name no longer reflected its contents. Indeed CAAP's history goes back a long way; prior to 1981, it was known as the Colleque de Lille sur les Arbres en Algebre et en Programmation. FASE was the indirect successor of a 1985 event known as Colloquium on Software Engineering (CSE), which together with CAAP formed a joint event called TAPSOFT in odd-numbered years. Instances of TAPSOFT, all including CAAP plus at least one software engineering event, took place every two years from 1985 to 1997 inclusive. In the alternate years, CAAP took place separately from TAPSOFT.

Meanwhile, ESOP and CC were each taking place every two years from 1986. From 1988, CAAP was colocated with ESOP in even years. In 1994, CC became a "conference" rather than a "workshop" and CAAP, CC and ESOP were thereafter all colocated in even years.

TACAS, the youngest of the ETAPS conferences, was founded as an international workshop in 1995; in its first year, it was colocated with TAPSOFT. It took place each year, and became a "conference" when it formed part of ETAPS 1998. It is a telling indication of the importance of tools in the modern field of informatics that TACAS today is the largest of the ETAPS conferences.

The coming together of these five conferences was due to the vision of a small group of people who saw the potential of a combined event to be more than the sum of its parts. Under the leadership of Don Sannella, who became the first ETAPS steering committee chair, they included: Andre Arnold, Egidio Astesiano, Hartmut Ehrig, Peter Fritzson, Marie-Claude Gaudel, Tibor Gyimothy, Paul Klint, Kim Guldstrand Larsen, Peter Mosses, Alan Mycroft, Hanne Riis Nielson, Maurice Nivat, Fernando Orejas, Bernhard Steffen, Wolfgang Thomas and (alphabetically last but in fact one of the ringleaders) Reinhard Wilhelm.

ETAPS today is a loose confederation in which each event retains its own identity, with a separate programme committee and proceedings. Its format is open-ended, allowing it to grow and evolve as time goes by. Contributed talks and system demonstrations are in synchronized parallel sessions, with invited lectures in plenary sessions. Two of the invited lectures are reserved for "unifying" talks on topics of interest to the whole range of ETAPS attendees. The aim of cramming all this activity into a single one-week meeting is to create a strong magnet for academic and industrial researchers working on topics within its scope, giving them the opportunity to learn about research in related areas, and thereby to foster new and existing links between work in areas that were formerly addressed in separate meetings.

#### ETAPS 1998-2006

The first ETAPS took place in Lisbon in 1998. Subsequently it visited Amsterdam, Berlin, Genova, Grenoble, Warsaw, Barcelona, Edinburgh and Vienna before arriving in Braga this year. During that time it has become established as the major conference in its field, attracting participants and authors from all over the world. The number of submissions has more than doubled, and the numbers of satellite events and attendees have also increased dramatically.

#### **ETAPS 2007**

ETAPS 2007 comprises five conferences (CC, ESOP, FASE, FOSSACS, TACAS), 18 satellite workshops (ACCAT, AVIS, Bytecode, COCV, FESCA, FinCo, GT-VMT, HAV, HFL, LDTA, MBT, MOMPES, OpenCert, QAPL, SC, SLA++P, TERMGRAPH and WITS), three tutorials, and seven invited lectures (not including those that were specific to the satellite events). We received around 630 submissions to the five conferences this year, giving an overall acceptance rate of 25%. To accommodate the unprecedented quantity and quality of submissions, we have four-way parallelism between the main conferences on Wednesday for the first time. Congratulations to all the authors who made it to the final programme! I hope that most of the other authors still found a way of participating in this exciting event and I hope you will continue submitting.

ETAPS 2007 was organized by the Departamento de Informática of the Universidade do Minho, in cooperation with

- European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS)
- European Association for Programming Languages and Systems (EAPLS)
- European Association of Software Science and Technology (EASST)
- The Computer Science and Technology Center (CCTC, Universidade do Minho)
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ETAPS 2007 received generous sponsorship from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), Enabler (a Wipro Company), Cisco and TAP Air Portugal.

Overall planning for ETAPS conferences is the responsibility of its Steering Committee, whose current membership is:

Perdita Stevens (Edinburgh, Chair), Roberto Amadio (Paris), Luciano Baresi (Milan), Sophia Drossopoulou (London), Matt Dwyer (Nebraska), Hartmut Ehrig (Berlin), José Fiadeiro (Leicester), Chris Hankin (London), Laurie Hendren (McGill), Mike Hinchey (NASA Goddard), Michael Huth (London), Anna Ingólfsdóttir (Aalborg), Paola Inverardi (L'Aquila), Joost-Pieter Katoen (Aachen), Paul Klint (Amsterdam), Jens Knoop (Vienna), Shriram Krishnamurthi (Brown), Kim Larsen (Aalborg), Tiziana Margaria (Göttingen), Ugo Montanari (Pisa), Rocco de Nicola (Florence), Jakob Rehof (Dortmund), Don Sannella (Edinburgh), João Saraiva (Minho), Vladimiro Sassone (Southampton), Helmut Seidl (Munich), Daniel Varro (Budapest), Andreas Zeller (Saarbrücken).

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of these people and organizations, the programme committee chairs and PC members of the ETAPS conferences, the organizers of the satellite events, the speakers themselves, the many reviewers, and Springer for agreeing to publish the ETAPS proceedings. Finally, I would like to thank the organizing chair of ETAPS 2007, João Saraiva, for arranging for us to have ETAPS in the ancient city of Braga.

#### Preface

Software engineering is a complex enterprise spanning many sub-disciplines. At its core are a set of technical and scientific challenges that must be addressed in order to set the stage for the development, deployment, and application of tools and methodologies in support of the construction of complex software systems. The International Conference on Fundamental Approaches to Software Engineering (FASE) — as one of the European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software (ETAPS) — focuses on those core challenges. FASE provides the software engineering research community with a forum for presenting well-founded theories, languages, methods, and tools arising from both fundamental research in the academic community and applied work in practical development contexts.

In 2007, FASE continued in the strong tradition of FASE 2006 by drawing a large and varied number of submissions from the community — 141 in total. Each submission was reviewed by at least three technical experts from the Program Committee with many papers receiving additional reviews from the broader research community. Each paper was discussed during a 10-day "electronic" meeting. In total, the 26 members of the Program Committee, along with 101 additional reviewers, produced more than 500 reviews. We sincerely thank each them for the effort and care taken in reviewing and discussing the submissions.

The Program Committee selected a total of 30 papers — an acceptance rate of 21%. Accepted papers addressed topics including model-driven development, distributed systems, specification, service-oriented systems, testing, software analysis, and design. The technical program was complemented by the invited lectures of Jan Bosch on "Software Product Families: Towards Compositionality" and of Bertrand Meyer on "Contract-Driven Development."

FASE 2007 was held in Braga (Portugal) as part of the tenth meeting of ETAPS — for some history read the Foreword in this volume. While FASE is an integral part of ETAPS, it is important to note the debt FASE owes to ETAPS and its organizers. FASE draws significant energy from its synergistic relationships with the other ETAPS meetings, which gives it a special place in the software engineering community. Perdita Stevens and the rest of the ETAPS Steering Committee have provided extremely helpful guidance to us in organizing FASE 2007 and we thank them. João Saraiva and his staff did a wonderful job as local organizers and as PC chairs we appreciate how smoothly the meeting ran due to their efforts.

In closing, we would like to thank the authors of all of the FASE submissions and the attendees of FASE sessions for their participation and we look forward to seeing you in Budapest for FASE 2008.

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## **Software Product Families: Towards Compositionality**

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Abstract. Software product families have become the most successful approach to intra-organizational reuse. Especially in the embedded systems industry, but also elsewhere, companies are building rich and diverse product portfolios based on software platforms that capture the commonality between products while allowing for their differences. Software product families, however, easily become victims of their own success in that, once successful, there is a tendency to increase the scope of the product family by incorporating a broader and more diverse product portfolio. This requires organizations to change their approach to product families from relying on a pre-integrated platform for product derivation to a compositional approach where platform components are composed in a product-specific configuration.

**Keywords:** Software product families, compositionality.

#### 1 Introduction

Over the last decades, embedded systems have emerged as one of the key areas of innovation in software engineering. The increasing complexity, connectedness, feature density and enriched user interaction, when combined, have driven an enormous demand for software. In fact, the size of software in embedded systems seems to follow Moore's law, i.e. with the increased capabilities of the hardware, the software has followed suit in terms of size and complexity. This has lead to a constant struggle to build the software of embedded systems in a cost-effective, rapid and high-quality fashion in the face of a constantly expanding set of requirements. Two of the key approaches evolved to handle this complexity have been software architecture and software product families. Together, these technologies have allowed companies to master, at least in part, the complexity of large scale software systems.

One can identify three main trends that are driving the embedded systems industry, i.e. convergence, end-to-end functionality and software engineering capability. The convergence of the consumer electronics, telecom and IT industries has been discussed for over a decade. Although many may wonder whether and when it will happen, the fact is that the convergence is taking place constantly. Different from what the name may suggest, though, convergence in fact leads to a portfolio of increasingly diverging devices. For instance, in the mobile telecom industry, mobile phones have diverged into still picture camera models, video camera models, music

player models, mobile TV models, mobile email models, etc. This trend results in a significant pressure on software product families as the amount of variation to be supported by the platform in terms of price points, form factors and feature sets is significantly beyond the requirements just a few years ago. The second trend is that many innovations that have proven their success in the market place require the creation of an end-to-end solution and possibly even the creation or adaptation of a business eco-system. Examples from the mobile domain include, for instance, ring tones, but the ecosystem initiated by Apple around digital music is exemplary in this context. The consequence for most companies is that where earlier, they were able to drive innovations independently to the market, the current mode requires significant partnering and orchestration for innovations to be successful. The third main trend is that a company's ability to engineer software is rapidly becoming a key competitive differentiator. The two main developments underlying this trend are efficiency and responsiveness. With the constant increase in software demands, the cost of software R&D is becoming unacceptable from a business perspective. Thus, some factor difference in productivity is easily turning into being able or not being able to deliver certain feature sets. Responsiveness is growing in importance because innovation cycles are moving increasingly fast and customers are expecting constant improvements in the available functionality. Web 2.0 [7] presents a strong example of this trend. A further consequence for embedded systems is that, in the foreseeable future, the hardware and software innovation cycles will, at least in part, be decoupled, significantly increasing demands for post-deployment distribution of software.

Due to the convergence trend, the number of different embedded products that a manufacturer aims to bring to market is increasing. Consequently, reuse of software (as well as of mechanical and hardware solutions) is a standing ambition for the industry. The typical approach employed in the embedded systems industry is to build a platform that implements the functionality common to all devices. The platform is subsequently used as a basis when creating new product and functionality specific to the product is built on top of the platform. Several embedded system companies have successfully employed product families or platforms and are now reaching the stage where the scope of the product family is expanding considerably. This requires a transition from a traditional, integration-oriented approach to a compositional approach.

The contribution of this paper is that it analyses the problems of traditional approaches to software product families that several companies are now confronted with. In addition, it presents compositional platforms as the key solution approach to addressing these problems and discusses the technical and organizational consequences.

The remainder of this article is organized as follows. The next section defines the challenges faced by traditional product families when expanding their scope. Subsequently, section 3 presents the notion of compositional product families. The component model underlying composability is discussed in more detail in section 4. Finally, the paper is concluded in section 5.