Jürgen Münch Pekka Abrahamsson (Eds.)

Product-Focused Software Process Improvement

8th International Conference, PROFES 2007 Riga, Latvia, July 2007 Proceedings



7p 311-55 p 964. Jürgen Münch Pekka Abrahamsson (Eds.)

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8th International Conference, PROFES 2007 Riga, Latvia, July 2-4, 2007 Proceedings







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Library of Congress Control Number: 2007929634

CR Subject Classification (1998): D.2, K.6, K.4.2, J.1

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 2 - Programming and Software Engineering

ISSN 0302-9743

ISBN-10 3-540-73459-7 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

ISBN-13 978-3-540-73459-8 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 12086863 06/3180 5 4 3 2 1 0

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Preface

The Eight International Conference on Product-Focused Software Process Improvement (PROFES 2007) brought together researchers and industrial practitioners to report new research results and exchange experiences and findings in the area of process and product improvement. The focus of the conference is on understanding, learning, evaluating, and improving the relationships between process improvement activities (such as the deployment of innovative defect detection processes) and their effects in products (such as improved product reliability and safety). Consequently, major topics of the conference include the evaluation of existing software process improvement (SPI) approaches in different contexts, the presentation of new or modified SPI approaches, and the relation between SPI and new development techniques or emerging application domains.

This year's conference theme focused on global software development. More and more products are being developed in distributed, global development environments with many customer–supplier relations in the value chain. Outsourcing, off-shoring, near-shoring, and even in-sourcing aggravate this trend further. Supporting such distributed development requires well-understood and accurately implemented development process interfaces, process synchronization, and an efficient process evolution mechanisms. Overcoming cultural barriers and implementing efficient communication channels are some of the key challenges. It is clear that process improvement approaches also need to consider these new development contexts.

A second key focus of PROFES 2007 was on agile software development. Market dynamics require organizations to adapt to changes of the development environment and to enforce innovations better and faster. This often results in process changes that impose risk challenges for SPI approaches. Advanced SPI is required to support the assessment of the impact of process changes such as the introduction of agile methods. Due to the fact that software development processes are human-based and depend heavily on the development context, process changes and their resulting effects should be considered carefully. We consider the development context to include at least the domain-specific characteristics, the workforce capabilities, and the level of work distribution.

The technical program was selected by a committee of leading experts in software process modeling and SPI research. This year, 56 papers from 21 nations were submitted, with each paper receiving at least three reviews. The Program Committee met in Riga for one full day in February 2007. The Program Committee finally selected 30 technical full papers. The topics indicate that SPI remains a vibrant research discipline of high interest for industry. Emerging technologies and application domains, a paradigm shift to global software and system engineering in many domains, and the need for better decision support for SPI are reflected in these papers. The technical program consisted of the tracks global software development, software process improvement, software process modeling and evolution, industrial experiences, agile software development, software measurement, simulation and decision support, and processes and methods. We were proud to have four distinguished keynote speakers,

Carol Dekkers, Dieter Rombach, Jari Still, Guntis Urtāns, as well as interesting tutorials and a collocated workshop.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve as Program Co-chairs for this conference. The Program Committee members and reviewers provided excellent support in reviewing the papers. We are also grateful to the authors, presenters, and session chairs for their time and effort that made PROFES 2007 a success. The General Chair, Pasi Kuvaja, and the Steering Committee provided excellent guidance. We wish to thank the University of Latvia, the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE), VTT, the University of Oulu and all the other sponsors and supporters for their contributions and making the event possible. We would especially like to thank the Organizing Chairs Darja Ŝmite and Juris Borzovs and the Local Organizing Committee for their highly engaged organization of the conference in Riga. Last but not least, many thanks to Timo Klein at Fraunhofer IESE for copyediting this volume.

April 2007

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Software Development and Globalization

H. Dieter Rombach

Chairman, ICT Group, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft e.V., Executive Director, Fraunhofer IESE, Kaiserslautern, Software Engineering Chair, CS Dept., University of Kaiserslautern

Developing software across borders has become an emerging area of software engineering. It is one of the important competitive advantages in today's industry. However, the increased globalization of software development creates many challenges brought by distribution of software life cycle activities among teams separated by various boundaries, such as contextual, organizational, cultural, temporal, geographical, and political.

Software Development Globalization from the Baltic Perspective

Guntis Urtāns

President of SWH Technology

Future predictions say that together with its neighbors Estonia and Lithuania, Latvia will be a major outsourcing center for Northern / continental Europe. The Baltic region is known for its well-educated and multinational workforce, one of the most efficient tax systems in Europe, a liberal economy, great affinity with Nordics, and identical legislation. So, where have we been 15 years ago and where are we now?

Experiences in Applying Agile Software Development in F-Secure

Jari Still

F-Secure Oy's Oulu Office site manager

To develop security software is clearly one of the most challenging software development areas. The challenges are both technical and business based. From the business point of view, the security market is mature and highly competitive, although market needs can change even daily and there is no room for mistakes. Technically, the challenge is the ability to find and catch the threats as soon as they arise.

F-Secure has been one of the leading companies in applying agile software development methods, even though F-Secure works with most challenging requirements like security critiality, short time-to-market, frequently changing requirements, and high quality. At the moment, F-Secure has a software product life cycle process, which is built on agile methods. The difference to the earlier process, which was based on "mature" models, is significant. This keynote speech will address those differences and describe the experiences F-Secure has made with agile methods.

J. Münch and P. Abrahamsson (Eds.): PROFES 2007, LNCS 4589, p. 3. 2007.
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