



icse 2004
WOW!

Volume 10, Issue 1

Wednesday May 25, 2004

26th International Conference on Software Engineering

May 23—28, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Scotland, UK

Welcome to the Window on the World!

Welcome to the tenth anniversary edition of the WOW, the ICSE newsletter. For the last nine years, WOW has been keeping the ICSE community engaged and entertained with fresh news, opinions, local information, and not least, humor!

This year's WOW is going away from tradition a little, and is following a new production timeline. While in the past, the newsletter has been completely produced during the conference, this time around, we did most of the production before we arrived here in Edinburgh. Nevertheless, we promise to provide you

with the same kind of snappy content that we have in the past. And be warned that we will not hesitate to write new articles while we are in Edinburgh... so watch out for the WOW staffers walking around with notepads (not the Windows kind) and cameras.

The core of the WOW team this year includes three members. We have been working for several weeks over email, and these last three days in person to put together these issues. We also would like to acknowledge the several contributions to

the newsletter we have received from a number of you, and we look forward to many more.

And be sure to participate in the poetry competition... let your creative juices flow!

— Nigamanth, Christian, and Martin



A view of the Castle from Princes Street.

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WOW Wants You!

We want your ideas, opinion, and comments. Drop off your submissions at the registration desk, or email them to sridhar.4@osu.edu.

WOW! A Contest!

Read about it on the last page!

Weather Forecast

Today:

Partly Cloudy

High: 61°F (16°C)

Low: 50°F (10°C)

Sunset: 9:39 PM

Precipitation: 10%

Tomorrow:

Partly Cloudy

High: 65°F (18°C)

Low: 48°F (9°C)

Sunrise: 4:40 AM

Precipitation: 10%

From the ICSE 2004 General Chair



Welcome to ICSE 2004 and welcome to Scotland. I hope you enjoy the large and diverse programme we have developed for you. I recommend you study the

programme booklet carefully, there is a lot going on and some advance planning will help you make the most of what is on offer. In addition to the paper and

demo tracks, the core of ICSE, and the keynotes we have some first class 'linkages' speakers. We also have two interesting industrial events highlighting Eclipse and .NET with linked receptions. The whisky tasting and the conference dinner should be fun and will give you an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Have a good time and if any of the ICSE team (wearing the garish shirts) can help please ask.

— Anthony Finkelstein
ICSE 2004 General Chair



The Apple internet café is available for free use.

ICSE Tutorials

How has your experience putting together the Tutorials for ICSE '04 been?

Its been a difficult but rewarding experience. We received 61 proposals this year and deciding which ones to keep was not easy. I'm glad I had a great committee to work with: Victor Braberman, Anthony Hall, Henry Muccini, Corina Pasareanu, Motoshi Saeki, and Michal Young.

What does it take for a tutorial to be accepted?

Well, when evaluating each tutorial proposal we considered factors such as: relevance, timeliness, importance, audience appeal; and past experience and qualifications of the instructors. In addition, we had to consider how each proposal fit within the tutorial program as a whole. One difficulty is getting a balance between maturity and novelty of the topics.

“Topics go from standards such as UML 2.0, through themes such as the semantic web, agile processes and architectures to more research-oriented tutorials such as case studies for software engineering.”



Some ICSE staff at the registration desk.

“The Doctoral Symposium is not meant as a competitive venue, but as a supportive venue for students of all backgrounds.”

Doctoral Symposium

How was your experience putting together the doctoral symposium?

Organizing the doctoral symposium is a rewarding experience. Students always come out of the symposium having learned a lot, being exposed to different viewpoints and seeing that other students have the same kinds of experiences as they do. Faculty like to participate in the symposium, and usually step up the level of their review and the detail of their feedback.

What can the ICSE community expect from the Tutorials this year?

They can expect first class, experienced presenters that are experts in their areas. The range of topics should ensure that everyone (practitioners, students, researchers and educators) will find at least some tutorials of interest. Topics go from standards such as UML 2.0, through themes such as the semantic web, agile processes and architectures to more research-oriented tutorials such as case studies for software engineering,

Did you do anything new in the process this year from the Tutorials in the past?

Process-wise, I did not do anything significantly different. In fact, I had a chat with several of the previous ICSE tutorial chairs to learn from their experience. I did take some calculated risks with some tutorials, introducing

themes that traditionally do not appear in ICSE, for instance search-based approaches and statistical techniques in software engineering. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest in these to allow them to go ahead. I think it was still worth trying.

Do you have any advice for the next Tutorials Chair?

Not any more than I already have. I exchanged some emails about this with Martin Glinz a while ago. I think a crucial point, as I said before, is to have a diverse, but small committee to go through the large number of proposals that ICSE receives every year. Ah, also to not underestimate the organising and tracking that goes on between having defined the tutorial programme and actually getting them going on the first two days of the ICSE week.

— Sebastian Uchitel

All in all, it is an intense event, but it is a pleasure working with everybody. That is not to say it is an easy job. I am much indebted to Rick Dewar, student volunteer coordinator for ICSE 2004, for taking care of the financial side and travel support for the symposium. This year, that was a bit more involved than other years, and he did an excellent job.

Do you have any comments on the quality of submissions?

The quality of the submissions was excellent. The committee had a very difficult time making the selection. There clearly is a vibrant group of up-and-coming graduate students, which is very good for the broader software engineering community. Submissions came from all over the world, with participants in the symposium coming from eight different countries over three different continents.

What are some of the

Doctoral Symposium (contd.)

prominent topic areas covered ?

Component-based software engineering remains one of the "hot" topics. It is interesting to note that the study of such systems has diversified into covering more advanced issues, such as reliability, adaptability, and managing non-functional properties. Additional topics receiving significant attention this year are requirements, software process (traditional, agile, and

simulation), and the use of visualization for program understanding.

Finally, the numbers – what are the stats (number of submissions, acceptance rate, etc.)

I prefer not to publish the numbers. The Doctoral Symposium is not meant as a competitive venue, but as a supportive venue for students of all backgrounds. In the review process, for instance, everybody receives detailed

feedback on their submissions so that even those who are not able to attend are helped with constructive comments. The selection process for choosing who will actually attend the symposium focuses on identifying a broad range of students at various stages in their careers - not necessarily those with the "best" abstracts. The main goal is to provide a forum to help students advance their careers.

— Andre van der Hoek



Greyfriar's Bobby — the faithful dog that sat by its master's grave for fourteen years after he died. The memorial to Bobby is on Camdlemaker's Row in Edinburgh. Be sure to visit him.

The Dark Side of ICSE: Please Behave!

How many engineers does it take to change a light-bulb? I should think that the answer depends on the quality of the whisky tasting event. Which brings me right to today's hot topic: public disgrace. I hope that our malicious decoy of writing parts of the material beforehand does not cause you to throw caution into the wind. WOW's flying reporters will be on hand wherever there's potential for gossip.

Gossip is only one part of the story of course — there is also a need for solid headlines. We were

starting to get desperate until we spotted a unique opportunity: we are very pleased by the organisers' decision to host an IBM-sponsored Eclipse event on the same evening as a Microsoft Research event. To anybody familiar with these parts, this sounds rather like "Millwall FC versus Chelsea". We look forward to gangs of thugs from both camps attacking each other with plastic cups and potato wedges. When moving at suitable velocities, finger food can maim and kill. The conference centre's circular architecture should also encourage traditional forms

of hooligan combat such as running battles. "The 800 pound gorilla versus Big Blue, round one". One can only wonder who is going to prevail. We were going to set odds and take bets, but our budget — please note, Prof. Anthony Finkelstein — does not quite stretch to such extravaganzas as stylish lawsuits.

In any case, it is refreshing that this conference will have some similarity to the real world. Enjoy it, act it out, and please smile when the camera flashes.

— Christian Nentwich

"The 800 pound gorilla versus Big Blue, round one". One can only wonder who is going to prevail.

Reception Tickets

Tickets for these events are completely sold out, due to the large number of on-site registrations. If you have tickets, but are not planning to use them, we would be grateful if you could return them to the registration desk, so that they can be re-issued to someone else. There are

no refunds for returned tickets! A 'waiting list' for tickets is being run at the registration desk - please drop by if you would like to get on the list, but note that we are unable to guarantee a ticket. The staff of the concierge desk at the EICC are able to offer recommendations about local

restaurants, and make bookings for you if you need to make alternative arrangements for yourselves, partners or friends.

We are sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment this may cause.

—The Organising Committee

Things you might want to do...

If all the formal logic jokes (“the funny is implied”) from today’s presentations haven’t quite quenched your thirst for laughter, why not check out **The Stand Comedy Club’s Improv Night** (5 York Place, 0131 558 7272). £4 entry or £3 concession – book ahead.

Alternatively, if you feel like clubbing and you’ve no pressing urge to get up for the Thursday program, get yourself over to the **Liq-**

uid Rooms (9c Victoria Street, 0131 225 2564). If however, your tastes are more jazz-oriented, **Henry’s Jazz Cellar** is a cool place to be (8 Morrison Street, 0131 467 5200).

Should anyone be in a cinema mood - and we’re talking European cinema here folks, not Will Smith chasing aliens or robots or some such nonsense — the acclaimed **Pedro Almodovar movie “Bad Education”** is showing at

the **Cameo Theatre** (38 Home Street, 0131 228 4141) today and tomorrow.

Any big fans of **Graham Coxon** (the interesting one from Blur) might want to consider making the hike through to Glasgow where he’ll be performing at **King Tut’s** (272 St Vincent Street, 0141 221 5279) – booking essential.

— *Martin Hailey*

New Meeting Announcement

ISSTA Steering Committee

A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 26th May 1700-1800 hrs in room Carrick 3 at the EICC.

ICSE Polo Shirts

Black polo shirts sporting the famous ICSE 2004 tartan mouse are on sale at the registration desk for £12 each. Get one for yourself or your friends back home! Credit cards accepted.

WOW Limerick Competition

*Such a great metre
You follow these lines in vain
No booze here for you*

Your task is to write the best ICSE limerick. Make it funny. It **must** scan properly, otherwise it will be disqualified – we are ruthless. Exceptions are only granted for deliberate abuse. As is customary on these isles, moderate rudeness will be rewarded by the judges.

There is a reward for your work – as if a poet needed one... Subject to local laws of libel and rules of good taste, the winning entry will be read out in the closing address, and receive a bottle of “Chairman’s Reserve” ICSE 2004 whisky. Put some effort in, there is no second place!

Entries will be judged by the ICSE Poetry Commit-

tee. Results will be announced in the last issue of WOW on Friday.

Drop off your submissions at the registration desk (or email them to sridhar.4@osu.edu) before 5 pm Thursday. Each of you can turn in as many submissions as your poetic urges allow!

— *WOW*

Win an iPod

Our student volunteers will judge and nominate the best speaker from the technical paper presentation track, and the lucky winner gets to take home an iPod. See page 20 of your program for more details.

The WOW Daily Puzzle I

If this is one of these sessions where there’s absolutely nothing gripping you, why not try your hand at this one. If you get depressed, please don’t blame us. Many have failed this puzzle.

100 prisoners are lined up by their guard in prison and told this: “One hour from now, you will all be locked up in solitary confinement, and will not be able to talk to each other. Every night, however, I will

take one of you into a room with a light bulb. You will see whether the light bulb is on or off, and you will get a chance to switch the light bulb on or off.

If you ever believe that all 100 prisoners have been to the room with the light bulb, you should tell me so. If you are correct, you are all free. If not, you’re all toast.

Use the next hour to

come up with a strategy for you all to leave.”

Can you design a strategy for how the prisoners should act to ensure their continued contribution to the gene pool?



WOW Press

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