Second International Workshop on Emerging Trends in Free/Libre/Open Source Software Research and Development – FLOSS09

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Abstract

The Workshop on “Emerging Trends in FLOSS Research and Development” is based on the ever growing interest of researchers and practitioners on Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS), and will be specifically based on discussing the phenomenon of global FLOSS development and how to identify and define, if any, how FLOSS communities could benefit from traditional Software Engineering practices, and viceversa.

For this purpose, the overarching theme of this workshop is “Closing the Gap between Software Engineering and FLOSS Development”. Its main goal will be to bring together academic researchers, industry members and FLOSS developers and to discuss what aspects and practices are common in both the Software Engineering and the FLOSS development modes, and where and how these practices differ substantially.

1. Introduction

FLOSS (Free/Libre/Open Source Software) 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 FLOSS development continues to grow and become an evermore pervasive and global approach to the development of dependable software through non-traditional means (i.e., does not simply follow the software engineering paradigm found in textbooks), this ICSE workshop will be an appropriate place for leading FLOSS and SE scholars to come together to discuss and exchange their research work in progress.

The overarching theme of this workshop will be “Closing the Gap between Software Engineering and FLOSS Development”. Specifically, the goal of this workshop is to bring together academic researchers, industry members and FLOSS developers for the purpose of discussing:

• Models, case studies and empirical approaches of how requirements are sought, assessed and implemented in FLOSS development, as compared to traditional Software Engineering;
• IP-related issues, such as the various kinds of licenses, their compatibilities and effects on software engineering, as well as patents and trademarks;
• Empirical studies, models and frameworks of how traditional Software Engineering testing techniques should be brought forward into FLOSS development;
• The impact of the newest and/or most established approaches in Software Engineering, like software reuse, and refactoring/cloning, are currently implemented by FLOSS developers;
• Experience reports of commercial companies dealing with FLOSS components, to understand how the traditional development is coupled with the new environment.
• Analysis of dependencies between different FLOSS products, in the terms of license and technical dependencies, among others.

2. Workshop Format

The First International Workshop on Emerging Trends in FLOSS Research and Development is an open, one-day workshop, with a maximum number of 50 participants. In the Call for Papers, the workshop theme solicited both “short position papers” (up to 3 pages) and “preliminary results papers” (up to 6 pages) presenting field reports, case studies, analytical frameworks and key research questions, which serve to improve the communication and the impact of FLOSS products, methods, tools and organizational
structures in a variety of application spaces. Overall, 17 papers were received from the Call for Papers, and 10 have been accepted for presentation and inclusion in the workshop proceedings.

The workshop will be divided in four sessions: the first three will have blocks of presentations of position papers and attached discussion and comments by the assistants. To boost the participation of the attendees and effectiveness of the discussion, the last block will be devoted to discuss actively some of the most prominent (and polemic) aspects of the position papers presented, using some of the methods in use in unconferences and acting the workshop proposals as facilitators.

3. Relevance to the Field

Although the use of FLOSS projects as case studies has been increasing in the last years, there are some relevant aspects that affect FLOSS and that have not yet been targeted by the SE community. In this regard, we think that this workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss and advance in a research agenda for these type of topics, such as IP-related issues, the integration of FLOSS software in traditional development environments or the experience of commercial companies with FLOSS components.

We believe that this workshop will also serve as a common bridge between the ACM/IEEE (ICSE) and (IFIP) OSS research communities, thereby providing a window for others in the Software Engineering community to interact with and learn more about the advances of research into FLOSS development and communities. To insure participation, representation and cross-fertilization across the ACM/IEEE (ICSE) and (IFIP) OSS research communities, members of the program committee of this workshop have been drawn also from the committee of the OSS2009 Conference.

4. Program Committee

The program committee of the workshop was composed of (in alphabetical order):

- Giulio Antoniol, Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada
- Cornelia Boldyreff, University of Lincoln, UK
- Andrea Capiluppi, University of East London, UK
- Eugenio Capra, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- Massimiliano Di Penta, University of Sannio, Italy
- Juan Fernandez-Ramil, The Open University, UK
- Alfonso Fuggetta, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- James Howison, Syracuse University, US
- Stefan Koch, Wirtschaftsuniversitaet Wien, Austria
- Michel A. Wermelinger, The Open University, UK
- Daniel M German, University of Victoria, Canada
- Jesus M. Gonzalez-Barahona, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain
- Martin Michlmayr, Hewlett-Packard, UK
- Maurizio Morisio, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- Gregorio Robles, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain
- Walt Scacchi, University of California-Irvine, US
- Diomidis Spinellis, Athens University, Greece
- Megan Squire Conklin, Elon University, US
- Ioannis Stamelos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Georg Von Krogh, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

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