Software drives most systems designed to address contemporary societal challenges. These systems are expected to be highly customizable and delivered in numerous variants. For example, consider families of implanted devices that are customized for the specific condition of each patient, intelligent buildings and resource control centers in smart cities that need customization for each municipal area, or driverless control functions customized for a range of car models.

Product Line Engineering (PLE) emerged as a sub-area of Software Engineering that helps developing families of related systems. In this edition of the PLEASE workshop, we intend to explore the interrelation between societal challenges and PLE.

The goal of the workshop is to identify new opportunities for PLE adoption and new challenges posed by emerging societal trends. As in previous years, PLEASE will be conducted in a highly interactive manner and will include a set of lightning talks and speed-dating sessions.

Submissions

We invite short 4 page papers that focus on either 1) an opportunity posed by a specific societal challenge for PLE research and practice or 2) a concrete solution exemplifying successfully application of PLE techniques to a societal challenge. Submissions in the second category might be based on PLE technologies that have been published earlier, but must emphasize aspects related to their applicability for solving a particular societal challenge. All submissions should aim to answer the following questions:

For opportunity papers:
- What is the societal challenge addressed?
- Within this domain, what is the specific problem/challenge that relates to PLE?
- Demonstrate it on a concrete example.
- When would you consider the challenge resolved?
- How could the success be evaluated? Is there some key indicator to assess the success?

For solution papers:
- What is the societal challenge addressed?
- Within this domain, what is the specific problem/challenge that relates to PLE?
- Demonstrate the solution on a concrete example.
- Identify the technology underlying your solution.
- What are the solution’s benefits and limitations?
- Was your approach evaluated? How?

Submitted papers should be in English and conform to the ICSE 2015 Guidelines available online at http://2015.icse-conferences.org/submission-guidelines. Papers should be submitted online via EasyChair at http://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=please2015.

We encourage PLE solutions for:
- Managing variability and customization
- Supporting systems-of-systems, distributed systems and systems with a very long lifespan
- Run-time variability and self-adapting systems
- Multi-objective optimization
- Validation, certification and re-certification

Areas with societal challenges include:
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Accessible and secure computing
- Health, demographic change and well-being
- Smarter cities
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Climate change, sustainability, environment

Submissions will be selected based on their relevance to the workshop topics and objectives. Accepted papers will be published in the ICSE 2015 electronic proceedings collection and on the workshop website. At least one author of each accepted paper is required to register and present the work at the workshop for the paper to be included in the proceedings.

Important Dates

Submission: January 23, 2015
Notification: February 18, 2015
Camera-ready: February 27, 2015
Workshop: May 19, 2015

Organization

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David M. Weiss, Iowa State University, USA

More information is available at http://lero.ie/please2015/