Call for Contributions

Workshop Description
Software evolution and adaptation is a research area in continuous evolution, and offering stimulating challenges for both academic and industrial researchers. The evolution of software systems, to face unexpected situations or just for improving their features, relies on software engineering techniques and methodologies. Nowadays a similar approach is not applicable in all situations e.g., for evolving nonstopping systems or systems whose code is not available.

Features of reflection such as transparency, separation of concerns, and extensibility seem to be perfect tools to aid the dynamic evolution of running systems. Aspect-oriented programming can simplify code instrumentation whereas techniques that rely on meta-data can be used to inspect the system and to extract the necessary data for designing the heuristic that the reflective and aspect-oriented mechanism use for managing the evolution.

We feel the necessity to investigate the benefits brought by the use of these techniques on the evolution of object-oriented software systems. In particular we would determine how these techniques can be integrated together with more traditional approaches to evolve a system and the benefits we get from their use.

This workshop can be a good meeting-point for people working in the software evolution area, and an occasion to present reflective, aspect-oriented, and meta-data based solutions to evolutionary problems, and new ideas straddling these areas.

Workshop Topics
Every contribution that exploits reflective techniques, aspect-oriented programming and/or meta-data to evolve software systems is welcome. Specific topics of interest for the workshop include, but are not limited to:

- reflective middleware and environments for software evolution;
- adaptive software components;
- feature-oriented adaptation;
- aspect interference and composition for software evolution;
- evolution and adaptability;
- MOF, code annotations and other meta-data facilities for software evolution;
- intercession and introspection;
- software evolution tangling concerns.

To ensure lively discussion at the workshop, the organizing committee will choose the contributions on the basis of topic similarity that will permit the beginning of new collaborations. To grant an easy dissemination of the proposed ideas and to favorize an ideas interchange among the participants, accepted contributions will be made available in advance over the Web and an hardcopy of the contributions will be distributed to participants at the workshop.

Workshop Format
The workshop is a full day meeting. Part of the workshop will be devoted to contribution of papers, and part will be devoted to panels and (we hope) to interchange of ideas between participants. The workshop has to provide a discussion forum about the evolution of the sector and has to permit new cooperations to established with other researchers. The workshop will be particularly useful for young researchers who will be able to compare their ideas with other people working on the topic.

Submissions
Position papers (max 5-pages long) must be sent electronically (Postscript or PDF file) to

ramse04@dico.unimi.it

Extended version of most interesting contributions, that have benefited from the workshop discussions, will be collected as a book or as a special issue of a journal that will be published after the workshop (to be defined).

Important Dates
Submission deadline: 05 April 2004
Notification date: 26 April 2004
Workshop date: 15 June 2004