

Message from the Chairs

CSD 2015

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the (pre-workshop) proceedings of the 2nd International Workshop on Context for Software Development (CSD 2015) co-located with the 37th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2015) to be held in Florence, Italy on May 19th, 2015.

There is a great deal of context that is needed for a developer to fully understand a task, including relevant software artifacts and their change history, requirements, design specifications, dependent tasks, concurrent work, discussions and knowledge exchanges about those tasks and artifacts, and more. In fact, context in software development is multifaceted, and what information is relevant as context for a developer working on a given task is not fully understood. Developers must make use of knowledge gleaned from all of this context to make decisions, coordinate their work, understand the purpose behind their tasks, and understand how their tasks fit with the rest of the project. However, there is little research on what type of context is needed for a developer to complete a task, how we can model context around a task, and how we can use those models in software development at large.

Identifying and modeling context in software development will lay the foundation for future software engineering techniques and tools that leverage development context for better support of software developers as they manage and make use of the copious amount of context around their development tasks. Context is also important for empirical software engineering research since the software development process is dependent on many factors of the development setting and these factors are important to understanding results of research studies.

The goal of the workshop is to bring together researchers interested in developing a better understanding of the context needed for software development. At the workshop, we will discuss:

- the types of context needed to successfully complete a development task
- how to model context around a task
- techniques and tools that leverage context information around development activities for better support of software development activities

We received 10 submissions. Each submission was reviewed by at least two Program Committee members. In the case where conflicting reviews were obtained, a third review was solicited. After deliberation, six papers were accepted: four full papers (5-pages) and two short papers (2-pages).

We have planned an innovative workshop that will be structured around paper presentations, panels and round table discussions. We have already begun discussing the topics proposed in the accepted papers in online discussion threads, and we anticipate exciting discussions around the paper topics at the workshop. Our final session of the day will be left to reflect on and discuss the ideas that have emerged throughout the day and on the online discussions. During the day, we will encourage participants to contribute ideas on large notepads placed on the walls for consideration in the final discussion session.

The outcome of the workshop, along with the outcome of CSD 2014 held with FSE in November 2014, will be summarized in an editorial in a special issue of the Journal of Systems and Software (JSS). We will also encourage paper authors from both editions of the workshop to submit extended versions of their papers for inclusion in the special issue.

Finally, we would like to thank the authors for contributing their ideas to the workshop and the program committee members for dedicating their time for reviews.

Kelly Blincoe, Daniela Damian, Giuseppe Valetto and James Herbsleb

CSD 2015 Co-chairs