

Web Engineering

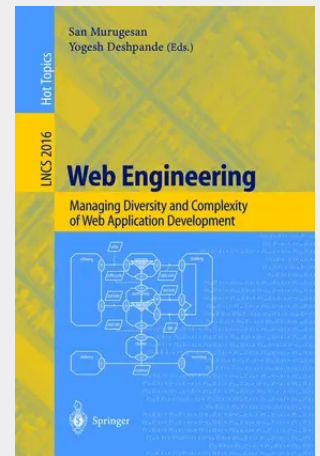
Managing Diversity and Complexity of Web Application Development

technology could do, our efforts in computerizing payroll and accounting applications in reality seemed puny and disappointing. The Web, on the other hand, did not seem shackled, in a way that early computing was, to these bureaucratic and unimaginative ways of conducting human and organizational affairs. It seemed that the organizational, spatial, and physical constraints were about to loosen, if not disappear, altogether.

And yet, when we looked around at the way Websites and applications were being developed, it seemed to us that the early pattern of haphazard development, minimal testing, and lack of attention to the maintenance issues that characterized the 'software crisis' were still very much with us. It was as though the 'new generation' insisted on making the same mistakes as its parents! This feeling of ' deja vu' led us to question the nature of Web-based and Web-related activities.

Of course, we were not alone, as we soon discovered. The result is what is being called Web Engineering which had its first introduction in a workshop at the Seventh World Wide Web (WWW7) conference in Brisbane in 1998. It has now become a series with more workshops at WWW8 (Toronto, VI Preface 1999) and WWW9 (Amsterdam, 2000), and also at the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE99) in 1999 in Los Angeles and ICSE2000 in Limerick, Ireland. Another workshop is scheduled for WWW10 in Hong Kong in May 2001. The main purpose behind these workshops has been to share and pool the collective experience of people, both academics and practitioners, who are actively working on Web-based systems. The workshops have generally consisted of keynote addresses, peer-reviewed contributed papers, and sessions of open discussions. About This Book In this volume, we provide a consolidated view of recent work, highlighting developments and advances in the area of Web Engineering. This selection of papers draws mainly from the last three workshops, held in conjunction with ICSE1999, WWW9, and ICSE2000. We also present a list of additional, useful resources on Web Engineering such as books, special issues, articles, and Websites. Our aim is to provide a book that will be a convenient and useful reference to all the researchers, practitioners, and students interested in Web application development. Web Engineering takes its inspiration from Software Engineering. At the same time, it is also an explicit acknowledgement of the multi-dimensional nature of Web applications, encompassing technical computing, information structuring, navigation and management, network performance and security, legal and social issues, graphic design, multiplicity of user profiles, and the varied operational environments. Accordingly, the papers in this volume cover perspectives on Web Engineering, navigation and adaptivity, design aspects, acceptance criteria for Web-based systems, development and management of Websites and Web-based applications, Web metrics, and case studies.

For convenience, the papers are organized in five sections: 1) Introduction and Perspectives, 2) Managing Information on the Web, 3) Web-Based Systems Development, 4) Design for Performance, Web Metrics, and Testing, and 5) Web Maintenance and Reuse. In their own ways, all the papers are forward-looking, trying to anticipate problems, creating tools, experimenting in novel ways, widening the areas of applications, and re-examining paradigms. In other words, the papers represent a shared attitude of being inclusive rather than focusing narrowly. Web Engineering is a forward-looking and collaborative discipline. The papers in this compendium, taken individually, represent only the tip of the iceberg of worldwide Web development. Together, they make a significant contribution to the evolution of a more systematic approach to Web development. The compendium has been made possible by the many people who share these views. We hope the readers will join us in these endeavors. January 2001 San Murugesan



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