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Professor Jeff Magee
Head of Department

Professor Alexander Egyed

Dear Alexander,

Re: Andrew McVeigh – Doctoral Symposium application

I would like to strongly support Andrew's application to the ASE 2006 Doctoral Symposium. Although Andrew is at the end of his first year of his PhD, his rather unusual background means that he would get a large amount out of attending the symposium as I hope to explain in the following.

Andrew has spent a substantial amount of time as a practising Software Engineer working primarily as a consultant to banks and other financial service companies. During this time, he has encountered substantial problems with component-based extension architectures, including plugin-based systems. As these systems increase in importance, it is vital that we understand how to evolve and extend them. Andrew came to Imperial College with a fairly well scoped problem and some initial ideas on solving the problem using architectural deltas as a modelling construct.

Since starting as a PhD student he has done a comprehensive survey on related work and has started to formalise his ideas using Alloy (for structural rules) and FSP (for behaviour). He had previously developed in his own time a UML2 based graphical modelling tool and he can now depict Alloy counter-examples in UML using this.

In summary, I feel he is a very talented student who is at the point where attendance at the symposium would have a very beneficial effect on the outcome of his research. I fell I can say this with some weight since I have been involved in a number of (admittedly ICSE rather than ASE) Doctoral Symposia.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Magee
Professor of Computing Science