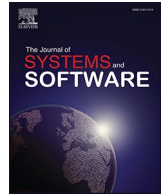


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Editorial

Dear researchers - a new column sharing the perspective of software practitioners

We frequently talk to colleagues from industry that are interested in the kind of research being published at JSS, as well as other Software Engineering journals and conferences. They even read some of these papers. However, we often get the feedback that they (or their organization in general) have different problems to solve than what those papers address. We also hear that research results, such as new tools or techniques, sound great in theory but will never work in practice because of the constraints in industrial software development.

There is a general sense in industry that academic research, while painstakingly difficult, scientifically rigorous, and very well communicated, is either not dealing with what software practitioners struggle with or simply cannot be applied. In contrast, tools and methods that are in great demand in software practice, are not in the radar of the research community. Of course, there are exceptions in both cases. But, the much debated gap between software practice and research does not seem to be closing; papers published in scientific literature rarely end up in the desks of software practitioners.

JSS would like to contribute in addressing this issue, through a new column, entitled “Dear researchers”, with messages from industry to the research community. This column will be featuring short articles from colleagues from industry where they inform the research community what really matters in industry from their perspective, and potentially

make a plea to re-frame current research in a specific domain. We understand that some of the messages and ideas conveyed in this column may be unpopular or even controversial. The intent, of course, is not to invalidate current research work. The column also does not imply that we should all start doing contract research for industry - if anything, many of us chose academia for the freedom to work on topics we love. Rather, the column aims at pushing all of us researchers out of our comfort zone and support us in thinking on how to strengthen the practical relevance of our research agenda.

We are now soliciting articles from practicing software engineers in order to transfer their hard-won practical knowledge into our academic worldview, influencing the course of scientific research for the better. We encourage those working as software engineers, or even those working in industrial research who have engaged in practical projects within the past few years, to share your knowledge. We would like to feature articles on open problems in the field, the struggles you encounter the most, and techniques and solutions that are not well-known in academia. This is your chance to influence the direction of research, making it more relevant for us all.

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