Message from the Chairs of ICPC 2018

Välkommen till Göteborg

We are delighted to welcome you to the 26th International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC 2018), collocated with the 40th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2018) in Gothenburg, Sweden!

The International Conference on Program Comprehension is the premier venue for research on program comprehension. Starting as IWPC by Václav Rajlich, it soon became a conference, and is now in its 26th edition. Program comprehension is a vital software engineering and maintenance activity, and is necessary to facilitate reuse, inspection, maintenance, reverse engineering, reengineering, migration, and extension of existing software systems. ICPC provides an opportunity for researchers and industry practitioners to present and discuss the state-of-the-art and the state-of-the-practice in program comprehension.

This year, we received 67 submissions (after desk rejections) from across the world in the research track, out of which we accepted 26. Most submissions came from China, followed by the USA and Brazil. Each of the 67 papers was thoroughly reviewed by at least three program committee members. The focus of the evaluation was the originality, importance of contribution, soundness, evaluation quality and consistency of presentation, and appropriate comparison to related work. We followed a light triple blind reviewing process where the reviewers were blinded not only about the authors of the papers but also about the other reviewers. Reviewers identities were only revealed to the program committee members when all the decisions on the papers were made, making the review process light triple blind. The program committee members were able to read and comment on the reviews for all submissions (except those for which they had a conflict) in an "open review" period facilitated by the research track program committee chairs. From the initial formal reviews and subsequent online discussions, program committee members were able to reach a clear consensus on virtually all of the submissions.

In addition to the main research track, the 2018 edition of ICPC also includes an Early Research Achievements (ERA) Track, an Industry Track, and a Tool Demonstrations Track. Although separate reviewing committees were established for these tracks, each upheld the same rigorous standards as the main research track. The ERA track features 11 papers out of 23 submitted (48%). The industry track has 3 papers out of 6 submitted (50%). And the tool demo track contains 4 papers out of 9 submitted (44%). Overall, we received submissions from 30 countries and accepted submissions from 21 countries, making ICPC 2018 a truly international conference.

This year, we are excited to conduct a shared keynote session with the 15th International Conference on Mining Software Repositories (MSR 2018). Our shared keynote speaker is Andrew J. Ko from University of Washington. The title of his talk is *Mining the Mind, Minding the Mine: Grand Challenges in Comprehension and Mining*. Our two communities have quite a bit in common, and we encourage all attendees to meet one another and discover their common ground.

We are also thrilled to have two vision keynote talks this year at ICPC. One of the speakers is Denys Poshyvanyk from the College of William and Mary, who has been also a long term contributor of the ICPC community in different capacities. The title of his talk is *The Language Dichotomy: Toward Effective Program Comprehension for Mobile App Development*. The other vision keynote talk will be given by Thomas Fritz from University of Zurich. The title of his talk is *Sensing and Supporting Software Developer's Focus*. Both speakers were asked to write a vision keynote paper as part of their talk and they have done this. There are a few co-authors of these papers.

This year's winners of the Most Influential Paper (MIP) award from the 16th IEEE International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC 2008) are Chanchal K. Roy from University of Saskatchewan and James R. Cordy from Queen's University at Kingston, for their paper titled, *NICAD: Accurate Detection of Near-Miss Intentional Clones Using Flexible Pretty-Printing and Code Normalization*. The MIP award committee was chaired by one of the Program Co-chairs of then ICPC 2008, Ralf Lämmel. Following a process comparable to previous ICPC editions and the adivices of the steering committee of ICPC. He compiled a short list of five papers based on their citations according to IEEE Xplore and Google Scholar. He also identified patents and journal papers. He also added a short tribute to each paper to help the PC members. He then contacted PC members of ICPC 2008, ICPC 2018, ICPC 2017, ICPC 2016 to vote

and reminded them after one week and waited a few more days. In the end, 35 PC members voted. 5 additional PC members did actively not vote. The winning paper drew 27 out of the 35 votes with 3 votes declaring COI.

We are pleased to announce that a selection of the best Technical Research Track papers of ICPC 2018 will be invited to be revised and extended for consideration in a special issue of the Empirical Software Engineering (EMSE) journal by Springer.

Organizing a conference like ICPC 2018 is a joint effort of many individuals functioning as an effective team. We express our strongest gratitude to the organizing and program committee members whose volunteer work and commitment have brought our conference to life. We thank the ERA Track chairs Giuseppe Scanniello and Andreas Stefik, the Industry Track chairs Hitesh Sajnani and Danilo Caivano, the Tool Demo Track chairs Federica Sarro and Raula Gaikovina Kula, the Most Influential Paper Award chair Ralf Lämmel, ICPC's Finance chair Giuliano Antoniol, Proceedings chair Shinpei Hayashi, Web and Publicity chairs Masud Rahman and Johannes Hofmeister and our Social Media chair Aiko Yamashita. We also thank the MSR 2018 organizers, Andy Zaidman, Yasutaka Kamei, and Emily Hill, for coordinating and planning our joint sessions. We are grateful for our sponsors: ACM SIGSOFT, IEEE-CS TCSE, and Polytechnique Montreal, for necessary financial or technical support. Finally, we are grateful to all the authors who submitted high quality work and all the participants who joined the technical and social programs.

We hope that you will have a productive and pleasurable time at ICPC 2018!

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