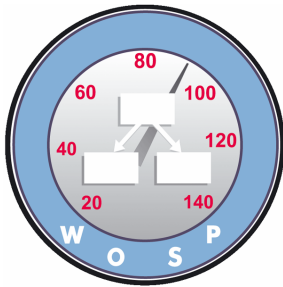


The Mission and History of WOSP: Workshop on Software and Performance



Software architecture, design and configuration involve many decisions that determine the performance delivered to users. To understand and resolve performance issues requires a combination of two rather different disciplines, one for software engineering and design, and the other for performance modeling and analysis. The purpose of WOSP is to create an exchange of ideas, languages and models between these disciplines.

This is the eighth WOSP as well as the first collaboration with SPEC/SIPEW. WOSP originated from researcher concerns with the difficulty of connecting the world-views of software developers and performance researchers. To address this connection, the first meeting in 1998 identified a goal to annotate software specifications in a standard way, leading to present standard UML profiles for performance annotations, and many projects to exploit them. So, we can say the vision has been fruitful (in this and also in other ways).

According to its constitution adopted in 1995, “The focus of WOSP is on the development of theory, sound methods, software tools, and a body of exemplary material to guide practitioners who need to evaluate software architectures, designs and products” and “Performance is broadly interpreted to include any quantitative measure of quality of behaviour of a software system and particularly includes reliability, security availability, etc.”

The scope of WOSP is work which addresses problems that combine some aspect of software with some aspect of performance. Examples of aspects of software are process, requirements, architecture, design, configuration, deployment. Examples of aspects of performance are measures, building and applying models, transformations involving models and performance, performance testing, scalability. Scope also includes techniques, methodology, tools, processes, case studies, and success stories within these aspects.

WOSP is a hybrid of a conference and a workshop. It has a full proceedings like a conference, but it also has “working sessions” for open discussion of issues, like a workshop. The concept is to combine formal research presentations with extensive discussion, both during the presentation sessions and in special sessions focused on particular issues. The formal presentations will establish the research frontier in many aspects of the field, and the discussions will let us further describe where that frontier is, and what we should do to improve the situation.

From its inception, WOSP has strived to bring together both researchers and practitioners from software and performance communities. This first joint meeting extends the community to include SPEC and SIPEW interests. We welcome the opportunity to broaden the scope of measurement-related concerns in the joint meeting.

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