

ARTES++ Travel report
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11th International

Software Product Line Conference (SPLC 2007)

Sept. 10-14, 2007, Kyoto, Japan



In brief

The main purpose of the conference was to present the paper “Coping with Variability in Automotive Product line Architectures Using Real Options” and to gain knowledge in the concept of software product lines. A software product line (SPL) is a set of software-intensive systems sharing a common, managed set of features that satisfy the specific needs of a particular market segment and that are developed from a common set of core assets in a prescribed way. This was the theme of the conference, which was discussed during one week at the Kyoto Research Park just outside Kyoto.

The conference

The visitors of the conference were a mixture of people from academia and Industry, even though most academic visitors had a strong industry coupling. Companies such as IBM, RICOH, Toshiba, NEC, Omron, Phillips and Mitsubishi had a strong presence; the automotive industry was represented by Bosch, Cummins and Scania. The author visited two tutorials, an introduction to SPL and one on the theme how to predict product line payoff with the method SIMPLE (see reference section). They were both very interesting, even if the SIMPLE method leaves a lot of open issues it is a good start. The paper was presented during the workshop “managing variability for software product lines” and was well received with interesting questions asked. During offline discussion it turned out that both SEI and Phillips medical are pursuing in the same research track and will publish a paper during SPLC2008.

Personal comments

The conference suited my field of interest very well and because of its small size (250persons) it provided an open atmosphere. I also believe the mix of industry with similar problem was very fascinating and stimulating.

References on the topic

Conference website:

<http://sec.ipa.go.jp/SPLC2007/>

<http://www.lero.ie/SPLC2008>

Introduction to product lines

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/productlines/>

Tutorial to product lines similar to the one made by Linda Northrop at SPLC2007:

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/productlines/SPLKeynote.pdf>

The simple website

<https://simple.sei.cmu.edu/>

Automotive project

<http://www.esk.fraunhofer.de/projekte/automotive/mobilSoft2007.jsp>