

Travel Report from ICSE 2004

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This year, the ancient Scottish city of Edinburgh hosted the **ICSE** conference from 23rd to 28th May. ICSE is one of the largest and most prestigious conferences within the area of software engineering. I and two colleagues presented a paper at the 7th international Symposium on Component-Based Software Engineering (CBSE) which was held in conjunction with the ICSE conference. ICSE is a very large conference with almost 1000 participants, more than 70 papers on the main conference, six adjunct and co-located events and almost 20 workshops and nine tutorials. During the conference there are also many industrial sessions and events.

It was very exciting to participate in the conference and even more exciting to have a paper accepted in one of the co-located events. CBSE7 was a two day event with 25 papers and about 70 participants. As usual the symposium was very discussion oriented, and many of the senior researchers within the community participated in the discussions. One of the hot discussions of this year was regarding component composition. The symposium featured two invited talks. The first speech was by Oscar Nierstrasz, University of Bern, who talked about continuing change and increasing complexity of modern software. The second talk was by Hans Jonkers, Philips Research in Eindhoven, who talked about component interfaces.

The invited keynote speakers of the conference were also overall quite good; one of them however, made a special impact on me as well as many others. This one, special keynote speaker, was Richard Stallman, the founder of the Free Software Foundation. Stallman is also widely known as the author of EMACS, and the GNU system. Stallman was talking about the negative impact of software patents for small businesses, and that the only ones that really gain from patents are the larger companies.

The most interesting part of the conference was, as usually, to meet and talk to fellow researchers. One of the discussions lead to a cooperation on a paper with a professor at an Australian university.

Edinburgh is a very charming town with many small pubs and restaurants. The building style is old-fashioned and somewhat picturesque. The food in scotland is quite british, and so is the beers. Edinburgh has a lot to offer in terms of historical buildings and monuments. The most obvious monuments are the castle and the scotts monument, both located in the very center of the city. Edinburgh is well worth a few days of extra stay. And I suggest visiting the castle of Edinburgh.

