

MAKING SOFTWARE QUALITY MEASURABLE

Second "COMPARC Fokustag" introduces a framework for technical quality in software development

What aspects of software quality are really important in software development?

What can be accomplished by tools for the determination and evaluation of software like the CAST Application Intelligence Platform?

Questions like these were discussed by experts from science and business at the second "COMPARC-Fokustag" on May 18, 2009 at the Fraunhofer Institute for Software and Systems Engineering ISST in Dortmund.

Tim Rädisch, research associate at the Fraunhofer ISST, started his presentation

"Statische Quellcodeanalyse" (Static Source Code Analysis) with some famous bugs (from space travel to telecommunication to politics) and their consequences. Then he illustrated the essential factors for software quality. These factors are the consistency, integrity, maintainability, dependability and security of the software. Static Source Code Analysis can verify these quality factors during an analysis of the source code, to result into early defect detection that can already start during development of a software system. During the analysis, metrics are created which describe the attributes of software and in this way show the degree of performance of a quality attribute from a software entity.

Marcus Müller, Director Central Europe CAST GmbH, explained in his presentation "Qualitative und quantitative Kennzahlen zur Steuerung des Application Management" (Quality and Quantity Metrics for Application Management) first of all the importance of measuring quality by the use of metrics for software companies. He sees the essential advantages in an improvement of the software development, cost reduction, more information and transparency. In his opinion making company goals measurable is the most important requirement for Software Quality KPI's (Key Performance Indicators). The right choice of indicators for the software development process has to produce faster results, less cost, reduced risk and long term gains as well as a lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

Following Marcus Müller's presentation, Ralf Elsner, Technical Manager Central Europe CAST GmbH, did a live demo of the CAST Application Intelligence Platform. He especially pointed out the different roles, indicated by the system. These roles guarantee a perfect picture of the software quality from different perspectives, in every phase of the software lifecycle and thereby describe the quality of the software development process itself.

The last presentation "Mangelhafte Software und Recht – Ein Praxisbericht" (Bad Software and Law – a praxis report) was held by Dr. Jürgen Apel, lawyer. He described the legal framework that has to be respected while developing software. The participants of this event gained a good impression of the most important developments in the area of Software Quality.

About Fraunhofer IIST:

The Fraunhofer Institute for Software und Systems Engineering ISST – based in Berlin and Dortmund – develops standards, architectures and concepts that enable the development of reliable complex systems based on innovative information and communication technology with a special focus on the six business units: eHealthcare, Ambient Assisted Living, eGovernment, Enterprise Architectures, Embedded Systems Engineering and Location- & Situation-based Services. The main areas of research are »Continuous Software Engineering« and "Information Logistics". The objective is, on the one hand, to assure the longevity and flexibility of complex systems, and on the other hand, to develop information offers adjusted to the needs of the system users. In 2007 the "Competence Center for Architectures and Processes COMPARC" was founded to concentrate expertise, methods and tools for the development of architectures and processes.

The Fraunhofer ISST regards itself as a mediator between science and industry: Results from their basic research are immediately implemented into industrial projects and at the same time experiences made at the institute are used for education and research. The institute was founded in 1992 and is led by Prof. Dr. Jakob Rehof, a total of 150 employees work at the two locations. (Last update: 2008)

Media Contact

Fraunhofer-Institut für Software- und Systemtechnik ISST

Britta Schmitz

Leiterin der Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

Emil-Figge-Straße 91, 44227 Dortmund, Germany

Telefon: +49 (0) 231 / 9 76 77-1 60

<mailto:britta.schmitz@isst.fraunhofer.de>

www.isst.fraunhofer.de

CAST Headquarters
North America : +1 212-871-8330
Corporate & Europe: +33 1 46 90 21 00

CAST Press Contact:
Chuck Kabat or Joe Palladino
cast@schwartz-pr.com
Phone: +1 781-684-0770

CAST Press Contact (EMEA):
Caroline Vasseur
c.vasseur@castsoftware.com
Phone: +33 1 46 90 21 00

About CAST

CAST is the world leader and pioneer in Application Intelligence software, providing the metrics and information IT executives must have to measure, monitor and improve the internal quality of business applications and the performance of development teams around the globe. Founded in 1990, CAST has helped more than 650 organizations worldwide speed delivery to the business, mitigate risks in production, improve customer experience, and reduce the total cost of application ownership. CAST is listed on NYSE-Euronext (Euronext: CAS) and serves Global 2000 organizations worldwide with a global network of offices in the US and Europe. For more information visit www.castsoftware.com

CAST Headquarters
North America : +1 212-871-8330
Corporate & Europe: +33 1 46 90 21 00

CAST Press Contact:
Chuck Kabat or Joe Palladino
cast@schwartz-pr.com
Phone: +1 781-684-0770

CAST Press Contact (EMEA):
Caroline Vasseur
c.vasseur@castsoftware.com
Phone: +33 1 46 90 21 00