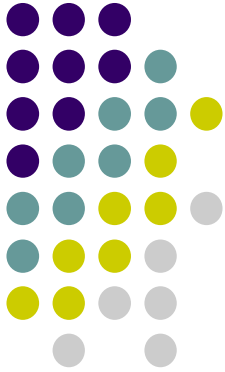




Global Software Development



The State of the Practice — Lero Industry Event

May 11th, 09:00-13:00

Enterprise Ireland, The Plaza,
East Point Business Park

Dublin 3

[www.lero.ie/Events/Upcoming Events](http://www.lero.ie/Events/Upcoming%20Events)





Global Software Development

Programme of Events

9:00: Coffee

9:30: Welcome / Introduction to Lero

9:45: Presentations of recent research in global software development

Global Software Development – the Regulated View!

- Dr Ita Richardson

Abstract

The Lero GSD for SMEs (Global Software Development for Small to Medium sized Enterprises) research group has shown that global software development is not easy, and many companies are struggling with its successful implementation, due to temporal, cultural and geographical distance, which in turn cause a range of factors to come into play. Another topic of our research has been the regulated industry and how the processes required for certification need to be modified for software development. Medical device software suppliers have to consider the regulated environment and, due to competitiveness and cost factors, often consider whether they can globalise their software development. This requires process improvement which combines software standards, regulated industry requirements and implementation of global software development.

This talk discusses results from relevant research projects carried out within Lero and presents a proposal as to how regulated industries need to consider applying standards if they are to be successful in developing software in a global environment.

Biography

Dr. Ita Richardson is currently Research Area Leader for the Practice, Process and Methods research area within Lero – the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre and a Senior Lecturer within the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at the University of Limerick. Her research focuses on Software Process Improvement particularly within small to medium sized enterprises. She is also interested in the implementation of software processes within medical device companies and where companies are carrying out global software development. Dr. Richardson leads a number of projects within Lero, including Lero's contribution to S-Cube (Software Services and Systems), a European Union Network of Excellence Framework 7 project. In June of this year she will be the keynote speaker at the Brazilian Software Quality Conference (SBQS 2009). She is also General Chair of the International Conference on Global Software Engineering which will be held in the University of Limerick in July 2009.



THE IRISH SOFTWARE
ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE

Global Software Development

10:30:

The Role of Socialisation, Informal Communication and Cross-cultural Mediation in Global Software Engineering

- Dr Gabriela Avram

Abstract

In our studies, we approached software development as a human, social and organizational activity as well as a technical one. We embraced a work-practices perspective in understanding human actors in specific settings in software engineering.

From this perspective, many of the major problems encountered are not so much technological as sociological in nature. The companies involved in GSD need to learn how to deal with breakdowns and to provide appropriate support. In coordinating multiple teams and technologies, there is a strong need for flexibility; local, situated practices have a strong impact on global collaboration. Social networks and informal communication, if appropriately supported, can play a major role in helping companies to cope with the challenges of distributed work.

Working across different cultures adds yet another dimension to distributed collaboration. False expectations often arise from a lack of awareness and from projecting the local perspective on remote peers. Cultural stereotypes used in cross-cultural training can be useful when learning about a new culture, but can endanger relationships between team members who most of the times do not get the chance to meet in person.

Our recently concluded study set to identify current practices in GSE and suggest appropriate ways of supporting distributed collaboration. Making work practices visible enabled us to explore a whole range of social, organisational and technical solutions that will be addressed in our talk.

Biography

Between 2005 and 2008 Dr. Gabriela Avram has worked as a research fellow at the Interaction Design Centre, University of Limerick, on a Lero Cluster project focusing on cultural, organisational and social aspects of globally distributed software development. Her work explored collaborative work practices in this context, employing ethnographically-informed methods. Coming from a Software Engineering background, Gabriela's area of expertise also includes Knowledge Management, eLearning, Enterprise Social Software and Online Facilitation.

Gabriela is involved in the organisation of the International Conference on Global Software Engineering 2009 to be hosted by the University of Limerick in July of this year.

11:00: Tea/Coffee

11:45: Keynote Address

Smart Outsourcing – Small and Agile Teams

- Vikas Sahni, SoftEdge Systems

Abstract

There is a common misconception that outsourcing of small software development projects does not work. Another belief is that agile methodologies are not amenable to outsourcing. Indigenous software companies typically have 2 to 10 developers, are focussed on developing products, and use agile processes. Therefore, most Irish companies think that they cannot benefit from outsourcing.

This talk will first briefly cover the history of software outsourcing over the past fifteen years, and then focus on how to outsource work that requires small teams. Contrary to conventional thinking, agile methodologies are more suitable to outsourcing when the work requires 2 to 5 developers. This has been implemented successfully by a number of companies during the past three years, with teams as small as two people working on a weekly build basis.

The talk will also cover the differences between in-sourcing and outsourcing, and near-shore and far-shore. The theme will again be what is relevant in the Irish context, small and agile teams, and draw upon firsthand experience.

Biography

Vikas is a versatile technical consultant with 23 years experience and has been in Dublin for the past 10 years. His knowledge and experience ranges from products to projects, from .net to IBM Mainframe Assembler. He has been involved in full lifecycle Product development, Outsourcing, Quality and Processes.

He started off his career teaching at third-level for a number of years. While teaching, he also provided consultancy to some of the earliest software outsourcing providers in India. Over the years, he gradually shifted from academia to industry and from hardware to software.

13:00: Close

For more details contact:

Jack Downey
Industry Liaison

Tel: +353 61 213072
Fax: +353 61 213036
Email: jack.downey@lero.ie

Lero @ UL
International Science Centre
University of Limerick
Ireland

Email: info@lero.ie
Website: www.lero.ie