

Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

In this last issue of 2004 we publish two papers selected by our guest-editors Julio Cesar Leite and Shari Lawrence Pfleeger for the special issue on time constrained processes for software engineering. The first paper, by Goldman, Kon, Silva, and Yoder, presents effective ways of teaching students and professionals on how to develop high-quality software following the principles of agile software development. They also discuss related work on this subject, describe real-world cases, and discuss open problems not yet resolved. The second paper, by A. Sampaio, Vasconcelos, and P. Sampaio, presents an agile method for Web-based application development and an experiment conducted with a group of forty senior undergraduate students to assess the quality and speed effectiveness of this method and compare it with the effectiveness of the Extreme Programming (XP) method.

The third paper, by Sant'Anna, Garcia, Kulesza, Lucena, and von Staa, was chosen as the best paper of the 2004 Brazilian Symposium on Software Engineering (SBES04). It presents a quantitative study that compares aspect-based and object-oriented solutions for a representative set of design patterns. They have used stringent software engineering attributes as the assessment criteria and found that most aspect-oriented solutions improve separation of pattern-related concerns, although some specific aspect-oriented implementations of specific patterns resulted in higher coupling and more lines of code.

The fourth and fifth papers have been submitted to the JBCS and recommended for publication by Dr. Azzedine Boukerch, who handled their review process. The paper by Cavalli, Mederreg, and Zaidi presents the application of a comprehensive, formal testing method to protocols and services for wireless telephony networks. They focus on telecommunications and mobility applications and present two case studies to illustrate the method's use. The paper by A. Melo, Walter, Santana, and Batista propose and evaluate a parallelization strategy for implementing a sequence alignment algorithm for long sequences. This strategy has been implemented in JIAJIA, a scope consistent Distributed Shared Memory System and the results on an eight-machine cluster showed good speedups.

I would like to finish this letter expressing my thanks to the many anonymous reviewers that dedicated their time to the Journal of the Brazilian Computer Society this year and to the invited editors who helped us to prepared this issue, as well as to the program committee of the SBES04.

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