CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

FIW'00

Sixth International Workshop on Feature Interactions in Telecommunications and Software Systems

17th May to 19th May, 2000
Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

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organised by

University of Glasgow
University of Strathclyde

with financial support of

FORCES Network, UK
High Definition Systems AB, Sweden
KPN Research, The Netherlands
Telcordia, USA

The Feature Interaction Workshop is the primary international forum for discussion and reporting on the Feature Interaction problem. Being a workshop the forum is more than simply conference presentations. The workshop includes:

- Invited speakers
- Presentations
- Posters
- Feature Interaction Contest
- Focussed workshop discussions

FIW'00 is the sixth in a series of workshops addressing the issue of feature interactions. The workshop aims to bring together representatives of both the Telecommunications industry and the research community; working on various aspects of feature interactions in order to discuss possible solutions and their practical applications, as well as setting directions for further research. Active debates will be encouraged; workshop speakers and contest participants are presenting a poster as well. Tool demonstrations are also warmly welcomed.

The Feature Interaction problem
Feature interaction occurs when one telecommunications feature modifies or subverts the operation of another one. This phenomenon is not unique to the domain of telecommunications systems, but can also occur in any large and distributed software system that is subject to continuous changes. Growing competition and the increasing number of stakeholders in the telecommunications markets put more and more pressure on service providers to rapidly introduce new services without compromising their quality. Undesired interactions can both lower this quality and delay service provisioning. Therefore, the problem of feature interactions in telecommunications and other software systems is of great importance. In recent years, a lot of attention has been devoted to the development of methods for detection and resolution of feature interactions. However, the problem remains very complex, and this complexity is only expected to grow in the future with the provisioning of new broadband, multimedia and mobility services, and with the introduction of more advances service architectures.

Workshop History

FIW'92 St. Petersburg, Florida, USA.
FIW'94 Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
FIW'95 Kyoto, Japan.
FIW'97 Montreal, Canada.
FIW'98 Lund, Sweden.

Posters

To stimulate discussion amongst participants, authors and contest entrants will display a poster at the workshop. Participants (not presenting a paper) may also display a poster. The poster format is unconstrained (typically A2 size), but they should give a "flavour" of the research, or the number and nature of interactions found (in the case of a contest entry).

The Feature Interaction Detection Contest

The workshop will continue the tradition of a feature interaction detection contest (established at the 5th workshop), with the goal of providing a simple comparison of different automated tools for feature interaction detection. The results of the participants and the winner of the contest will be announced at the workshop in a special session.

Workshop Location

Located on the banks of the River Clyde, Glasgow is Scotland's largest city. The city had its beginnings in a monk's cell when St Mungo founded a religious community in the sixth century. With historical references to "the dear green place" easily forgotten with Glasgow's industrial past, Glasgow has now reinvented itself. Boasting all the benefits and attractions of a major cosmopolitan city, it has art galleries and exhibitions, opera, dance, theatre, cinema, clubs and music concerts to suit all tastes. It is also renowned as a shopping centre, with some of the world's most innovative designers choosing to open outlets here. The URL http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/ has more information on the city.

The Workshop will be held in the Teachers Building in Glasgow. The former headquarters of Teacher's Whisky has been refurbished to form a regional centre for the Institute of Electrical Engineers -- testimony that Scotland largest export is no longer whisky but Personal Computers! The centre is located in the centre of the city adjacent to railway and underground termini. URL http://www.iee.org.uk/SEC/building.htm has more information, with maps and transport details. Block bookings have been made at a selection of nearby hotels; details will be made available nearer the workshop.

The workshop dinner will be to the north of the city in a castle surrounded by the Campsie Fells. Of course this would be incomplete without a visit to the local distillery on the way! The trip will include a visit to the Glengoyne Distillery. To build up a thirst try visiting URL http://www.glengoynedistillery.co.uk.

Contacts

All queries to the Organising Committee should be sent to: FIW00@eee.strath.ac.uk

Workshop Co-Chairs

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Internet Access

The web page for the Workshop is available at: http://www.comms.eee.strath.ac.uk/~fi/fiw00

Preliminary Programme

Tuesday, 16th May 2000

16:00 – 19:00 Workshop Registration

Wednesday, 17th May 2000

08:00 Workshop Registration

08:30 Workshop Opening

08:45 Invited Talk by Greg Utas, Nortel
An Industrial point of view on Feature Interaction Handling (final title to be announced)

09:30 Paper Session: Emerging Architectures I

Mario Kolberg and Kristofer Kimbler:
Service Interaction Management for Distributed Services in a Deregulated Market Environment

Jonathan Lennox and Henning Schulzrinne
Feature Interaction in Internet Telephony

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Paper Session: Emerging Architecture II

Pamela Zave and Michael Jackson
New Feature Interactions in Mobile and Multimedia Telecommunications Services

Robert J. Hall
Feature Interactions in Electronic Mail

Lynne Blair and Jianxiong Pang
Feature Interactions -- Life beyond Traditional Telephony

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Paper Session: Online Approaches

Magdi Amer, Ahmed Karmouch, Tom Gray and Serge Mankovskii
Feature Interaction Resolution Using Fuzzy Policies

Stephan Reiff
Identifying Resolution Choices for an Online Feature Manager

14:30 Mini Workshop Session:

Feature Interaction: Industrial Viewpoints
Chair: Dave Marples, Telcordia

16:00 Contest Awards and Evaluation

Chair: Evan H. Magill

18:00 Reception at the Glasgow City Chambers

Thursday, 18th May 2000

08:30 Coffee

08:45 Invited Talk by Luigi Logrippo, University of Ottawa, Canada
Immaturity and Potential of Formal Methods

09:30 Paper Session: Off-line / Formal Methods I

Malte Plath and Mark Ryan
The feature construct for SMV: Semantics

Bengt Jonsson, Tiziana Margaria, Gustaf Naeser, Jan Nystrom and Bernhard Steffen
Incremental Requirement Specification for Evolving Systems

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Paper Session: Off-line / Formal Methods II

Masahide Nakamura, Tohru Kikuno, Jameleddine Hassine and Luigi Logrippo
Feature Interaction Filtering with Use Case Maps at Requirements Stage

Amy P. Felty and Kedar S. Namjoshi
Feature Specification and Automatic Conflict Detection

Paul Gibson, Geoff Hamilton and Dominique Mery
A Taxonomy for Triggered Interactions using Fair Object Semantics

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Mini Workshop Session

Feature Interaction: Academic Viewpoints
Chair: TBA

16:00 Distillery Visit and Workshop Dinner

Friday, 19th May 2000

08:30 Coffee

08:45 Invited Talk by Kristofer Kimbler, High Definition Systems AB, Sweden
Service Interaction in Next Generation Networks: Challenges and Opportunities

09:30 Paper Session: Off-line / Formal Methods III

Rafael Accorsi, Carlos Areces, Wiet Bouma and Maarten de Rijke
Features as Constraints

Ahmed Khoumsi and Rodolpho Bevelo
A Detection Method developed after a thorough study of the contest held in 1998

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Paper Session: Software Engineering Approaches

Ken Turner
Formalising the Chisel Feature Notation

Jan Bredereke
Families of Formal Requirements in Telephone Switching

D. Amyot, L. Charfi, N. Gorse, T. Gray, L. Logrippo, J. Sincennes, B. Stepien and T. Ware
Feature Description and Feature Interaction Analysis with Use Case Maps and Lotos

12:30 Workshop Close

13:00 Lunch