

EDITORIAL PREFACE

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The fourth issue of the fourth volume comprises five articles, selected after a careful review process, and is organized as follows.

In the first article, Zwattendorfer and Tauber discuss the cloud computing advantages for the public sector and governments. Authors explain that various countries have already adapted their IT strategies to support cloud computing for their governmental and public services. However, within the public sector the private cloud model currently constitutes the dominant deployed approach. Although this model offers high control it does not take full advantage of the economic benefits of cloud computing. Following an evaluation of different cloud models and comparison with different national cloud computing strategies authors propose the use of public clouds due to their cost savings potential.

In the second article, Bourguin et al, focus on the challenges related to tailorability and dynamic components integration over the Internet. Authors suggest that it would be helpful for users to take benefit of the experience of other users and thus, their work aims at enhancing current software ecosystems to support this sharing of experience. Within this context, authors used ShareXP, an Eclipse feature that allows members of a group to share their expertise, this expertise being embodied in the “compositions” each of them has built. The approach is

seen as a step to enhance not only the Eclipse ecosystem, but software ecosystems in general.

In the third article, Silva et al, present a collaborative IT strategic plan model for the government sector. In particular, the proposed Information Technology Strategic Plan (ITSP) aims at discovering the resources and IT in an organization, to direct the technological and information architecture to its strategic objectives. The proposed ITSP is contextualized with the Brazilian Government that is has issued a Normative Instruction (NI04) for public organizations to develop IT Strategic Plans so that they can purchase products and services. In order to help organizations develop, control and manage their ITSPs, a model was created that defines a set of auxiliary steps in the construction of the ITSP. Throughout this article authors present an ITSP development and management model, its evaluation, and our conclusions.

In the fourth paper Dąbrowski presents a collaborative web-based system for knowledge transfer to distributed groups of users within strategic noise mapping domain. Authors are based on Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC) that obliges competent authorities to prepare strategic noise maps (SNM) and actions plans (AP) for the major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Both SNM and AP have to be updated every five years, that

is why procedures of creating, using and administering of SNM and AP can be considered as constant processes. These processes are very complex and require specialized knowledge and practical skills which is hard to find. Authors developed a relevant system which testing with users demonstrate their satisfaction.

In the last paper Nagni and Ventouras explain that geographic datasets are increasingly being shared, exchanged and frequently re-purposed for uses beyond their original intended use. Being part of the ISO 19100, the Geography Markup Language (GML) defines the rules a data model described using the Unified Modeling Language (UML) has to follow in order to generate from it an XSD schema.

This paper does not address the “how to store an GML complaint document in an RDBM” but “how to realize an RDBM from an ISO 19100 complaint UML data model” and within this context, it describes the experience and the lessons learnt.

The editor wishes to thank the authors for their contribution to this issue and the reviewers for their useful suggestions and feedback to the authors. I wish readers found this issue useful in their research and academic activity.

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