

Third Workshop on Domain Engineering (DE@ER 2010)

Preface

Domain Engineering is relevant to various fields in software and systems development, such as conceptual modeling, software product line engineering, domain-specific languages engineering, and so on. It deals with identifying, modeling, constructing, cataloging, and disseminating artifacts that represent the commonalities and differences within a domain, as well as with providing mechanisms, techniques, and tools to reuse and validate these artifacts in the development of particular systems. The aims of most up-and-coming methods and techniques in the area of domain engineering are to help reduce time-to-market, development cost, and projects risks on one hand, and help improve systems quality and performance on a consistent basis on the other hand.

As an interdisciplinary area, domain engineering deals with various topics such as conceptual foundations, semantics of domains, development and management of domain assets, lifecycle support, variability management, and consistency validation. The purpose of this series of workshops is to bring together researchers and practitioners in the area of domain engineering in order to identify possible points of synergy, common problems and solutions, and visions for the future of the area.

In the workshop, three papers were presented, dealing with evaluation of Domain-Specific Modelling solutions, representation of business domain knowledge and development artifacts, and specification of data properties. In addition, a panel discussing guidelines for designing Domain-Specific Modeling Languages (DSML) was led by Prof. Ulrich Frank, from the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. In that panel the challenges related to the boundaries between a DSML and its models as well as to the question how specific a DSML should be, were discussed. Furthermore, analyzing the ontological, linguistic and epistemological aspects, we listed a set of criteria to guide the design and evaluation of DSMLs from various perspectives.

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