Travel report from the 6th IFIP 8.1 Working Conference on the Practice of Enterprise Modeling (PoEM)

November 2013 in Riga, Latvia
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Introduction
PoEM is a working conference focusing on enterprise architecture, enterprise modeling, business process modeling, and information systems modeling as tools for agility, flexibility, change management, transformation, requirements management, and software development. One key feature of the conference is the closeness to practice. All (most) papers presented are rather practical and most use cases to illustrate their results.

Statistics
PoEM attracted 80 submissions and accepted 19 as regular research papers (acceptance rate < 24%) and another 20 as short or practitioner papers.

18 countries were represented with Latvia (16%), Germany (16%), and Sweden (11%) in the top with most submission.

My activities
I presented two papers and chaired one session.

My first presentation was on an accepted short paper called Software Migration Project Cost Estimation using COCOMO II and Enterprise Architecture Modeling, which I wrote together with Matus Korman and our master thesis student Alexander Hjalmarsson. The presentation went well and I had about 20 people attending. Some questions I got were: Are companies ready for EA analysis, are they mature enough in EA? Is this cost estimation method using EA cost efficient?

My second presentation was on an accepted regular research (long) paper called Visualizing and Measuring Enterprise Architecture: An Exploratory BioPharma Case, which I wrote together with Carliss Baldwin & Alan MacCormack at Harvard Business School and David
Dreyfus from Boston University. The presentation took place in the main lecture hall and I had somewhat 30 attendants and I felt that the presentation went extremely well. People seemed interested and listened carefully. I also got very good questions. We did not have time to continue our discussion at the session but continued over lunch.

I also chaired a short and practitioner paper session called Compliance in Enterprise Modeling.

Other interesting presentations

Embracing Imperfection in Enterprise Architecture Models by Hector Florez, Mario Sanchez, and Jorge Villalobos. In this paper the authors aim at managing the fact that the information in models is often uncertain. Sounds familiar? They discuss aspects regarding the fact that information in models can be uncertain such as imprecise source, inconsistent sources et cetera. However I find our way (and ideas) to approach this issue more advanced and in the end more reliable. For those interested, the paper can however be a source of related work and it might provide some input for future work ideas.

Connecting the Dots: Examining Visualization Techniques for Enterprise Architecture Model Analysis by David Naranjo, Mario Sanchez, and Jorge Villalobos (presented by Hector Florez). Structural analysis of EA with the goal to support decision-making, sounds familiar? Again, this group touches upon the same topics as us. The main difference is that they do not focus on a specific analysis like security, but rather say that decision-makers might not know what analysis to ask for. The proposed approach instead looks at a complete EA model to find interesting question marks. The authors process enterprise models with common graph algorithms like search paths and identify clusters. Since we approach a similar domain but with different focus, this paper can be interesting, especially if we are looking for new types of visualizations for EAAT.

An Empirical Evaluation of Design Decision Concepts in Enterprise Architecture by G. Plataniotis, S. de Kinderen, D. van der Linden, D. Greefhorst, and H. Proper. The lack of design rationale causes a number of problems like; no justification of past decisions, limited understandability of existing architecture, and limited traceability to business requirements. The proposed EA anamnesis approach aims at reducing the architectural knowledge gap by ex-post capturing decisions and their rationales. They presented their approach by using a case modeled with ArchiMate.

Challenges of EA Methodologies Facing Progressive Decentralization in Modern Organizations by Irina Rychkova, Jelena Zdravkovic (Stockholm University), and Thomas Speckert (master student at SU). This paper relates Enterprise Architecture, IT governance, and organizational theory, and how these concepts interact and provide challenges for the future enterprise.

Evaluating Data Quality for Integration of Data Sources by John Krogstie. Builds on his earlier work on evaluation of data quality using the SEQUAL framework. The SEQUAL framework handles goals of modeling, modeling domains, model externalization, social actors, language extensions, language interpretations et cetera. John uses SEQUAL to evaluate different tools for data management like Excel and PLM, to see what kind of data quality (physical, empirical, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, social) issues these tools influence.

People

Jelena Zdravkovic (Stockholm University)
Summary

Priceliness: 4/5, usually not that costly. This year - flight to Riga (2000 SEK), conference fee (3000 SEK), and hotel (three nights, 1200 SEK).

Impact: 2/5, accepted papers are published in Springer Lecture Notes on Business Modeling.

Networking: 3/5, some of our EA friends are there and the new acquaintances do research somewhat similar to us.

Overall (worth visiting again): 3/5, not too expensive with EA networking possibilities, both researchers and practitioners, and an ok publication outlet.