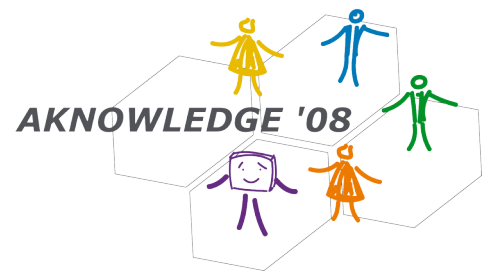


Call for Contributions: Workshop “Agile Knowledge Sharing for Distributed Software Teams” In Conjunction with SE08 in Munich



MOTIVATION

The increasing number of distributed software development projects – in particular in the Open Source field, as well as the success of agile development methodologies raise new challenges for collaboration and knowledge sharing for software teams:

- Distributed development hinders knowledge sharing because of reduced communication bandwidth. Despite progress in communication technology, distributed teams have less context information and encounter more awareness difficulties. Research has shown that distributed teams are less efficient than collocated ones [1, 2].
- Agile methodologies embrace tight collaboration and informal communication, manifesting in practices such as frequent Scrum meetings or pair programming. These practices dismiss “unnecessary” formal overhead like extensive documentation.

Traditional centralized knowledge management solutions fail to address these challenges. They require large upfront configuration and investment as well as stable, long-term environments. However, in dynamic software projects, developers avoid spending extra effort for following formal and extensive knowledge management policies. Knowledge Management methods and tools have to adapt themselves with the current development practices.

In this workshop we will explore enablers of new, agile approaches for coordination and knowledge sharing in distributed teams. Major topics addressed at the workshop are (but not limited to):

- Lightweight and unobtrusive tools for knowledge capture and sharing in distributed teams.
- Methods for supporting knowledge sharing in agile and/or distributed development teams.
- Observation tools and frameworks for context awareness.
- Tools for intelligent developer assistance, such as search and recommendation tools.
- Empirical studies of developers’ collaboration and information behaviour.
- Scientific analysis of the relation between agile processes and knowledge management (e.g. which activities in agile processes enable knowledge capture and sharing).

GOALS

Despite of the practical relevance, current research around these topics is fragmented. Various disciplines and communities, such as the Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge Management and Software Engineering ones, have overlapping interests. However proposed approaches are mostly undertaken from only one perspective. Moreover, different research methods such as empirical, process-oriented or tool-oriented ones, lead to unrelated, partial and sometimes even contradictory results.

In this workshop, we aim at bringing together practitioners and researchers from various disciplines and backgrounds. Thereby, one major goal is to establish a community around the crosscutting topic of Agile Knowledge Sharing in Distributed Software Teams.

In addition to the workshop, we will launch a community portal at the beginning of 2008. (www.aknowledge.org)

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The workshop should last for one day and consist of two slots: an introductory slot fading over to a discussion and roadmapping.

After a short opening session, a keynote presentation will be given by a representative from a multi-site software development company. After that, contributors from research present their position papers. The industrial organizations present their needs, requirements, and expectations from the community.

During the second slot, main topics will be discussed in the auditorium with the focus on bridging and integrating the different research perspectives. In a final wrap up session, a roadmap for future research efforts will be identified.

SUBMISSION

Position, tool-demonstration and experience papers (max 5 pages) are equally welcome for the workshop. They can be submitted at www.aknowledge.org. Accepted contributions will be published in the GI-Edition „Lecture Notes in Informatics“.

Papers must follow the instructions and templates provided under www.gi-ev.de/service/publikationen/lni/. At least one author should participate at the workshop and register for the SE2008 conference.

DEADLINES

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| 21.01.2008 | Deadline for the submission of contributions |
| 28.01.2008 | Review feedback |
| 03.02.2008 | Submission of the camera-ready version |
| 19.02.2008 | Workshop |

ORGANISATION

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- [1] Herbsleb, J. D.; Mockus, A.: Formulation and preliminary test of an empirical theory of coordination in software engineering. In: Proceedings of the 9th European software engineering conference, 2003.
- [2] Seaman, C. B.; Basili, V. R.: Communication and Organization: an Empirical Study of Discussion in Inspection Meetings. In: IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering 24, 1998.

www.aknowledge.org

