ETAPS Daily

Unifying talks and banquet

The welcome reception cake

We are half-way through ETAPS 2012 and hope you have enjoyed the conference.

Today is the day of this year's unifying invited talks. Tonight, we will also have the ETAPS 2012 banquet where this year's best paper awards will be announced and handed out.

LEARN ABOUT THIS PLACE

Estonia: Some important dates

Estonia first declared itself independent on 24 February 1918. In summer 1940 Estonia was occupied by the USSR and could only restore its independence on 20 August 1991. The first country to recognize Estonia again was Iceland on 22 August; Yeltsin's Russia was quick to follow on 24 August. The last units of Soviet (then already ex-Soviet) armed forces left Estonia three years later, on 31 August 1994.

Estonia has been a member of the United Nations since 17 September 1991, NATO since 29 March 2004, of the European Union since 1 May 2004, of Schengen since 21 December 2007 and of the Eurozone since 1 January 2011.

WORTH KNOWING

Arrangements for the banquet tonight

Here is important information for all of you that signed up for the banquet tonight.

The banquet will take place at the **Tallinn Song Festival Grounds** (*Lauluväljak*, Narva mnt 95), the stage building (*Laululava*) starting **20.00**.

The place is easily reached by public transportation (stop "Lauluväljak", buses 1A, 5, 8, 34A, 38). The stage building is impossible to miss when you approach it from the seaside gate by Pirita tee.

But for your convenience we have arranged for chartered buses. These depart at **19.40** from two places: **Swissôtel** and the the (front of) **Russian Cultural Centre** (*Vene Kultuurikeskus*, Mere pst 5, a central spot convenient for those of you whose hotel is in or near the Old Town). The same buses will also take you back to the town.

Mittwoch

In the unifying plenary talk of the morning, **Bruno Blanchet** will explain the symbolic and computational security models for cryptographic protocols. **Georg Gottlob**'s unifying talk in the afternoon is about querying UML class diagrams.

These conferences will have regular sessions today:

ESOP European Symposium of Programming

FASE Foundational Aspects of Software Engineering

FoSSaCS Foundations of Software Science and Computation Structures

TACAS Tools for Analysis and Construction of Systems

ETAPS

EUROPEAN JOINT CONFERENCES ON THEORY & PRACTICE OF SOFTWARE

http://www.etaps.org/2012

ETAPS 2012 local organizers

Weather forecast

Today	Tomorrow	Friday
4 ‖ 10 °C	2 ‖ 7 °C	3 ‖ 7 °C

The English word for wet snow is 'sleet'. You may need it today.

THE STAGE OF THE SINGING REVOLUTION OF 1988

Song Festival Grounds

The song festival in full swing

This sprawling event venue has a special place in the hearts of Estonians. It was here in 1988 that the Singing Revolution, a massive, musical demonstration against So- viet rule, set Estonia on its road towards independence.

The grounds feature an outdoor concert arena, built in 1959, a number of indoor halls, and host a multitude of large concerts and festivals through the year. Most fa- mously the site is home to the Estonian Song and Dance Festival, an unforgettable event that takes place every five years, as part of a tradition that goes back to 1869. The celebration draws together up to 37,000 performers and 200,000 spectators.

Next to the concert arena is the 42-metre Light Tower. Every Song Festival starts with the traditional lighting of the flame atop the tower. Its staircase displays a photo ex- hibition on the history of the song festivals, and from its observation platform at the top, with the help of newly- installed binoculars, you can get great views of the Old Town, ships out at sea and, if the weather conditions are right, even the Finnish coast. ■

ETAPS DAILY INTERVIEWS CYNTHIA DWORK

Negative thinking will rule

You stressed the connection between differen- tial privacy, and semantic security. Do you ex- pect differential privacy will influence privacy in the same way that semantic security influenced cryptography? I certainly hope so! On my optimistic days I enjoy how far we have come since differential pri- vacy was first introduced. On other days I am daunted by the remaining algorithmic challenges of providing suf- ficient utility. Perhaps there is a good analogy to the field of numerical analysis. In numerical analysis, there are sta- ble and unstable methods for certain computations, and it can be a major research problem to find a stable method. Similarly, in differential privacy, for a specific computa- tion, and a given bound on privacy loss (a value for ϵ), there is always some $(\epsilon, 0)$-differentially private method, but it may be "unstable", i.e., give wildly inaccurate an- swers. The goal is to find a "stable", or accurate, $(\epsilon, 0)$- differentially private method, and that can be a major research problem. If we can do sufficiently well for a suf- ficiently large class of computations, differential privacy could turn out to be very influential. ■

ETAPS DAILY INTERVIEWS WIL VAN DER AALST

Spaghetti is not lasagne

Can you share with us some of your experiences with process mining in practice?

In general, the situations usually encountered in prac- tice can be divided in two: relatively structured (or "lasagne" processes), like the municipality example where the main focus is in finding bottlenecks and deviations to give feedback to the municipality that leads to opportuni- ties for improving the process. The other kind is the so- called "spaghetti" situations which are more exploratory and the focus is mainly on finding out what is really hap- pening and providing a mirror to judge the processes. An- other important aspect is to provide an interface between domain people and IT people, as we all know too well what can happen when people oversimplify the reality and start developing a solution that will never work.

As an example, in a project with ASML, which is the largest manufacturer of photolithography systems for the semiconductor industry, we looked at the process of test- ing the machines, which usually took 5–6 weeks in the factory, and found out that only 35 pct of the events were as according to the test plan—some deviation is clearly to be expected and is perfectly normal, but this showed that their testing processes were quite detached from reality. ■