

# Preface

FastAbstracts have been at ISSRE since 1998. They are now a tradition and a significant part of the overall program. With every year, the concept of FastAbstracts, (originally coined by Ram Chillarege when he was co-chair at FTCS 1998), seems to gain momentum and adoption across several computer engineering conferences. At ISSRE, we have strived to grow the FastAbstracts program in strength and breadth for our area.

This year is an outstanding example of growth. We received 40 submissions from 13 countries. And they continued to flow past the cut-off date, forcing with the difficult task of returning several submissions. With as large a submission, and a broad range of topics, our review processes needed to be more thorough than ever before. In past years we worked with a small FastAbstracts program committee of five to six people. But this year we had to enlarge it to include around 25 referees. Thus, each FastAbstracts has been seen by two or three referees, and to some we afforded a round of revision. Finally, we accepted 33 of the 40 FastAbstracts submissions, spanning 11 different countries.

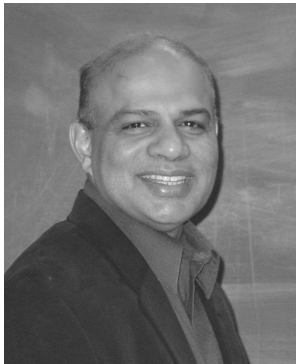
The range of topics is impressive. We have two FastAbstracts in Security, five in Testing, five in Modeling, four in Internet and E-Business, four in Component based and Object Oriented technology, two in Formal Methods, five in Software Process and Metrics, and six in Networking and Distributed Systems Dependability.

A FastAbstract is defined as lightly reviewed two page technical paper, with a short talk, typically less than 10 minutes, at the conference. The goal is to encourage recent work from a broad spectrum of contributions and support it with a rapid review cycle. We look for clearly defined contribution in different forms: an idea, an experience, a well articulated position, an experiment, description of a practice being developed, data from a case study, or early results from research. Often, such insights and experiences are the seeds of inspiration to other researchers and practitioners. And more often than not, they could be lost without the vehicle of the FastAbstract. Traditional research papers have form factors and requirements that often do not create an avenue for embryonic results. Yet, they are invaluable to the advancement of our community and the industry. Our colleagues have on occasion told us that FastAbstract sessions can be more engaging than the traditional sessions. Such comments are always nice to hear and speak to the quality, diversity and rapid pace of ideas, these sessions produce.

All the ISSRE FastAbstracts from 1998 are available on the web at <http://www.chillarege.com> - a digital library for free. We have maintained it thus far, and hope to continue it into the foreseeable future.

Sachin Garg joined the ISSRE FastAbstracts team as co-chair this year, and will be chair next year. This allows Ram Chillarege to retire from the task as chair, having played this role for a few years. We have consciously created this mechanism of an incoming chair working in tandem with the incumbent, and also encouraging a multiyear tenure. We do this, with the goal to achieve growth and enhance quality of this FastAbstracts program.

We hope you will gain from the FastAbstracts program as much as we have in putting it together.



Ram Chillarege  
Chair, FastAbstracts  
ISSRE 2002



Sachin Garg  
Co-Chair, FastAbstracts  
ISSRE 2002

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