Call for Papers –

Software Engineering Success and Failure

A Special Issue of Empirical Software Engineering

Important Dates

Submission Deadline: 15 NOV 2015

Introduction

A goal of software engineering research is to improve the rate of software project success and reduce the risk of failure. This special issue aims to address fundamental questions like what does success/failure really mean, how does it happen, what causes it and how do we rigorously investigate it? We solicit high-quality articles on a variety of topics including (but not limited to) the following.

Example Topics

- What do success and failure mean in software engineering? What are their dimensions?
- What can we learn from previous software engineering successes and failures?
- What causes software engineering success and failure?
- How should we collect, analyse, describe and apply the factors leading to software engineering success and failure? What are the relationship among these causes?"
- What is the relationship between stakeholder characteristics, such as expectations and competence, and software engineering success?
- What is the relationship between project management approaches, such as Scrum or Lean, and software engineering success?
- What is the relationship between tools, such as distributed version control or test automation, and software engineering success?
- What is the relationship between socio-technical practices, such as pair programming or paper prototyping, and software engineering success?
- How can we predict and prevent or recover from software project failures?
- How can we avoid overconfidence, over-optimism and other potentially negative effects of previous successes?
- How can we avoid organizational overlearning (seeing patterns that are not there due to a strong wish to learn from, for example, overreacting to a previous costly failure)?
- What are the key methodological challenges for success and failure research? How can they be overcome?

Study types:

We welcome all manner of empirical studies related to success and failure including:

- Meta-analyses, thematic syntheses and other systematic literature reviews.
- Experiments and simulations establishing relationships between software engineering activities (e.g. pair programming), tools (e.g. a debugger), techniques (e.g. persona modeling) or phenomena (e.g. creativity) and success or failure.
- Data mining or econometric analysis developing statistical models of success and failure
- Case studies, ethnographies and action research exploring perceptions of success and failure or contextual factors.
- Surveys of successes and failures in software engineering.
- Analyses of methodological and statistical challenges concerning research on software engineering successes and failures.

Contact:

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to be a reviewer of the papers, please contact the guest editors.

Guest Editors

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Submission Instructions:

Papers should be submitted through the Empirical Software Engineering website (http://www.editorialmanager.com/emse/). Choose "SI:Success and Failure" as the Article Type. Author Instructions are available here:
http://www.springer.com/computer/swe/journal/10664?detailsPage=pltci_2530593