

EDITORIAL

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Guest editorial foreword for the special issue on automated software testing: trends and evidence

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Society and industry are increasingly dependent on software. Software-supported environments can be critical, pervasive, persistent, mobile, distributed, real-time, context-aware, and adaptive. Thus, a growing need emerges for fast and rigorous approaches to develop and evolve these systems. This drives, among others, the research for techniques, criteria and supporting tools for software testing.

Systematic and automated approaches have shown capable of reducing the overwhelming cost of engineering such systems. Industrial success cases have been openly reported and academic interest continues to grow as observed by the increasing number of researchers in the field. While there exist various trends on evolving the automation in software testing, the provision of sound empirical evidence is still needed on such area. It is our pleasure to open this special issue of the *Journal of Software Engineering Research and Development* that focuses on research trends on automated software testing, as well as empirical evidence on such approaches. We received six submissions, which underwent a rigorous review process for quality and relevance. Only two papers (i.e. 33%) have passed this selection.

The first paper, “An algorithm for combinatorial interaction testing: definitions and rigorous evaluations” by Juliana Marino Balera and Valdivino Alexandre Santiago Júnior, introduces a greedy algorithm for unconstrained combinatorial interaction testing. Two versions of the algorithm are compared in the first experiment. The second experiment compares the best version with five other algorithms found in the literature. The results gave evidence that the proposed algorithm is the best option for higher strengths. This work is an invited extension of the best paper nominated in the 1st Brazilian Symposium on Systematic and Automated Software Testing (SAST), held on 19–20 September 2016, in Maringá, Brazil.

The second paper, “Similarity testing for role-based access control systems” by Carlos Diego Nascimento Damasceno, Paulo Cesar Masiero, and Adenilso Simao, proposes an approach for similarity testing of Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) systems. The authors compare the proposed approach with simple similarity and random prioritization using the APFD metric. The results gave evidence that the RBAC similarity is generally more effective than the compared techniques.

The guest editors would like to thank the many people who contributed to the successful organization of this special issue. First, we appreciate the effort spent by the

authors who submitted excellent papers to this special issue. We also show our gratitude to the reviewers for their dedication, expertise, and competent feedback. Last but not least, the JSERD editors-in-chief, Alessandro Garcia, Claudia Verner, and André van der Hoek, provided expert guidance throughout the process.

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