



# CALL-FOR-PAPERS

AST 2013

8<sup>th</sup> IEEE/ACM International Workshop on Automation of Software Test

<http://tech.brookes.ac.uk/AST2013/>

In Conjunction with ICSE 2013 (<http://2013.icse-conferences.org/>)

San Francisco, CA, USA – 18 ~ 19 May 2013

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Submission deadline:

February 7, 2013

### Notification of acceptance:

February 28, 2013

### Camera-Ready version:

March 7, 2013

### Workshop dates:

May 18 ~ 19, 2013

## ORGANIZERS:

### Workshop PC Co-Chairs

**Prof. Hong Zhu**, Dept of Computing and Communication Technologies, Oxford Brookes University, [hzhu@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:hzhu@brookes.ac.uk)

**Prof. Henry Muccini**, University of L'Aquila, Italy, [henry.muccini@univaq.it](mailto:henry.muccini@univaq.it)

**Prof. Zhenyu Chen**, Software Institute, Nanjing University, Nanjing, JiangSu Province 210093, China, [pyzychen@gmail.com](mailto:pyzychen@gmail.com)

### Steering Committee

**Prof. Hong Zhu** (Chair)  
Oxford Brookes University, UK  
[hzhu@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:hzhu@brookes.ac.uk)

**Prof. Shing-chi Cheung**  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology,  
Hong Kong

**Dr. Jenny Li**  
Avaya Labs Research, USA

**Prof. Fevzi Belli**  
Paderborn University, Germany

**Prof. Eric Wong**  
University of Texas at Dallas, USA

**Dr. Steve Masticola**  
Siemens Corporation,  
Corporate Research, USA

Please see workshop website for more details and the workshop Program Committee.

In software development practice, testing accounts for as much as 50% of the total development effort. It is therefore imperative to reduce the cost and improve the effectiveness of software testing by automating the testing process. In the past decades, a great amount of research effort has been spent on automatic test case generation, automatic test oracles, etc. Test automation is also becoming an important part of software testing practice.

The workshop is the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the successful AST workshops held at ICSE 2006-2012. It will provide researchers and practitioners with a forum for exchanging ideas, experiences, understanding of the problems, visions for the future, and promising solutions to the problems. The workshop will also provide a platform for researchers and developers of testing tools to work together to identify the problems in the theory and practice of software test automation and to set an agenda and lay the foundation for future development.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

The workshop focuses on bridging the gap between the theory and practice of software test automation. The topics cover all aspects related to software test automation. In particular, papers on the following topics are covered, but are not limited to:

- 1) *Methodology*: Software test automation in the context of various software development methodologies.
- 2) *Technology*: Automation of various test techniques and methods for testing related activities, as well as for testing various types of software applications.
- 3) *Tools and environments*: Issues in the development, operation, maintenance and evolution of software testing tools and environments, and their integration and inter-operation with other types of software development and maintenance tools and runtime support environments and platforms.
- 4) *Experiments, empirical studies and experience reports*: Experiments, empirical studies of software test automation, as well as reports on real experiences in using automated testing techniques, methods and tools in industry.
- 5) *Identification of problems and visions of the future*: The identification of problems that hamper wider adoption of automated test techniques, methods and tools and the analysis and specification of the requirements on automated software testing.

The AST 2013 workshop focuses on a special topic on *Testing of Software as a Service*. Submissions on this topic are especially encouraged, but papers on other topics are also welcome.

## CHARETTE DISCUSSIONS

The workshop continues the successful charette discussions of the previous years. This year, the topic of the

charette discussion sessions will focus on the topic of *Testing of Software as a Service*.

## INDUSTRIAL CASE STUDIES

There will also be an *Industrial Case Studies* session at the workshop, with presentations reporting the real state of the practice in automation of software testing. Test practitioners are especially encouraged to contribute their experiences and insights on test automation. Topics for this session include, but are not limited to, the following: new tools, new best practices, process innovations related to test automation, gaps in existing vendor toolsets, ideas and visions for near-term research work.

## SUBMISSIONS

Two types of submissions are invited: *regular* papers and *industrial case study* papers. The former presents research in the area of software test automation, while the latter presents practical applications of test automation. Both types of papers are limited to 7 pages in IEEE Conference Proceedings Format.

All papers submitted to the workshop must be unpublished original work and should not be under review or submitted elsewhere while being under consideration.

All submissions must be in English and in either PDF or postscript format through online upload to the workshop submission website at the following URL: <http://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=AST2013>

All submissions will be reviewed by three PC members. Regular papers will be judged on the basis of their clarity, relevance, originality, and contribution. Case study papers will be judged on the basis of their clarity, relevance, and interest to the workshop participants.

## PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

The accepted workshop papers including both regular and case study papers will be published in the AST 2013 Proceedings and included in the IEEE Digital Libraries. Workshop attendees will receive a memory stick with both ICSE 2013 and AST 2013 proceedings on it. The presentations slides will be published on the AST 2013 website.

Authors of accepted papers are required to register for the workshop and present the paper at the workshop in order for the paper to be included in the proceedings and Digital Libraries.

A journal special issue to publish revised and extended versions of selected best papers is pending.