

Preface

The Ninth International Workshop on Persistent Object Systems (POS-9) took place at the SAS Radisson Hotel in Lillehammer, Norway, from 6th to 8th September 2000. Previous workshops in the series have been held in Scotland (1 and 2), Australia (3), the USA (4), Italy (5), France (6), and the USA (7 and 8). In keeping with those workshops, POS-9 was short but intensive, fitting 28 papers and panel sessions, a boat excursion, and some memorable meals into two and a half days.¹ The participants' concentration was no doubt helped by the Northern European weather that prevailed for most of the workshop.

Continuing a trend experienced over the previous few workshops, POS-9 had difficulty attracting a high number of papers. Of course it is hard to tell whether this is a problem with the field of persistent systems itself, or merely a consequence of the increasing number of workshops, conferences, and journals competing for submissions. In his Epilogue to the proceedings, Ron Morrison makes some interesting suggestions for possible improvements to future POS workshops.

Out of a total of 26 submitted papers, 19 were accepted for presentation at the workshop. Breaking down by region, 6 1/2 came from the USA², 1 from Africa, 3 1/2 from Australia, and 8 from Europe. In a new development for POS, an equal number of papers came from England and from Scotland.

All submissions were reviewed by at least three members of the Program Committee. Several generated significant disagreement among their reviewers; these papers were accepted on the basis that substantial changes would be needed if they were to be included in the final proceedings. All such papers were updated successfully; our thanks go to the PC members who acted as shepherds to oversee the revisions. Indeed, as usual, the entire process relied on the dedication and hard work of the PC, and we thank them sincerely.

In full, the Program Committee was:

Ole Anfindsen
Malcolm Atkinson
Jean Bacon
Sonia Berman
Steve Blackburn
Richard Connor
Laurent Daynès
Giorgio Ghelli
Tony Hosking
Alfons Kemper
Eliot Moss
Dave Munro

Atsushi Otori
Tamer Özsu
Fausto Rabitti
John Rosenberg
Peter Schwarz
Liuba Shrira
Santosh Shrivastava
Paul Wilson
Alex Wolf
Stan Zdonik
Ben Zorn

¹ Photos from the workshop are on the POS-9 web site at

<http://www-ppg.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/Conferences/POS9/>.

² Fractional numbers arise from trans-continental collaborations.

During the workshop, presentations were organized into short sessions of (loosely) related papers, each concluding with a panel during which the various authors had an opportunity to expand on deeper or more general issues. These proceedings include reports by the session chairs summarizing these discussions.

It is customary, in reporting on POS workshops, to note any current trends in areas of interest. The main broad research area addressed at POS-9 remained that of object stores, accounting for around half of the papers. The remaining papers covered a rich mixture of system architecture, middleware, and applications. A previously observed trend of diminishing interest in language design and type systems continued, with the almost complete dominance of Java as a language platform.

Finally, we acknowledge the generous support for POS-9 provided by the Research Council of Norway. We thank Ragnfrid Sjøberg and Helle Frøyseth for their excellent support with the local arrangements, and Helen Bremner for transcribing various session tapes.

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