

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

First International Workshop on Requirements Engineering and Law

Held in conjunction with the 16th IEEE International Requirements Engineering Conference

Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain

9 September 2008

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What steps must organizations take to demonstrate that their software systems and data practices comply with government laws and regulations?

Over the past several decades, we have experienced tremendous growth in new business practices, products and services that use information to achieve stakeholder goals. Recent compliance challenges include electronic voting, patient medical records, corporate governance and national identification cards. To address similar challenges, this growth has drawn the attention of regulators, lawyers, engineers and academics in a shared pursuit to understand the historical and social impact of existing laws and regulations on emerging technology. The costs to brand, infrastructure and the public of violating the law are often prohibitive and the challenges to ensure that software systems comply with the law are viewed differently by those involved.

The First International Workshop on Requirements Engineering and Law is a multi-disciplinary, one-day workshop that will bring together practitioners and researchers from government, industry and academia to investigate challenges to ensuring that software systems comply with the law. The workshop will probe important issues, including the processes for identifying relevant laws and jurisdictions, aligning laws with system requirements, managing requirements and changes in the law and demonstrating how systems comply with relevant laws through evidence-based mechanisms such as documentation, testing and certification.

Attendance, Format and Outcomes

The workshop will bring together practitioners and researchers from auditing, accounting, law and requirements engineering. The workshop format will consist of presentations of papers and breakout sessions. The goals of this workshop include: standardizing vocabulary and terms from multiple disciplines; refining objectives and identifying unsolved industry and research-related problems; and finding agreement on validation objectives for proposed solutions.

Planned Topics

- Identifying, prioritizing and integrating relevant laws and jurisdictions
- Legal requirements acquisition, specification, analysis and validation
- Formal and informal modeling of laws, policies and requirements
- Traceability between laws, policies and requirements
- Coordinating requirements change and the evolution of law
- Introducing existing products and services into new jurisdictions
- Requirements verification; documenting and auditing evidence of compliance
- Acceptable degrees of compliance assurance and system certification

Important Dates

Deadline for submissions: 4 July 2008
Notice of acceptance: 28 July 2008
Camera-ready submission: 8 August 2008
Workshop date: 9 September 2008

Submissions

- Research/Experience papers (4 pages)
- Industrial/Government problem statements (2-4 pages)

Submissions will be reviewed by at least two members of the program committee for relevance to the workshop topics of interest. Preference will be given to submissions that emphasize informed, legally and technically sound descriptions of important challenges and problems as opposed to proposed solutions. Accepted submissions will be published in an online proceeding in IEEE Xplore. Papers must be formatted to conform to the IEEE Computer Society proceedings guidelines and submitted electronically in Adobe PDF to the Microsoft Research Conference Management service: <https://cmt.research.microsoft.com/RELAW2008>

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