Interview with Rance Cleaveland

Figure 1: Rance Cleaveland

Yesterday we had the first unifying invited talk of this year's ETAPS. The speaker told us how he and colleagues decided to start a commercial project after a 15 year academic career, and shared his impressions on how to reach out to industry.

ETAPS daily What advice can you offer to an academic computer scientist who wants to start a company?

D.B. Well, my talk was a series of advice. To sum up, the first thing is to know exactly who your customers are, and the second is to listen to what they are saying: the tool that you have in mind does not necessarily address the customer's needs. And for course, it takes money to start a company, so you have to make sure sufficient funds are available, from grants or investors.

ETAPS daily How did you feel, after 15 years, that the timing was right to start a company?

D.B. I think it was a combination of factors. One the one hand we felt that the product developed as part of our research had reached a level of maturity that allowed us to commercialize it successfully. The other factor had to to do with the environment at the time: with the internet boom we felt there could be opportunities for us, as there had been for other people starting companies.

ETAPS daily How did your commercial activity feed back into your research work?

D.B. In more than one way. We found an appreciation for testing and realized the lack of formal work devoted to testing. A second aspect was the importance of decision procedures involving data. In pure finite-state model checking data is somewhat irrelevant, but when you're doing actual modeling it is the most important.

Message from S. C. Chair Perdita Stevens

This is my third ETAPS as steering committee chair; in the middle of this week I handed over to my successor, Vladimiro Sassone. It has been a privilege to hold this job, although three years is long enough and I am looking forward to being free to submit papers to ETAPS again!

The ETAPSen while I've been SC chair have been in Edinburgh (by coincidence my own city, though I did *not* also act as local organiser!), Vienna and Braga. Looking forward, ETAPS'08 will be in Budapest, ETAPS'09 in York. Enquiries from energetic potential local organisers of future ETAPSen – especially, but not exclusively, in equally beautiful cities – are welcome at any time; talk to Vladimiro!

The first ETAPS, in Lisbon in 1998, was one of the first conferences I ever attended. Since then I have missed only Barcelona in 2004 (I was on maternity leave with a small baby who didn't sleep much...). In that time I have seen ETAPS grow from promising beginnings into its current preeminent position, in which authors submit their best work and even the best research leaders seem to feel honoured to be invited to speak. What I particularly value about ETAPS is the opportunity it provides to dip into conferences one would not normally attend: coming to ETAPS is an educational experience both in its depth and in its breadth. The main challenge I see facing ETAPS in the future is to allow for further growth without making ETAPS too daunting to organise, or forcing it to take place in expensive conference centres. I look forward to attending future ETAPSen, and I hope you do too!

Day Programme

09:00 - 10:00 SESSION 1

- **FASE** - Invited Talk
  (Chair: Matt Dwyer, room: Enabler-Wipro)
  Software Product Families: Towards Compositionality
  Jan Bosch (Nokia, Finland)

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee

10:30 - 12:30 SESSION 2

- **ESOP** - Static Analysis and Abstract Interpretation I
  (Chair: Sophia Drossopulou, room: Multicert)
- **FASE** - Specification
  (Chair: Marsha Chechik, room: Cisco)
- **TACAS** - Specification Languages
  (Chair: Marsha Chechik, room: Enabler-Wipro)

12:30 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 15:40 SESSION 3A

- **Unifying Invited Talk**
  (Chair: João Saraiva, room: Enabler-Wipro)
  Contract-Driven Development
  Bertrand Meyer (ETH Zürich, Switzerland)

15:40 - 15:50 Break

15:50 - 16:50 SESSION 3B

- **ESOP** - Static Analysis and Abstract Interpretation II
  (Chair: Sophia Drossopulou, room: Multicert)
- **TACAS** - Security
  (Chair: Michael Huth, room: Enabler-Wipro)

16:50 - 17:15 Coffee

17:15 - 18:45 SESSION 4

- **ESOP** - Semantic Theories for OO Languages
  (Chair: Gerard Boudol, room:Multicert)
- **FASE** - Services
  (Chair: José Fiadeiro, room: Cisco)
- **TACAS** - Software and Hardware Verification
  (Chair: Orna Grumberg, room:Enabler-Wipro)

Suggested Cultural Activities for March 29

Grupo de Câmara do Porto : Igreja do Hospital de S.
Marcos, Chamber music, 21:30 (free admitance).
Bach – motet *Jesu meine Freunde*;
Rheinberger – *Stabat Mater*

Shuttle Information & Weather

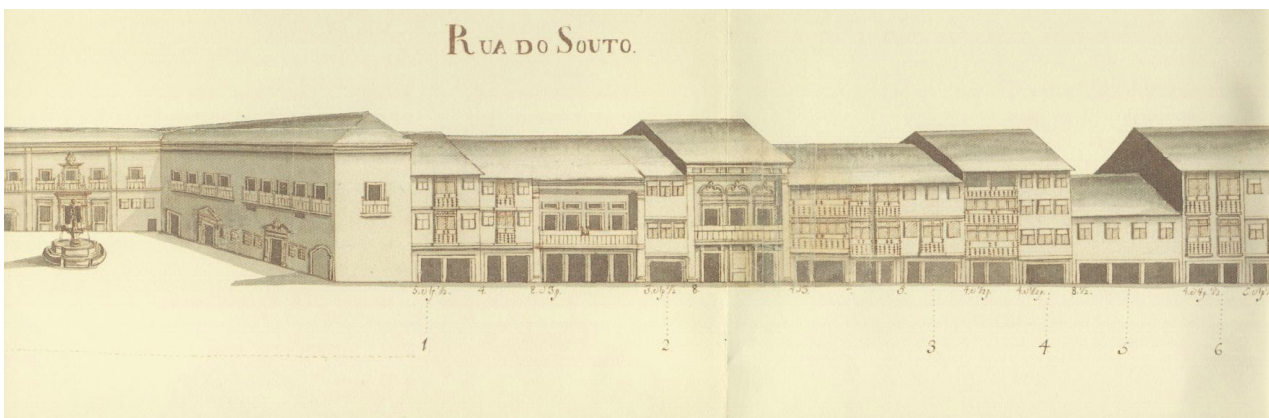| Day	Time	From	To
Thu, 29	8:15	Bom Jesus	Theatro Circo
	22:00	Theatro Circo	Bom Jesus

Partly Cloudy, 14°/6° C.

A Geographic Information System in Braga in 1750

The Braga District Archives keep a quite unique document dated 1750: a collection of drawings of nearly 60 streets in town meticulously drawn with accurate dimensions (see that of *Souto* street below). This document — known as the *Mapa das Ruas de Braga* (Braga's Street Map) — is the geographic component of a complex information system which associates to each house number records of relevant legal documents concerning it. In many cases, the history of the house can be traced back to the 14c.

The *Mapa* was commissioned to priest Ricardo Rocha (1702–1767) in order for the archbishop's provisor to calculate taxes. This information system was of great help in reorganizing the archdiocesan archives, which were in complete disarray after a long period of *sede vacante* (1728-1741) in which Braga had no archbishop.

Mapa das Ruas provides clear evidence that (geographic) information systems predate computers by more than two hundred years. A facsimiled edition of the *Mapa* was published in 1989/91 thanks to the joint effort of the Archives and the Informatics Department, supported by IBM Portugal. (See *Preserving Portugal's Past For the Future*, The IBM Magazine, vol. 58, 1992.)

R UA DO SOUTO.

Sponsor of the Day: Edigma

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