What’s on today

POST Invited Talk: Vitaly Shmatikov (Cornell Tech, USA)
Machine Learning and Privacy: Friends or Foes?

Abstract: Machine learning is eating the world. Modern machine learning methods, especially deep learning based on artificial neural networks, rely on the training data collected from millions of users to achieve unprecedented accuracy and enable powerful AI-based services.

In this talk, I will discuss the complex relationship between machine learning and digital privacy. This includes new threats, such as adversarial use of machine learning to recover hidden user data, and new benefits, such as privacy-preserving machine learning that protects the confidentiality of training data while
Simulating Cities: A Software Engineering Perspective

Abstract: Despite all the reasons why complex simulations are desirable for decision and policy making, and despite advances in computing power, large distributed simulations of urban areas are still rarely used, with most of their adoption in military applications. The reality is that developing distributed simulations is much harder than developing non-distributed, specialized ones, and requires a much higher level of software engineering expertise.

This talk looks at urban simulations from a software engineering and systems design perspective, and puts forward the idea that non-traditional decompositions in simulation load management are not just beneficial for these applications, but are likely the only way to move that field forward.

In memoriam

One of the main founders of ETAPS, Hartmut Ehrig, passed away a few weeks ago. Hartmut was a full professor in Formal Specification at the TU Berlin from 1985 until he retired in 2010. He served on many PCs, SCs, and editorial boards of journals. His scientific output is impressive. He published more than 500 papers, and several books, in particular on algebraic specification theory and on graph rewriting. In 2010, he was awarded with the “most influential paper in graph transformation in 25 years”.

Hartmut has been very influential for ETAPS. In 1985, he organised the first TAPSOFT conference, bringing together the events CAAP and CSE. In the mid nineties, he took the lead in the initiative to establish a main conference on theory and practice of software: ETAPS. In fact, CSE and CAAP are the predecessors of FASE and FoSSaCS. After the first two ETAPS conferences, the status and future of ETAPS was unclear. Hartmut volunteered to host ETAPS in Berlin (2000). It was a great success. In the following years, he actively supported ETAPS, and was involved in the ETAPS and FASE SC for many years.

With the passage of Hartmut, ETAPS looses one of its fathers.