

# Welcome Message

Welcome to SPLC 2021, the 25th International Systems and Software Product Line Conference. Variability is at the core of most modern computer and cyber-physical systems. Product lines provide a structured method for dealing with variability. They represent one of the most exciting paradigm shifts in software and systems development, with new challenges and opportunities for both research and practice. For decades, SPLC has been the flagship venue for practitioners, researchers, and educators interested in systems and software product lines. SPLC is a great venue for learning about the state of the art as well as practice, trends, innovations, industry experiences, and challenges in the area of systems family engineering at large.

SPLC 2021 took place from September 6th to 11th. While originally meant to take place in Leicester, UK, the conference was made fully virtual. For participants, SPLC 2021 proposed a very exciting program of top notch research and industry papers as well as journal-first presentations, workshops, tutorials, challenges, solutions, tool demonstrations, doctoral proposals, artefacts, and great keynote presentations.

SPLC 2021 received 105 submissions: 45 research papers and 7 research artefacts, 7 industry papers, 3 journal-first papers, 6 workshop proposals, 2 challenge proposals and 3 solutions, 7 demo and tool papers, 5 doctoral proposals and 7 tutorial proposals. In the research track, based on at least three reviews and intensive discussions, the committees selected 12 full papers and 3 short papers, translating into a 33% acceptance rate. In the industry track, 3 full papers were accepted following the same rigorous process, translating into a 43% acceptance rate. We are especially grateful to all members of the program committees for helping us to seek submissions and provide valuable and constructive reviews.

We would like to thank our keynote speakers Mattias Nyberg, Julia Rubin, and Thomas Thüm, who graciously agreed to share their perspectives, experiences, and insights with the community. The program committee members and track chairs deserve a particular mention for their hard work in reviewing and discussing the papers. Our thanks also go to the Organisation Committee for taking on the arduous challenges involved in organising a virtual conference. We would like to thank our sponsors and institutional partners for their support and contributions. These include BT Plc. (Gold Sponsor), Robert Bosch GmbH (Gold Sponsor), Elsevier Science BV (Silver Sponsor), MetaCase (Silver Sponsor), the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), and the ACM Special Interest Group on Software Engineering (SIGSOFT).

Sincerely,

Mohammad Reza Mousavi, Pierre-Yves Schobbens, Ina Schaefer, Maurice H. ter Beek, Xavier Devroey, José Miguel Rojas, Rick Rabiser, Mahsa Varshosaz, Monica Pinto, Leopoldo Teixeira, Thorsten Berger, Joost Noppen, Goetz Botterweck, Natsuko Noda, Iris Reinhartz-Berger, Paul Temple, Ferruccio Damiani, Justyna Petke, Tomoji Kishi, Jaejoon Lee, Hugo Araujo, Jan Oliver Ringert, Uraz Türker, and Carlos Diego Damasceno.