Report on Dagstuhl seminar

Petri Nets and Business Process Management

Schloss Dagstuhl, Wadern, Germany, July 6 - 10, 1998

(by Maurice ter Beek, Leiden University, The Netherlands)

This seminar was held in the Dagstuhl Castle in Wadern, a place hard to reach by public transport and (thus) surrounded by beautiful nature. It is well-known, by those who have ever visited it, for its ideal working climate and its excellent wines. The seminar was perfectly organized by Jörg Desel, Andreas Oberweis, Wolfgang Reisig and Grzegorz Rozenberg, together of course with the local staff. The seminar brought together participants from such diverse research and application areas as Petri Nets, Business Process Modelling, Workflow Management and Software and Information System Engineering.

The program of the workshop was flexibly adjusted throughout the week. For example, several evening sessions during which participants had the chance to see some of the tools that are currently available, were added. The program as it was actually presented can be found at the end of this report.

The talks were of a high level and of a very varying nature. Furthermore, a substantial part of the program was reserved for discussions and by the set-up chosen by the organizers these turned out to be especially fruitful. Each discussion had a clear topic and started with statements of five minutes each, by about four participants of whom the organizers had the impression that they had something (controversial) to say on the topic. These statements triggered highly inspired discussions. For those not very familiar with the topic under discussion, these discussions provided an ideal introduction for better understanding the problems and successes of that particular topic. For those that did know the topic well, the discussions provided a good forum for exchanging their latest ideas and opinions. With participants of such different backgrounds, these discussions clearly enriched the program.

Next to the scientific success, the excursion to Trier on Wednesday was very nice. Those who were not held back by the rain, witnessed the largest collection of Roman remains outside of Italy. One night earlier, a smaller group of participants had spent the evening in a local pub to see the Netherlands being kicked out of the World Cup by Brasil. Also on other nights during the week, small groups could often be found around the cheese plates or in the wine cellar to continue the discussions of the day. Even though some important questions (i.e. *Are Event Process Chains Petri nets?* and *Can one earn a lot of money with Petri nets?*) remained unanswered, all participants agreed that the seminar was a success and that a follow-up in about two years time would be most welcome.

Monday, July 6th

Wil van der Aalst: Changing workflows on the interplay between flexibility and support

Jörg Becker: Information models and guidelines of modeling (GoM)

Anatol Holt: Petri nets and business processes

Anastasia Pagnoni Holt: Management-oriented models of business processes

Discussion: What is Business process management?

Tuesday, July 7th

Kees van Hee: Computer supported reengineering of business processes

Giorgio de Michelis: Simple workflow models for complex business processes

Beat Schmidt: An architecture for generic market services

Ulrike Lechner: Computational media - metaphor, model and architecture

Jörg Desel: Process validation by process net generation

Discussion: Important application problems in BPM

Discussion: Important foundational problems in BPM

Wednesday, July 8th

Ekkart Kindler: Workflow, scenarios and composition

Daniel Moldt: Using workflows to structure systems based on Object-Oriented Coloured Petri nets

Kurt Lautenbach: Action logic for modeling workflows

Thomas Marx: Workflow modeling in NetCASE

Thomas Erwin: Performance analysis of business processes

Thursday, July 9th

Christoph von Uthmann: Guidelines of using Petri nets for business process management

Peter Loos: Object-orientation and business processes - an approach for integrating UML & EPC

Markus Nüttgens: Business process management: a management perspective

Joachim Wehler: Object-oriented business modeling

Gerhard Knolmayer: A Business rules layer between processes and workflow modeling

Heinrich C. Mayr: Towards business process modeling in KCPM

Wolfgang Reisig: Do Petri nets provide an adequate basis to decently model business processes?

Discussion: Petri nets and other models in practical use

Friday, July 10th

Andreas Dietzsch: Aspects of modeling business processes

Angela Mölders: Object-oriented and net based modeling of business processes

Helena Szczerbicka: Are Stochastic Petri nets a suitable tool for modeling business processes?

Sabine Lembke: Petri net based business process management - Help!?