

EDITORIAL

This special issue of the Journal of Web Engineering contains extended versions of the best papers accepted for the Web Technologies (WT) tracks of the 28th and 29th ACM Symposia on Applied Computing (SAC), which were held in Coimbra, Portugal in March 2013 and Gyeongju, Korea in March 2014.

In recent years Web Technologies tracks at SAC have attracted an increasing number of high-quality contributions on the several topics that revolve around the Web as a global platform.

Having served as track chairs for the last seven years we have had a privileged point of view on the trends and the advances within this broad research field. The articles included in this special issue reflect this dynamic environment while keeping a strong underlying theme.

The papers we present to you have been selected out of a starting set of about 60 papers, submitted between 2013 and 2014 by authors originating from about twenty different countries. The average acceptance rate over the 2 years have been 29%—23% in 2013 and 35% in 2014.

For this special issue we have selected three papers that investigate how users access content and interact with other actors on the Web. What follows is a brief introduction of these articles.

1. In *Surfing the web using browser interface facilities: a performance evaluation approach* (SAC WT 2013), Raúl Peña-Ortiz, José A. Gil, Julio Sahuquillo, and Ana Pont discuss the effect of “real” dynamic activities that users typically perform while browsing the Web, and which are usually not taken into account when modeling user behavior. Some typical examples of those activities are the use of the browser back button, and parallel navigation. While those activities are very “real”, in the sense that most Web users do them, they are neglected in most user modeling studies, and in particular by studies that rely on user modeling to evaluate server performances. The authors develop a model that does take into account those kinds of user behavior and show the impact that such a modeling has on performance evaluation.
2. In *Exploiting emoticons in polarity classification of text* (SAC WT 2013), Alexander Hogenboom, Daniella Bal, Flavius Frasinca, Malissa Bal, Franciska De Jong, and Uzay Kaymak look at a different side of user activities: the trail of emotions that user live on the Web, by using emoticons in their messages. They propose to equip sentiment analysis with the ability to use emoticons to balance other sentiment clues that come from more classical sentence- or paragraph-level text analyses. They evaluate their approach on two substantial corpuses of real Web messages, left by users of popular Dutch and English websites.
3. In *Keyboard Navigation Mechanisms in Widgets: an Investigation on ARIA’s Implementations* (SAC WT 2014), Willian Massami Watanabe, Rafael José Geraldo, and

Renata Pontin de Mattos Fortes consider Web interactions from the point of view of people in need of accessibility technology for browsing the Web. In particular, they look at the ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) standard, recently published as a full-fledged Recommendation by the W3C, and evaluate how well it is implemented by top websites according to the Alexa ranking. Their results show that a lot of work is still to be done to promote a fully accessible Web for all of us.

With the above selection we are confident to meet your interests, and we would like to wish you a very good read!

Angelo Di Iorio, University of Bologna, Italy (angelo.diiorio@unibo.it)

Davide Rossi, University of Bologna, Italy (daviderossi@unibo.it)

Stefano Zacchioli, Université Paris Diderot, France (zack@pps.univ-paris-diderot.fr)

Guest Editors