

## INTRODUCTION

The Service Oriented Software Research Network (SOSoRNet) began in December 2005 growing from the Pennine Group's "Pennine Research Forum" series into a fully-fledged EPSRC-funded network. The network organises workshops and supports the organisation of other events relating to the development and application of service-oriented software, with the aim of sharing problems and solutions across domains and communities. The network is directed by Dr Nicolas Gold at King's College London with colleagues from the universities of Manchester, Keele, Durham, Leeds, and Sussex. This newsletter summarises SOSoRNet's activity in the first half of its funded period.

## NETWORK ACTIVITIES

SOSoRNet began in December 2005 and our inaugural meeting was held in Manchester in June 2006. The event was in two parts, the first beginning with a keynote from Dr Richard Taylor from HP Labs followed by a panel session on "Perspectives on Service-Enabled Enterprises". The second day started with a keynote address from Professor Paul Watson of Newcastle University entitled "Database Services for E-Science". The event continued with paper presentations on a range of topics including service-oriented architectures, service-based computing, migration and security. The event was co-located with WETICE 2006 (<http://wetice.co.umist.ac.uk>) and we had about 35 attendees.



The second workshop was more applications-focused and was a joint event with the AHRC's ICT Methods Network entitled "Service-Oriented Computing in the Humanities". In this two-day event held at King's College London, we explored a range of interesting and challenging issues for service-oriented software in the humanities. On this occasion our keynote speakers were Professor Alan Renear (UIUC) and Professor David De Roure (Southampton University). Other papers were presented on applications of services to knowledge management, music information retrieval evaluation, and archaeological research. There were lively discussions about ontologies and service-description following the presentations. The workshop attracted about 40 participants and was filmed by the ReDress project as a resource for e-social science research.



In February 2007, the network facilitated a workshop at CREST in King's College London to bring together those involved in the development of the Services Science, Management and Engineering (SSME) field with members of SOSoRNet to discuss a research agenda for SSME. This was a very successful meeting of about 25

people from various branches of academia and industry. The SSME initiative has since been funded by EPSRC as a network.



The second European Young Researchers' Workshop on Service-Oriented Computing (<http://www.cs.le.ac.uk/events/yrsoc2007/>) was held in Leicester on 11-12 June 2007. SOSoRNet contributed support to bring an excellent line-up of speakers to the event. About 40 people were there and the involvement of SOSoRNet has been credited with both broadening the discussion and raising awareness of other events.

In addition to the workshops, Dr Gold exhibited a poster at the London Technology Network event on Grid Computing and Web Services in 2005 and gave an invited talk about the network's activities at the NECTISE workshop held in Loughborough in May 2007. The existence and activity of the network have also led to successful funding applications and paper submissions relating to service-oriented software.

## FUTURE EVENTS

A number of forthcoming workshops are already confirmed and several more planned over the course of the next year:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Challenges and Promise of the Semantic Web**, 26-27 September 2007, Nottingham Trent University, UK (<http://www.semantek.net/dysec/sws2007.html>)
- **Workshop on Source Code Analysis and Services** (co-organised with Astrenet), 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007, CREST, King's College London, UK
- **Workshop on Dependable, Dynamic, Distributed Services and Systems**, 6<sup>th</sup> November, Leeds University, UK
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Service-Oriented Computing in the Humanities** workshop (co-organised with Methods Network and AHeSSC) on Integrating Unstructured Information, 17-18 December 2007, King's College London, UK

In addition to the above confirmed events, we are hoping to run workshops on Dependable Composition (London) and Data Services and Integration (Durham) in the spring of 2008 and to co-locate events with the IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering and Digital Humanities 2008. The programme of events will then continue into the autumn.

If you would like to become involved in SOSoRNet, or organise a workshop relating to software services, please contact Nicolas Gold ([nicolas.gold@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:nicolas.gold@kcl.ac.uk)) for an informal discussion.

## USEFUL LINKS

- SOSoRNet: <http://sosornet.dcs.kcl.ac.uk>
- Astrenet: <http://www.astrenet.org>
- Methods Network: <http://www.methnet.ac.uk>
- SSMENet: <http://www.ssmenetuk.org>
- NECTISE: <http://www.seic-loughborough.com/pdf/Nectise.pdf>
- ReDress Project: <http://redress.lancs.ac.uk>
- CREST: <http://crest.dcs.kcl.ac.uk>
- EPSRC: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk>