1st International Workshop on Easy Approach to Requirements

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Abstract—**The 1st International Workshop on Easy Approach to Requirements Syntax (EARS) is hosted in August 2018 at the International Requirements Engineering Conference in Banff, Canada. The workshop provides an opportunity for exchanging ideas and discussing the application and challenges of using EARS across diverse software and systems engineering domains. In addition to presentations and discussions, participants will engage in hands-on challenges.**

I. Welcome

We would like to welcome you to the 1st International Workshop on Easy Approach to Requirements Syntax (EARS'18). This workshop focuses on exploring and sharing best practices on the practical application of EARS. EARS is a notation that gently constrains natural language requirements. Clauses of a textual requirement written in EARS follow a basic structure of <optional pre-condition> <optional trigger> the <system name> shall <system response>. Its application produces requirements in a small number of patterns, representing ubiquitous, state-driven, event-driven, optional, unwanted, and complex behavior.

Since its introduction in 2009 [2], EARS has been progressively adopted by practitioners across many different domains all over the world and is also taught in numerous universities. The workshop aims to build a community of EARS users who can share their experiences of successes and challenges when applying the EARS approach.

EARS has been used in a wide range of contexts across the system development lifecycle, for requirements at all system levels, in diverse domains, and across different geographic and linguistic regions [1]. It is used in areas at the edge of or even beyond the traditional RE space, such as in Work Instructions, Testing, Safety, Legal and Regulatory texts, and as such, can provide an effective bridge between RE and other disciplines.

II. Program and Aims

Based on peer reviews, we accepted five short papers and one long paper. These papers provide clear insights into the use of EARS within both industrial and pedagogical settings. Some papers describe use cases of EARS adoption within industrial settings while others propose or report on adaptations of the syntax or its integration with other techniques. Finally, one paper explores the use of EARS within the classroom setting. We anticipate that the focus on applications, challenges, and enhancements will lead to an engaging and stimulating workshop program.

The workshop is planned as a highly interactive experience which will include presentations, discussions, and hands-on activities. The workshop has several goals. First, we aim to develop a body of knowledge describing application domains, system levels, requirement types, project phases and development environments in which EARS has been successfully deployed in order to help existing users apply EARS more effectively and enable new adopters to understand where EARS might be applicable and how it could be used. Second, we aim to understand the limitations of the EARS approach and explore other approaches that can complement it to mitigate any shortcomings. Third, we plan to develop a list of requirements specification challenges with candidate solutions to serve as exemplars, and finally, we hope that the workshop serves to form the basis of an EARS community user group.

III. Acknowledgments

References

[1] A. Mavin. Listen, then use EARS. *IEEE Software*, 29(2):17–18, 2012.

[2] A. Mavin, P. Wilkinson, A. Harwood, and M. Novak. Easy approach to requirements syntax (EARS). In *RE 2009, 17th IEEE International Requirements Engineering Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, August 31 - September 4, 2009*, pages 317–322, 2009.