



Institute for Software Research
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March 4, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The analysis of large volumes of heterogeneous information to understand socio-cultural behavior is critical to many fields. A large variety of tools supporting data extraction, coding, analysis, network analysis, simulation, and what-if reasoning are emerging to handle this growing body of data and answer questions about socio-cultural systems. Unfortunately, to make use of these tools, the analyst must hardwire together a set of component technologies, leading in many cases to re-invention of support tools, visualizers, and so on. Using existing tools requires deep and detailed knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of each tool. There is no way for the analyst to easily link tools together and track the adaptation of data as it moves from tool to tool. Underlying problems stem from the lack of a coherent and flexible architectural framework that will allow tools and models to be seamlessly incorporated and composed by end users. Having such a framework would ideally allow information analysts to bring together tools from various vendors and research groups, dynamically compose their analyses in new ways, store and reuse previous workflows and settings, ingest new forms of information, and interactively fine tune analyses, simulations, and report generation through consistent and uniform forms of interaction.

As part of the OSD HSCB project CMU is developing SORASCS. SORASCS is a service oriented architecture for the analysis of socio-cultural systems. SORASCS is meant to be useful with both web-based and non-web-based models and analysis tools. At the behest of the ONR, and as part of this project, we are running a series of community meetings to gather insight from potential users and developers as to what they feel is needed in such an architecture.

We feel that you are a key member of this community. We would like to invite you to attend a workshop at CMU on May 4-5 2009. A group of key opinion leaders, tool developers, potential users, and researchers in this area have been invited.

The two day workshop to define the needed capabilities and future direction of a Service Oriented Architecture for Analysis of Socio-Cultural Systems (SORASCS) will be held on the 4th and 5th of May 2009 at Carnegie Mellon University. This workshop is being held as part of the integration component of the OSD program in human socio-cultural behavioral modeling. Support for this workshop comes from the Office of Naval Research. The workshop will be hosted by the Center for Computational Analysis of Social and Organizational Systems (CASOS) at Carnegie Mellon University.

This two day event will consist of general sessions covering the philosophy, purpose, and focal points of SORASCS as well as its planned tools and components and subsequent breakout sessions discussing links and tool techniques. Our goal will be to elicit from the community the

desires, needs, suggested tools for integration, and issues that a SORASCS system would need to deal with.

We hope you will be able to join us and to help set the future directions for this architecture.

For more information or to register for this workshop please contact the CASOS Center Manager, Dwayne Lehman at (412) 268-8183 dwlehman@cs.cmu.edu or myself Prof. Kathleen M. Carley kathleen.carley@cs.cmu.edu .

Sincerely,



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