Eelco Visser as a Founding Member of the IFIP WG 2.11

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─── Abstract ───

Appreciation of Eelco Visser's contribution to the IFIP WG 2.11 by two of its chairs. Christian Lengauer was chair from 2007 to 2013. Jacques Carette has been chair since 2019.

Eelco's Impact on the Working Group

The sudden, untimely and entirely unexpected death of Prof. Eelco Visser was a severe shock to the members of IFIP WG 2.11. The group lost one of its founding members, a faithful participant and central player in the group for close to two decades.

The IFIP WG 2.11 has been a cheerful and lively group from its inception. Eelco contributed to this spirit continuously. He stood out by his calm demeanor and pleasant, sonoric voice whilst clearly being extremely passionate about the group's work. It gave him a special presence. Some time ago, he told us that he considered his first invitation a pivotal event in his career for which he was very grateful. This was Dagstuhl Seminar 03131 in 2003, which can be viewed as the conception event of the WG 2.11 as its formation was decided there.

Eelco implemented the group's goals more effectively and tangibly than many of us and he never made a big deal about it. The software systems he developed, among the more widely known Stratego [3], with which he introduced himself to our group, Spoofax [1], and researchr [2], which is based in his web engineering platform WebDSL [4], have had a profound effect onto our community and beyond. His work managed to cross domains quite successfully (chiefly programming languages and software engineering) while also ranging from rather theoretical to eminently practical. When Eelco built theory, he built it with a clear purpose in mind.

Eelco often used the working group meetings as a sounding board for some of his latest ideas (see his talk titles below) and got plenty of feedback. He trusted the members of the group to be appropriately critical, in the original sense of "critique" which involves a careful weighing of pros and cons. Others have emulated Eelco in this manner.

Eelco was always courteous, attentive and friendly but, being also passionate, he would not shy away from lively arguments. He was a pillar of strength and steadiness in the group. He will be dearly missed.

Eelco's Presentations at WG 2.11 Meetings

- 05/2004, St. Emilion (France): present but no talk recorded
- 03/2005, Houston (USA): "Regenerative Programming: A New Approach to Data Mining for Software Design"
- 01/2006, Schloss Dagstuhl (Germany): "A Framework for Transformation of Java Programs"
- 10/2006, Portland (USA): Session Chair "Teaching Program Generation"
- 08/2007, Copenhagen (Denmark): "Domain-Specific Language Engineering. A Case Study in Agile DSL Development"
- 06/2008, Passau (Germany): "Code Generation by Model Transformation"
- 03/2010, St. Andrews (UK): "Building IDEs for Domain-Specific Languages with Spoofax/IMP"
- 09/2011, Bordeaux (France): "Declaratively Programming the Mobile Web with Mobl"
- 06/2012, Halmstad (Sweden): "Declarative Language Definition (in Spoofax)"
- 01/2015, Stellenbosch (South Africa): "A Theory of Name Resolution"
- 08/2016, Bloomington (USA): "Scopes Describe Frames: A Uniform Model for Memory Layout in Dynamic Semantics"
- 06/2018, Kyoto (Japan): "Declarative Disambiguation of Deep Priority Conflicts"
- 04-05/2019, Salem (USA): "Declarative Type System Specification with Statix"
- 02/2020, Paris (France): "Constructing Hybrid Incremental Compilers for Cross-Module Extensibility with an Internal Build System"

References

1　Lennart C. L. Kats and Eelco Visser. The Spoofax language workbench: Rules for declarative specification of languages and IDEs. *ACM SIGPLAN Notices*, 45(10):444–463, October 2010. OOPSLA 2010. Most Influential Paper Award at OOPSLA 2020.

2　Elmer van Chastelet, Eelco Visser, and Craig Anslow. Conf.researchr.org: Towards a domain-specific content management system for managing large conference websites. In Jonathan Aldrich and Patrick Eugster, editors, *Companion Proceedings of the 2015 ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Systems, Programming, Languages and Applications (SPLASH): Software for Humanity*, pages 50–51. ACM, 2015.

3　Eelco Visser. Program transformation with Stratego/XT. In Christian Lengauer, Don Batory, Charles Consel, and Martin Odersky, editors, *Domain-Specific Program Generation*, LNCS 3016, pages 216–238. Springer-Verlag, 2004.

4　Eelco Visser. WebDSL: A case study in domain-specific language engineering. In Ralf Lämmel, Joost Visser, and João Saraiva, editors, *Generative and Transformational Techniques in Software Engineering II*, LNCS 5235. Springer, July 2008. GTTSE 2007.

Figure 1 The participants of IFIP WG 2.11's conception seminar at Schloss Dagstuhl. Eelco is in the second row from the bottom at the far right, the first author is directly behind him.