The APROMORE Initiative

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Abstract

Organizations put considerable efforts in describing their operations in the form of business process models. Such models can be applied, for communication purposes, as blueprints for performance improvement projects, to guide the development of IT systems, and to check compliance with relevant quality standards. As organizations mature in their uptake of business process management, this leads to increasing numbers of business process models within organizations. The availability of large process model collections forms both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is how to keep track of the various models within the same collection, as they may refer to each other, mutually overlap, supersede one another, and evolve. The opportunity lies in exploiting this potentially rich source of information to create new models and support application scenarios that were unforeseen at the time of their conception.

In the light of this background, the APROMORE initiative\textsuperscript{1} was started in 2009 with the aim to catalyze research on the management of process model collections. The APROMORE initiative kicked off as a collaboration among four academic institutions: Queensland University of Technology (Australia), Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands), University of Tartu (Estonia) and Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany). Later on, other universities joined the initiative, including Joseph Fourier University of Grenoble (France), University of Karlsruhe (Germany) and Vienna University of Economics (Austria). Moreover, Suncorp-Metway, one of the major insurance providers in Australia, sponsored the initiative within the context of a project co-funded with the Australian Research Council, which aims to achieve standardization and reuse in large process model collections.

The main objective of the APROMORE initiative is to design and develop the open source platform APROMORE\textsuperscript{2} [LRRvdA\textsuperscript{+}11, FRS\textsuperscript{+}10]. Beyond the typical features of a process model repository (e.g. model import and export), the

\textsuperscript{1}www.apromore.org
\textsuperscript{2}http://code.google.com/p/apromore
APROMORE platform aims to provide various advanced features specifically designed for the management of large process model collections. These include features to filter the repository and perform searches (e.g. by looking for similarities to an input model), to enhance the presentation of process model collections (e.g. by refactoring the process models), to design new process models (e.g. by merging existing models that are similar to each other) and to evaluate existing ones (e.g. along their soundness property). At the time of writing, some of these features have already been implemented (e.g. similarity search and merging) while others are available as separate prototypes (e.g. querying and clone detection) which will be incorporated in the platform in the future.

References
