It is increasingly understood that services provide the right level of abstraction for the emerging paradigm of Programming-in-the-Large or Programming-in-the-world. Service-oriented architectures are about to revolutionize software architectures as fundamental as the event of Object-Orientation did 25 years ago.

Working groups centered at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, at Universität Rostock and at Eindhoven Technical University bundle their ongoing efforts in the area of Service Technology, aiming at strengthening their impact on research and application.

The B·E·S·T program is an initiative of Profs. van der Aalst and van Hee at Eindhoven Technical University, Prof. Reisig at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Prof. Wolf at Rostock University, who only recently left Humboldt-Universität.

The two groups' respective strengths ideally complement each other in this program, combining the best ideas, concepts, and practice. This includes in particular:

- the two groups' tools such as WOFLAN, LoLA, ProM, YAWL, Fiona, Yasper and Petriweb, WofBPEL
- their respective links to industry, providing new, relevant topics, challenges and realistic case studies,
- their respective theoretical background, concerning terminology, modelling principles, analysis techniques and algorithms,
- their experience on defining precise semantics to business process modelling languages, in particular BPEL.

After a preparation period of about one year, the B·E·S·T program became functional in June, 2006, with the above mentioned professors as its directors.

The B·E·S·T initiative aims at organizing a number of events and will also take additional organizational measures to support joint work of the involved groups in the field of service oriented architectures.

A. B·E·S·T events

B·E·S·T has scheduled a number of events in 2006 and 2007. It is intended to organize several events each year.

1. The B·E·S·T tutorial on Web Services.
This tutorial has been held at the co-located "27th International Conference on Application and Theory of Petri Nets and other Models of concurrency" (ICATPN’06) and the "6th International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design" (ACSD’06) in Turku, Finland, June 27, 2006. The tutorial surveyed the state of research on Web Services in both groups. The B·E·S·T tutorial will be updated and presented on a regular basis.


Two of the B·E·S·T directors (v.d Aalst, Reisig) organized this seminar together with Frank Leymann (Stuttgart) and Satish Thate (Microsoft Research). It is assumed that this seminar will improve the understanding of the field of “business processes in SOA”. Furthermore, we expect that the seminar will stimulate new collaborations between the different communities.

All B·E·S·T directors as well as a couple of B·E·S·T members attend this seminar.

3. The first B·E·S·T colloquium

This colloquium took place in Eindhoven, August 30 – September 1, 2006. The program's 16 PhD students presented and discussed their ongoing work with each other and with the B·E·S·T directors. Such colloquia will be organized on a regular basis.

4. The 2007 B·E·S·T workshop

To support co-operation between B·E·S·T and other researchers in the area of Service oriented architecture, the program will organize a workshop in the framework of the 28th ICATPN in Siedlce, Poland, June 2007. Contributions are expected from within and outside B·E·S·T.

B. B·E·S·T organizational framework

A number of organizational measures support the aims of B·E·S·T and makes it effective for its members and the research community.

1. The Eindhoven B·E·S·T BETA chair

In 2006 Prof. Reisig will serve as the BETA chair. This chair is reserved for well-known high profile researches. As a BETA chair Prof. Reisig will give seminars and PhD courses, in particular for the Eindhoven B·E·S·T student members.

2. B·E·S·T PhD students exchange

PhD students of the program partners will visit the other place for joint research. The first student from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin started his stay in Eindhoven in August, 2006.

3. The B·E·S·T Tool Kit

The tool kit comprises a number of tools of both groups. They may be grouped according to their purpose:

- Tools for generating Petri Net models of services: BPEL2PNML, WFN2BPEL, BPEL2oWFN
Tools for the analysis of service models: LoLA, ProM, FOFCAN, Fiona, Yasper, WofBPEL

4. Double PhD
   Based on the co-operation within the program, and given the recently established formal framework at the involved Universities, the program directors encourage the B·E·S·T PhD students to defend their thesis at both places.

5. Joint B·E·S·T fund raising
   Both groups run programs that are funded by third parties, including the Dutch NWOO and STW, as well as the German Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the German Ministry for education and research (BMBF).
   The program partners intend to submit proposals for joint programs, to be jointly funded by NWOO and DFG, as well as by programs of EU

6. The B·E·S·T home page
   http://www.informatik.hu-berlin.de/top/best/
   This homepage covers actual events of the B·E·S·T program as well as slides and papers written in the program framework.

7. The B·E·S·T secretary
   The organizational matters of B·E·S·T are run by
   Riet van Buul at Eindhoven  m.a.van.buul@tue.nl and
   Daniela Weinberg at Berlin, weinberg@informatik.hu-berlin.de

8. Members of B·E·S·T
   The Eindhoven Partner
   Directors:  
   Prof. Wil van der Aalst
   Prof. Kees van Hee
   Staff members:
   Dr. Natalia Sidorova
   Dr. Marc Voorhoeve
   Dr. Alexander Serebrenik
   Drs. Reinier Post
   Dr. Eric Verbeek
   PhD students:
   Olivia Oanea
   Jan Martijn van der Werf
   Ana Karla Alves de Medeiros
   Florian Gottschalk
   Christian Günther
   Anne Rozinat
   Ronny Mans
Nataliya Mulyar

The Berlin/ Rostock Partner
Directors: Prof. Wolfgang Reisig
          Prof. Karsten Wolf
PhD students: Baver Acu
              Dirk Fahland
              Kathrin Kaschner
              Niels Lohmann
              Peter Massuthe
              Christian Stahl
              Daniela Weinberg
              Jarungjit Parnjai

Appendix
The B·E·S·T logo

B·E·S·T
The Berlin-Eindhoven
Service Technology Project