

Preface

Since its inception in 1997 the UML has become the de-facto standard for modeling object-oriented systems. As part of the standard the OCL provides the modeler with an expressive notation for capturing essential system properties such as state invariants and guards on state transitions. OCL has been adopted by practitioners in Industry and by academic researchers and is one of the most widely used languages for expressing object-oriented system properties; as such it makes a significant contribution to the quality of systems developed using the UML notation.

As the use of OCL has spread, there has been increasing interest in providing precise definitions for the notation, for example to support tool development. Extensions to the language have been proposed in order to support a wide variety of application domains from real-time systems to modeling business processes. As experience with OCL has grown, a number of researchers have proposed system development methodologies based on OCL.

Work on OCL has been reported and discussed in a number of different forums. The first workshop in Amsterdam (included in this volume as ‘The Amsterdam Manifesto’) produced the first paper about OCL, which has also been submitted to the OMG as an answer to the request for information for UML 2.0. OCL developments have been presented at the annual international UML conferences and in a series of OCL workshops held at the University of Kent, UK in 2000 and subsequently at UML 2000 at York, UK and UML 2001 in Toronto, Canada. At the time of writing the Object Management Group is currently reviewing the OCL standard and has issued a request for proposals for OCL 2.0. Many of the authors in this volume are contributing to this review process.

This volume contains a collection of papers representing key contributions to the development of OCL. In most cases the papers are developments of work reported at the conferences and workshops described above. Together they address many of the important issues faced by advanced practitioners and researchers in object modeling.

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Tony Clark
Jos Warmer