

Relationships Between Scenarios

Thomas A. Alspaugh

Institute for Software Research
Department of Informatics
University of California, Irvine
`alspaugh@ics.uci.edu`

Abstract. Scenarios are widely used in requirements analysis and other activities, but their informality is a challenge for reasoning about them and providing significant tool support. This research describes an approach for identifying aspects of scenarios that people use consistently, structuring them, and using this structure to support work with scenarios. Our approach clarifies how scenarios can be related (for example by specialization) and how they can be used to give each other context and constraints, and provides a foundation for more extensive automated support. Automated support for scenario manipulation and analysis lets human expertise be concentrated on the tasks that need it most. Our approach is implemented by an XML language and a Java package for it. We describe how they have been used in goal-driven specification-based testing, computed social worlds of autonomous animated agents, and analysis of business rules and scenarios.