

Drama Patterns: Programs, People, and Practices

AsianPLoP 2024 Focus Group Proposal

Aleksandra Vranić Branislava Vranić
Valentino Vranić

Institute of Informatics, Information Systems and Software Engineering
Faculty of Informatics and Information Technologies
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
Slovakia

`aleksandra.vranic@stuba.sk` - `branislava.vranic@gmail.com` - `vranic@stuba.sk`

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Motivation

Good drama is composed of patterns. Some two dozen of drama patterns have been documented [6, 8, 1] and actively applied with diverse participants ranging from small children [6] to university students and staff [4, 9, 5, 7, 3, 2]. Applying drama patterns is a very involving and fun activity. The participants become a part of a drama pattern and virtually feel the conflict of contradicting forces the pattern resolves. At the same time, they become a part of the dramatic element that resolves that conflict. This enables them to understand what the patterns really are and to use this in their own endeavors with patterns in any area.

Activity

In this focus group, we will build a short play with drama patterns. We will discuss different aspects of applying patterns. In particular, we will reflect on where to start, how to actually apply a pattern, how to improve a pattern, how to modify a pattern, how to incept a higher level pattern, how to retract a pattern, and pattern composition. We will discuss how the experience with drama patterns extends to other pattern languages of programs, people, and practices, depending on the interest of the participants.

Organizational Aspects

This focus group can accommodate up to 15 participants. It can be repeated in case of a greater interest. No acting experience is required. No knowledge

of software patterns is assumed. Everything will be explained on the spot.

A room with at least 4 x 8 m^2 of free space and a projector is needed. A time slot of 75 to 100 minutes would be sufficient.

Outreach

The results of the focus group could be easily extrapolated beyond its time and space delimitation. In particular, our ambition is to perform the play we would build for other conference participants. We have done this with great success at PLoP 2023, EuroPLoP 2022, and EuroPLoP 2019. Furthermore, there are drama patterns instantly applicable with a large number of people without any kind of preparation required, which may be used as games throughout the conference [4].

About the Organizers

The organizers discovered the concept of a drama pattern and published several papers on this topic [4, 6, 8, 1]. They organized three successful focus groups around drama patterns at PLoP conferences (at PLoP 2023, EuroPLoP 2022, and EuroPLoP 2019) and a remote PLoP 2022 PLoPourri event [5]. They have experience in applying drama patterns with hundreds of children of all ages and dozens of students within a regular university course.¹

References

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