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Stellingen

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“Abstract Delta Modeling: Software Product Lines and Beyond”

by Michiel Helvensteijn

1. Deltas are not an alternative to traits, any more than traits are an alternative to classes (Chapter 2).
2. Partial orders are a fundamental organizational structure. They arise naturally in many systems, but are often left implicit. Making them explicit is the best way to analyze and manipulate such systems (Chapter 3).
3. Most files that are checked into version control are very structured, and can even be parsed into syntax trees. But most version control systems (e.g., Git, Mercurial, SVN) are still treating them as plain text. Focusing further research on the inverse operation (unifying delta modeling with Darcs patch theory) and on optimal ways to implement the delta derivation operation would enable *smart version control* based on delta modeling (Chapter 2 and 3).
4. As delta modeling is applied in industry, the key to its effectiveness will lie in the palette of available ‘delta operations’ beyond the familiar **add**, **remove**, **modify** and **replace** (Chapter 2, 3 and 4).
5. Despite the delta modeling workflow making some decidedly ‘un-agile’ assumptions, delta modeling has the potential to fit well in an agile setting (Chapter 7).
6. A new software technique or design pattern evolves much more quickly in industry than it does in academics. Therefore, the sooner one is implemented and used, the better.
7. One of the main reasons so many conference talks are ineffective in communicating ideas is that many people assume that ‘*a presentation*’ = ‘*slides*’. This idea is continually reinforced, and results in a lack of real preparation and presenting skill. Slides, if used at all, are a *visual accompaniment* to the real presentation.
8. The peer review process would work a lot better if referees were in some way incentivised to write quality reviews.
9. Life is like a game of go. If you’ve got the stones, you can accomplish anything.