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IN ENGINEERING***

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## Editorial

Software agents are computer programs that are able to perform autonomous and independent actions. Due to substantial progress during the last years in the area of (distributed) artificial intelligence (AI), software agents have been successfully applied in problems of the domain of engineering sciences such as sensor management, planning operations, image processing, etc.

Relevant topics are (but are not limited to):

- application-oriented analysis of benefits, limitations, and risks of using software agents,
- experimental and analytical analysis on the performance and scalability of software agents and multi agent systems,
- comparison of agent-based systems with other AI approaches in the context of real-world applications,
- agent-based and application-oriented coordination, communication, and interaction strategies,
- safety and security aspects/applications of software agents.

The objective of this special issue is to offer a collection of high-quality contributions that reflect and advance the state-of-the art in the application of software agents to solve realworld problems. This special issue is focused on how (industrial rather than academic) problems of engineering may be faced by AI techniques involving the use of autonomous agents.

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