30 Years of Engineering Multi-Agent Systems: What and Why?

Michael Winikoff
Victoria University of Wellington
Wellington, New Zealand
michael.winikoff@vuw.ac.nz

ABSTRACT
Research on Engineering Multi-Agent Systems (EMAS) aims to provide software engineers with what they need to be able to effectively develop multi-agent systems. The field is broad, covering foundational concepts, notations, processes, techniques, tools, and languages. Although it is difficult to pin down a precise year, it can be argued that the community is now 30 years old [1]. This talk will review where the field is, and outline some challenges and future directions. In addition to answering the question “What is EMAS?” the talk aims to raise the profile of the field and the community, answering the question “Why should I care?”.

KEYWORDS
Engineering Multi-Agent Systems; Software Development; Methodologies; Programming Languages

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BIOGRAPHY
Michael Winikoff is a Full Professor (and currently Head of School) at the School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington. He completed his PhD at Melbourne University in 1997, and has subsequently worked at institutions including RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia), and Otago University (Dunedin, New Zealand). He is known for his work on engineering aspects of autonomous systems, including the Prometheus methodology. More recently, he has been working on issues relating to trust in autonomous systems, including verification and explanation. Michael is on the IFAAMAS board of directors, has previously been IFAAMAS secretary and is currently IFAAMAS president. He was the Program Co-Chair and General Co-Chair for the conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems in 2012 and 2017, respectively, and is currently co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems.

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REFERENCES