Collaborative provenance for workflow-driven science and engineering

Altıntaş, İ.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

“And by and by Christopher Robin came to an end of things, and he was silent, and he sat there, looking out over the world, just wishing it wouldn’t stop.”

– Winnie the Pooh (The House at Pooh Corner)

Every end is a beginning. Every beginning is an end. It is in this very spirit that I write the foreword to mark the end of this dissertation. Life sometimes presents us an opportunity when we least expect it. It is a lot of fun to give it a chance and take the challenge in spite of all the loneliness it might bring at times. If you are reading only this section, you might have started to think this is indeed a book for a doctorate in “philosophy”, but aren’t we all philosophers sometimes given the chance?

This challenge is almost over for me and I’m ready for whatever life after Ph.D. brings. I’d like to take the opportunity to thank a few people before I turn this corner of my life.

I’ll forever be grateful to Peter Sloot for getting me where I didn’t even think was possible. You were always patient and understood the limits of my availability even more than I did at times. You taught me that a thesis is not only about what you did, but also what you want to do afterwards. More importantly, you reminded me to shoot for the stars sometimes, if not always. I’ll always keep this advice with me. I hope to continue our occasional jam sessions in science (and music).

I don’t know where to start thanking Bertram Ludischer given the roles he played in my life, a boss, a mentor, a friend, a matchmaker and now a co-promoter. I think our (ad)ventures will only continue.

I’ve learned so much from all my committee members, David Abramson, Carole Goble, Marian Bubak and Hamideh Afsarmanesh, each of whom been wonderful role models and sources of inspiration since the early days of my work.

I’d like to thank my Amsterdam colleagues Adam Belloum, Marco Roos, Gokhan Ertaylan, Bartosz Balis, Breandán O Nuallain and Zhiming Zhao for our early discussions. They helped to shape a set of ideas into goals. Thanks to Valeria Krzhizhanovskaya, Katarzyna Ryczek and Vladimir Korkhov for their help during the writing of the manuscript. I enjoyed discussions with all of the members of the Section Computational Science of UvA and Virolab project along the way. A special thanks to Erik Hitipeeuw and Petra Best since it would not be easy being an external without the excellent support you get from excellent staff.
Manish Kumar Anand and other members of the SWAT Lab, namely, Daniel Crawl, Jianwu Wang, Madhusudan Gujral, Trung Vuong and Christopher Louie, have been true comrades reading my drafts, discussing my ideas with me, supervising students with me, and giving me all the support I needed at all times. They rock! Chaitan Baru, Amarnath Gupta, Hans-Werner Braun, Mark Miller and other members of CI-RED at SDSC have been constant sources of inspiration as this group is one of the birth places of e-Science and collaboration is literally everywhere. I’m proud to be a member of this group for almost a decade now. Last but not the least, my secret SDSC mentor was our director Michael Norman, who kept motivating me to take it one chapter at a time.

A huge thanks to Shawn Bowers for his advice on data modeling, and other members of the Kepler collaboration at large who have always been an endless well of influence, in particular Matt Jones, Chad Berkley, Mladen Vouk and Timothy McPhillips.

Thanks to Mark Elisman, Larry Smarr, Jeffrey Grethe, Shulei Sun, Jing Chen and the other CAMERA project members for enabling me with usecases and supporting this research.

All my friends and family who stood by me despite the lack of contact over the last couple of years. It is those occasional visits with all of you that kept me sane during fourteen hour working days. Especially to, Candice and Brian Churchwell since their existence makes my life so much easier. Kate Ericson has not just designed the cover but has been a huge source of strength throughout sleepless times. Thank you to Apryl Bailey and Karlinda Hasse Olsen for being there for me, accompanied with a big hug! Strong Dutch women scientists and wonderful girlfriends, Rinke Bos, Ester van Leeuwen, Eva Koffeman, Sarah Roord and Annick Van de Ven, have been a big source of compassion when I needed advice. The warm and welcoming house of Annemiek van het Wout in Amsterdam has been a constant point of relaxation. Many thanks to Ramon Arrens, Gijs Teklenburg and other Dutch friends I couldn’t list here for sharing their amazing country, culture and sense of humor with me.

I have a small, but strong and supportive family. My Mother and Father would have been proud to see this since they gave me an appreciation for intellect, exploration and a balanced life at a young age. They are always with me in spirit. My Brother-in-Law Paul, who occupies a huge part of my heart, always opened up his houseboat and time, letting me fill his house with shoes. Hope my only Brother Ilker knows how strongly he influenced my life and continues to do so. Because of him and the path he enabled, I am the person I am. He is still home to me. My Sister-in-Law Pelin, Niece Cansu and Nephew Umut fill my life with a lot of love despite the infrequency of my weekend phone calls when things get too busy.

My two buddies at home, Raymond and Aydin, have walked with me through this adventure. The hardest was the times I had to be away from my son, Aydin, as nothing is warmer than his sweet hugs and kisses. I look forward to spending Sundays and early mornings with him, making up for the time we couldn’t spend together. Last, but not at all least, Raymond is my rock. I can’t even express my feelings of gratitude for all his support. My life was touched by an angel the moment I met him and has been better ever since.

İlkyal Altunaş
San Diego, January 2011