Safecomp 2021 – Industry contributions

Guidelines for contributors and reviewers

Guidelines for contributors

Industry contributions should not simply have co-authors based in industry, but should have a clearly defined contribution that addresses typically practical rather than academic issues around the safety, reliability and security of computer-based systems. Examples include:

- Description of a novel problem identified in an industrial context
- Assessment of and reflections on the scalability of theories, methods and approaches
- Presentation and review of detailed safety cases filling in gaps usually left by more abstract academic papers

Industry contributions should:

- Have a clearly defined practical contribution
- Be grounded in real-world applications and case studies
- Draw out lessons for practitioners or industrial challenges for research

Industry contributions should not:

- Focus on abstract, high-level theories and concepts
- Include detailed literature reviews
- Include a sales pitch for specific tools or products (use the exhibition space instead)

Papers from authors in industry, which have more of an academic research focus, should be submitted as regular papers.

Structuring your industrial contribution manuscript

Industry contributions should be 12 - 14 pages (in Springer LNCS format). Shorter papers are possible as long as they provide sufficient detail. You don’t have to add things to the paper just to make up 12 pages. Only include what adds value.

The manuscript should ideally follow the structure below (but flexibility is allowed):
**Introduction**: setting the scene, introducing the main topic and issues. In the first paragraph let the reader know what the topic and main issues are. In subsequent paragraphs you can then unpick each of these issues in turn to provide further background. Conclude the introduction with an overview of the structure of the paper.

**Contribution**: include a paragraph outlining clearly the contribution the paper makes. Doing this explicitly can help you in focusing your paper and articulating your message more clearly.

**Industrial application / case study**: description of the industrial setting and the case study / problem. Provide sufficient detail so that readers can appreciate the complexity of real-world cases, but don’t focus on minute details. Describe what you have done and found.

**Discussion**: description of what you have learned from the work, what stands out, and what needs to happen. In the first paragraph you can summarise your key findings. In subsequent paragraphs you can then discuss these further, drawing on the literature as appropriate. Identify lessons for practitioners or implications for research.

**Conclusion**: do not simply provide a summary of the paper, but formulate a concise take-away message or call to action. The conclusion should address the important “So, what?” question.

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**Guidelines for reviewers**

Papers falling into the “industry” category are different from regular papers, and should be reviewed according to different quality criteria.

**Checklist for industry papers:***

- Does the topic of the paper fall within the scope of Safecomp?
- Does the paper provide a clearly defined contribution that falls into the “industry” category (e.g. identifies novel problem in an industrial context; reflects on scalability of theories / methods; describes a detailed safety case)?
- Are the findings grounded in a real-world application or case study?
- Is sufficient detail provided to demonstrate the complexity of real-world settings?
- Have lessons for practitioners or challenges for the research community been identified?
- Will the lessons / challenges be of interest to the Safecomp community / have the potential for constructive debate?
- Is the reasoning / application of methods technically sound?
- Does the paper acknowledge the most relevant other works and literature?

**Things to do / not to do:**

**Do:**

- Provide constructive feedback
● Ask for more detail in the real-world case where required
● Assess the technical soundness of the contribution
● Insist that the paper is well written and easy to understand

Don’t:

● Expect a detailed literature review
● Look for a novel contribution to research
● Criticise non-academic writing style

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