

Dear SPLC MIP Award Committee,

Here by we would like to propose to the committee members the nomination of the paper below for an SPLC Most Influential Paper Award:

Czarnecki, K., Helsen, S., & Eisenecker, U. (2004, August). Staged configuration using feature models. In *International Conference on Software Product Lines* (pp. 266-283). Springer Berlin Heidelberg.

This paper could be defended as the first one that stated clearly the notion of staged configurations (a.k.a interactive configurations) over feature models which somehow opened the door and inspired new operations on feature models for analysis and configuration. The idea being simple, is extremely powerful. A feature model becomes not only a description of features and relationships among them but an *oracle* for configuring feature models in different *stages*.

Feature models have always been present in SPLC conferences but when this paper was published, more and more papers on feature models configuration and analyses appeared, tools were developed and industrial cases were reported.

This paper settled the basis for researchers and practitioners to develop new variability related tools, using the results of this and other related papers. Some of these tools have been used to analyse and configure variability intensive systems like the GNU/Linux kernel and similar complex systems.

There is a clear recognition of the impact of this paper by the community that can be easily quantified in terms of citations. This is one of the most cited papers in the history of SPLC until now. More than five hundred citations in google scholar and more than ninety in Scopus gives an indicator of the impact.

We strongly support the nomination since this paper has contributed to the liveness and progress of the discipline.

Signed,

David Benavides, University of Seville, Spain
Patrick Heymans, University of Namur, Belgium
Maurice H. Ter Beek, ISTI-CNR, Pisa, Italy
Ina Schaefer, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany