



Recurring themes, motifs, and styles have been a fascination for historians, scientists, and scholars of all types for hundreds of years. It should be no surprise that when software engineering emerged as a discipline that the same fascination would come to apply to that field as well. In 1993 this emerging interest in software patterns and pattern languages spawned an effort to document and communicate these themes in order to provide proven solutions to common problems that possess the qualities of elegance, simplicity, and beauty. Thus, the [Pattern Languages of Programs \(PLoP\)](#) conference came into existence. Since those early, very software-focused beginnings, the PLoP conference has expanded its reach to many other areas as well, to cover patterns found in design, psychology, and other areas of human work and experience.

PLoP brings together practitioners and researchers whose interests span a broad range of topics, but all of whom share an interest in exploring the power of patterns. PLoP invites you to add your expertise to the growing body of patterns. At PLoP, we focus on improving the written expression of patterns (both their form and content) through writers' workshops. You will have the opportunity to refine and extend your patterns with the assistance of knowledgeable and sympathetic pattern enthusiasts and to work with others to develop pattern languages.

This year marks the thirtieth annual PLoP conference and we especially look to see previous authors, speakers, and former conference organizers coming back to PLoP to share their experience with new generations of pattern enthusiasts.

Topics

Nearly any topic is suitable for discovering patterns. We welcome topics on anything related to programming and software development, organizational structure, design, culture, politics, history, art, and the design and practice of living. We welcome papers describing pattern languages or individual patterns, experience reports, and essays.

Papers Describing Pattern Languages or Individual Patterns

We are interested in pattern languages and individual patterns related not only to software development, but also to any other field of creative human activity, such as learning, organizing people, building, art, art of living, etc. Patterns can be described in common or innovative pattern forms. We only ask that authors limit themselves to short papers (1-3 patterns) that can be completely discussed within the conference, or that they indicate which excerpts from longer papers should be the focus of attention.

Experience Reports

This year, we are especially looking for papers on how well patterns have served the communities they were written for. These papers could be either on experience in applying patterns to industrial projects, education, and organizations, or they could be on challenges found in using patterns as a pedagogical tool. Likewise, we would welcome papers on the difficulties the authors have found in writing patterns or in publishing patterns. These papers should stimulate discussion on how to express patterns better, and how to better disseminate patterns in education, training, and practice.

Essays, etc.

We also welcome essays and other papers that do not conform to the patterns form, including, but not limited to::

- Empirical evaluations of patterns and pattern languages
- Reflections on how well patterns have stood up over time. We particularly invite the authors of published patterns to look back at their work and provide reports on how well the patterns have held up.
- Retrospectives and reviews of patterns use, adoption, or authorship
- Anything related to the work of Christopher Alexander

But please don't be timid: submit anything you believe is relevant and would be interesting to the PLoP community.

Paper Submission and Review Process

Papers are submitted using the [Pasture conference system](#). Initial submissions are assessed for suitability and quality by the program committee. The papers found suitable are assigned shepherds, experienced pattern authors, who guide the authors in improving their papers. Each such paper is also assigned one program committee member to supervise the shepherding.

Shepherding involves several iterations each of which ends in a better version of the paper. For long papers, shepherding may be limited to specific parts. After the shepherding, the papers are assessed once more by the program committee members. The decision on whether the papers are accepted for the conference are then made by the program chairs, who take into account the comments posed by the program committee members and the willingness of the authors to consider the comments they received from their shepherd (as reported by the shepherd and program committee member who supervised the shepherding).

At the conference, the papers are extensively discussed in writers' workshops: groups of paper authors and possibly other conference participants. The papers that are considered not to be completely ready for writers' workshops receive additional face-to-face shepherding within writing groups. Provided they reach sufficient quality, these papers are discussed in a writers' workshop typically organized on the last day of the conference.

The proceedings are published after the conference in the ACM Digital Library. The authors are expected to take into account the comments they received in the writers' workshops. . Revised and extended versions of the papers discussed at a writers' workshops qualify for submission to *Transactions on Pattern Languages of Programming*, a journal published by Springer.

At least one author of each accepted paper must register for the conference before the closing of early-bird registration. Failure to do so will result in the acceptance being withdrawn.

Other Conference Features

In addition to writers' workshops, the PLoP conferences have a number of plenary sessions, including invited talks. We also welcome submissions for two other formats.

Focus Group Proposals

Over the years, we have found that focus groups offer the most opportunity for stimulating discussions and the potential to develop nascent ideas that can become groundbreaking. Several influential books emerged from focus groups.

Focus groups are free-format discussion groups or workshops lasting approximately three hours. Focus groups bring together people interested in a challenging topic related to patterns. Unconventional workshop organization ideas such as goldfish bowls and renga circles are also welcome. Focus group organizers may be invited to write reports on the activity of their focus groups, which may be included in the conference proceedings.

Lightning Talks

Lightning talks are a great opportunity to convey recent research results, pose intriguing questions, or explore partially formed ideas that would benefit from a broader discussion. They should be up to five minutes.

Important Dates

Paper Submissions, Workshop and Focus Proposals Due	May 26, 2023
Shepherding Begins	June 2, 2023
Shepherd Recommendations Due	July 27, 2023
Notification of Acceptance	August 15, 2023
Final Paper Version Due	September 18, 2023
Registration Due	To be announced
Conference Starts	October 23, 2023

Conference Location, Dates, and Organization

PLoP 2023 will be held at Allerton Park, Monticello, Illinois, the location of the inaugural PLoP conference. The conference starts on the morning of Monday, October 23, with breakfast and games and it ends on Wednesday afternoon, October 25. Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday evening, October 22, to check into their sleeping rooms and begin their PLoP experience with our traditional welcome Papa Del's pizza dinner.

In addition to writers' workshops, the conference will also offer discussions of patterns in other forums. Extra sessions during the day will focus on practical issues of interest to the patterns community. Evening plenary sessions will focus on large-scale topics of interest. Open time in the afternoons and evenings will offer attendees the opportunity to organize informal birds-of-a-feather sessions. Every effort will be made to provide an informal and creative atmosphere for the entire conference.

Registration

Everyone who plans to attend PLoP should register in advance. This includes the authors, non-authors, students, staff, and conference organizers. Space is limited, so please register early using the conference [registration system](#).

For More Information

If you have any questions, please check the [PLoP home page](#). If you still can't find the answer, please feel free to contact the conference organizers at plopchairs2023@hillside.net.

Valentino Vranić
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Program Chairs,
PLoP 2023