Whether Argumentation Works (WAW)

Monday, June 26, 2017 in Denver, Colorado in conjunction with the 47th IEEE/IFIP
International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN 2017)

As the use of assurance cases has grown, researchers have increasingly stressed the role of explicit argument. Yet while safety cases are broadly thought to be effective, the literature offers neither a precise definition of what it means for assurance argumentation to work nor empirical evidence that they do. The first workshop on *Whether Argumentation Works* (WAW) invites short position papers and will feature a moderated audience discussion. Participants will collaborate to (1) enumerate the goals and purposes of the various forms of assurance argument, (2) define testable hypotheses that capture what it means for arguments to 'work,' and (3) propose, critique, and refine designs for appropriate studies and experiments.

Workshop organizers

- **Patrick J. Graydon**, NASA Langley Research Center
- **C. Michael Holloway**, NASA Langley Research Center

Program committee

- **Sushil Birla**, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- **Paul Caseley**, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- **Darren Cofer**, Rockwell Collins
- **Richard Hawkins**, University of York
- **Barbara Lingberg**, Federal Aviation Administration
- **John Knight**, University of Virginia, Dependable Computing
- **Virginie Wiels**, ONERA

Workshop format

The workshop will comprise keynote addresses, short presentations, and a moderated discussion amongst workshop attendees. To promote a productive discussion, we seek diverse participation by people from industrial, regulatory, or academic backgrounds who are concerned with installations, systems, or software in domains such as transport, military, medical, and process industries.

Workshop web site

https://shemesh.larc.nasa.gov/waw2017/

Paper submission site

https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=waw2017

Important dates

Submission deadline:	Monday, **March 6**, 2017
Author notification:	Friday, March 31, 2017
Camera ready deadline:	Friday, April 14, 2017

Keynote speakers

- **David Rinehart**, Architecture Technology Corporation
- **Paul Caseley**, Dstl Senior Fellow, Dstl UK

Position papers

Potential workshop participants are invited to submit a short paper addressing one or more of the following topics:

- Identification of the goals and purposes that argumentation is thought to serve in a context or contexts of interest
- Definition of concrete, testable hypotheses that capture what it means for arguments to 'work' and underpin policy decisions
- The design of studies or experiments to test such hypotheses

Authors of selected position papers will present their position at the workshop before the relevant moderated discussion begins.

Position papers must be written in English and follow the IEEE double-column format. **The maximum length is two pages.** Templates and instructions are available from:

http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/publishing/templates.html

By submitting a paper, the authors acknowledge that, if the paper is accepted, at least one author will register for the WAW 2017 workshop and present the paper at the workshop in person.

Workshop proceedings and summary paper

All accepted position papers will be published in the DSN supplemental volume and made available through IEEE Xplore. The workshop organizers will summarize the workshop discussion in a separate paper that will be published following the workshop.