Editorial

Software Quality

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In our *Compact* special on 'Internationalization and the Digital Economy' (edition 2017), we pointed out that the two biggest disruptions for the traditional industries – digitization and internationalization – are a given for our children; digitization has been an integral part of the life of millennials.

As a consequence, software is everywhere. The alarm clock that wakes us up in the morning, the smart toothbrush that learns our brushing habits, the car that we drive and the applications we use to perform our work – all of these are examples of software usage, whether we realize it or not. This growth of software usage increases our dependency on software as well: airports and banks are, for instance, becoming more and more digital organizations. If software fails, it has a direct impact on us, ranging from 'simple annoyances' (e.g. no access to non-critical information) to 'utterly devastating problems' (e.g. the airport shutting down for the day). Moreover, for the first time ever, worldwide software revenues will surpass hardware revenues in 2019.

The above-mentioned examples illustrate the need for software of high quality. In this *Compact* edition, we highlight different aspects of software quality throughout the software development lifecycle. From embedding quality during design and delivering sustainable software while maintaining speed during development, to continuous monitoring of the application landscape during run and maintenance phases.

Due to the borderless aspects of software (quality), we have deliberately chosen to use English as the language for the majority of the articles in this edition, with the exception of two articles aimed at Dutch readers: the interview on an upcoming Dutch directive on software development and a view on benchmarking the quality of software.

We thank the contributing authors and hope you will enjoy this edition in which we aim to provide a good understanding of the importance of the process of delivering and maintaining high-quality software and how to control that process. We see high-quality software as an essential investment to accelerate operations, or perhaps more importantly, to gain competitive advantage and better serve your customers. If you would like to explore these ideas and concepts further, we invite you to contact us or any of the contributing authors.

Enjoy this edition of *Compact*!