



The Steering Committee of the Business Process Management (BPM) Conference Series is pleased to hand out the **Runner-Up BPM Test of Time Award 2017** to:

**Jussi Vanhatalo,  
Hagen Völzer, and  
Jana Koehler**

for their paper

## **The Refined Process Structure Tree**

presented at BPM 2008 in Milan ([http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-85758-7\\_10](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-85758-7_10)).

The BPM Test of Time Award is granted every two years. In 2017 both the award and a runner-up were given to the two most influential papers presented at BPM 2007 in Brisbane and BPM 2008 in Milan. The decision was made by the Steering Committee of the BPM conference series and was based on impact of the papers on the BPM field (both from a scientific and practical viewpoint), number of citations (Google Scholar and Scopus), technical quality, and presentation. Since there were multiple excellent candidates, the Steering Committee decided to also hand out a Runner-Up Award.

The paper presents a modular technique of workflow graph parsing to obtain fine-grained fragments with a single entry and single exit node. The resulting process structure tree can be obtained in linear time. The main idea of the technique presented is based on the work of Tarjan and Valdes. The underlying notion of a block is a connected subgraph with unique entry and exit nodes (as opposed to edges in earlier work). Accordingly, more blocks can be found, typically resulting in a more refined parse tree. Moreover, the authors prove that their decomposition is unique and modular.

The BPM 2008 paper and the extended version of the paper that was published in DKE are frequently cited and the work was used by many later techniques that require the parsing of process models. Applications can be found in process simplification, refactoring, querying, model transformation, conformance checking, process discovery, clone detection, decomposed process mining, and verification. This shows that, despite the formal presentation and mathematical rigor, the approach is very applicable.

The Steering Committee congratulates Jussi Vanhatalo, Hagen Völzer, and Jana Koehler with their excellent work. The paper is of remarkable quality and serves as a key reference for parsing process models. Therefore, it definitely deserves to be Runner-Up for the BPM Test of Time Award 2017.

Wil van der Aalst  
(Chair of BPM SC)