

Prologue

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Once upon a time, in an almost dark room lit by only a single torch, amidst the shadows slowly dancing on the walls, there sat a man looking out of the window. The thunderstorm had just passed, leaving the sky filled with bulky black clouds drifting low. From time to time, a late-coming stroke of lightning permeated the dark and enabled perceiving some features of the man-made world: Houses, cars, and few people seeking for shelter. A tense but quiet mood emerged as the city was waiting for the rain.

Then it came. Single drops first, growing fast into hundreds and thousands of tiny vertical streams. "Entirely natural, but massively parallel" the man thought, and he had the DREAM of a massively parallel supercomputer, made available for optimisation tasks.

The Internal Supervision Team

In March 2000, three months after the devastating blow of the millennium numbers against the world's computing devices, the European Commission (EC) began again to put money into weird research projects. The man began to think. He contacted his friends at his favourite club – the European Vastly Overpriced Network for the Enrichment of Travel (EVONET). They knew that they could be as weird as anybody, and formed the Desperate Research Engineers And Managers (DREAM) Network and succeeded to securing the funds. Soon a problem solving organisation (PSO) was formed, consisting of researchers, supervisors, and an internal supervision team (IST). Work was brought forward in a dis-

tributed evolution (DE) approach, utilising the benefits of synergy and group adaptation (GA). After implementing a generic protocol (GP), it finally made first achievements during the "execute the program" (EP) sessions at the annual EC evaluation meetings. From that point on the DREAM network grew and grew adding additional consortium organisations (ACO) and started to distribute its members to the wildest places on earth, always in search of new nodes to connect to...

Alas, it soon became clear that the quality of our marketing work was unable to reach the standards of our research. We therefore made a last desperate attempt and convinced our internal supervision team to release their incognito and step into the open. They did so at PPSN 2002 in Granada. It was: Hans-Paul and Antje Schwefel!

