

Anne Persson
Janis Stirna (Eds.)

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Preface

CAiSE 2004 was the 16th in the series of International Conferences on Advanced Information Systems Engineering. In the year 2004 the conference was hosted by the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Riga Technical University, Latvia.

Since the late 1980s, the CAiSE conferences have provided a forum for the presentation and exchange of research results and practical experiences within the field of Information Systems Engineering. The conference theme of CAiSE 2004 was Knowledge and Model Driven Information Systems Engineering for Networked Organizations.

Modern businesses and IT systems are facing an ever more complex environment characterized by openness, variety, and change. Organizations are becoming less self-sufficient and increasingly dependent on business partners and other actors. These trends call for openness of business as well as IT systems, i.e. the ability to connect and interoperate with other systems. Furthermore, organizations are experiencing ever more variety in their business, in all conceivable dimensions. The different competencies required by the workforce are multiplying. In the same way, the variety in technology is overwhelming with a multitude of languages, platforms, devices, standards, and products. Moreover, organizations need to manage an environment that is constantly changing and where lead times, product life cycles, and partner relationships are shortening. The demand of having to constantly adapt IT to changing technologies and business practices has resulted in the birth of new ideas which may have a profound impact on the information systems engineering practices in future years, such as autonomic computing, component and services marketplaces and dynamically generated software.

These trends pose a number of challenges to both the operational systems and the development processes of the organization, its work practice, and its IT systems. In order to cope with increasingly complex business and IT environments, organizations need effective instruments for managing their knowledge about these environments. Essential among these instruments are models, i.e. representations of aspects of reality including the domain of work, the processes, and the context. Models come in a variety of forms, formal or informal; describing static or dynamic aspects; representing agents, processes, or resources; focusing on business or IT aspects, etc. To realize the full potential of models, there is a need for a business and technology architecture as well as a way of working that places the models firmly in the center and lets them be the driving force in analysis, design, implementation, deployment and use of systems and services. This implies developing not only new modeling languages but also new ways of developing models, which incorporate in a participatory manner all stakeholders involved.

The challenging theme of CAiSE 2004 attracted scientists from all over the world to submit their contributions. The total number of submissions was 160, out of which the program committee selected 39 top-quality papers. The resulting program reflects the fact that the topic of information systems engineering encompasses human and organizational issues as well as technical issues. In addition to the main program, 16 papers presenting emerging ideas were invited to the CAiSE Forum. The CAiSE Forum was initiated by the organizers of CAiSE 2003 in Velden as a means of stimulating scientific debate.

The success of the CAiSE conferences is shown by the large number of co-located events. CAiSE 2004 was accompanied by eleven workshops and four tutorials, which attracted a large number of participants. The tutorials were given by Scott Ambler (Canada), Brian Henderson-Sellers (Australia) and Dov Dori (Israel). In addition, the Sixth International Baltic Conference on Databases and Information Systems was co-located with CAiSE 2004.

We devote a special thanks to the members of the program committee for providing excellent reviews of the submitted papers. Their dedicated work was instrumental in putting together yet another high-quality CAiSE conference. We wish also to give special thanks to the local organizers at the Riga Technical University for their hard work and devotion, which made the conference a great success.

The CAiSE 2004 organizers would also like to thank the conference sponsors – the Latvian Council of Science, the Dati Group (Latvia), Tieto Enator (Latvia), Lattelekom (Latvia), and the SISU Foundation (Sweden).

March 2004

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Table of Contents

Invited Talks

Modelling in Information Systems Engineering When It Works and When It Doesn't	1
<i>Björn E. Nilsson</i>	

Aligning Organizational Performance to IT Development and Integration	2
<i>Andris Laucins</i>	

Enterprise Modelling I

Model Driven Architectures for Enterprise Information Systems	3
<i>Judith Barrios and Selmin Nurcan</i>	

Simple and Minimum-Cost Satisfiability for Goal Models	20
<i>Roberto Sebastiani, Paolo Giorgini, and John Mylopoulos</i>	

Energy Services: A Case Study in Real-World Service Configuration	36
<i>Ziv Baida, Jaap Gordijn, Hanne Sæle, Andrei Z. Morch, and Hans Akkermans</i>	

Data Integration

Experimenting Data Integration with DIS@DIS	51
<i>Andrea Calì, Domenico Lembo, Riccardo Rosati, and Marco Ruzzi</i>	

Data Integration Using ID-Logic	67
<i>Bert Van Nuffelen, Alvaro Cortés-Calabuig, Marc Denecker, Ofer Arieli, and Maurice Bruynooghe</i>	

AutoMed: A BAV Data Integration System for Heterogeneous Data Sources	82
<i>Michael Boyd, Sasivimol Kittivoravithkul, Charalambos Lazanitis, Peter McBrien, and Nikos Rizopoulos</i>	

Conceptual Modelling I

Adding Agent-Oriented Concepts Derived from Gaia to Agent OPEN	98
<i>Brian Henderson-Sellers, John Debenham, and Q.-N.N. Tran</i>	

An Ontologically Well-Founded Profile for UML Conceptual Models	112
<i>Giancarlo Guizzardi, Gerd Wagner, Nicola Guarino, and Marten van Sinderen</i>	

Measuring Expressiveness in Conceptual Modeling 127
Susanne Patig

Workflows

Design and Implementation of the YAWL System 142
*Wil M.P. van der Aalst, Lachlan Aldred, Marlon Dumas,
and Arthur H.M. ter Hofstede*

MT-Flow – An Environment for Workflow-Supported Model
Transformations in MDA 160
Jernej Kouse and Theo Härder

Multiple Instantiation in a Dynamic Workflow Environment 175
Adnene Guabtni and François Charoy

Methodologies for Is Development

Method Components – Rationale Revealed 189
Kai Wistrand and Fredrik Karlsson

Towards a Meta-tool for Change-Centric Method Engineering:
A Typology of Generic Operators 202
Jolita Ralyté, Colette Rolland, and Rébecca Deneckère

Two-Hemisphere Model Driven Approach:
Engineering Based Software Development 219
Oksana Nikiforova and Marite Kirikova

Databases

Secure Databases: An Analysis of Clark-Wilson Model
in a Database Environment 234
Xiaocheng Ge, Fiona Polack, and Régine Laleau

Optimizing DOM Programs on XML Views
over Existing Relational Databases 248
Atsuyuki Morishima and Akira Kojima

**Support for Collaboration
between Individuals and Organisations I**

Formulating a General Standards Life Cycle 263
Eva Söderström

Applicability of ERP Systems for Knowledge Management
in the Context of Quality Management 276
Imandra Galandere-Zile

Web-Based Systems

- Model-Driven Web Service Development 290
Karim Baïna, Boualem Benatallah, Fabio Casati, and Farouk Toumani
- A Combined Runtime Environment and Web-Based Development
 Environment for Web Application Engineering 307
Martijn van Berkum, Sjaak Brinkkemper, and Arthur Meyer
- Enabling Personalized Composition and Adaptive Provisioning
 of Web Services 322
*Quan Z. Sheng, Boualem Benatallah, Zakaria Maamar,
 Marlon Dumas, and Anne H.H. Ngu*

Requirements Engineering

- A Systematic Approach to Express IS Evolution Requirements
 Using Gap Modelling and Similarity Modelling Techniques 338
Camille Salinesi, Anne Etien, and Iyad Zoukar
- How Requirements Specification Quality Depends on Tools:
 A Case Study 353
Raimundas Matulevičius
- Model-Driven Requirements Engineering:
 Synchronising Models in an Air Traffic Management Case Study 368
*Neil A.M. Maiden, Sara V. Jones, Sharon Manning, John Greenwood,
 and L. Renou*

Ontologies

- Facing Document-Provider Heterogeneity in Knowledge Portals 384
Jon Iturrioz, Oscar Díaz, and Sergio F. Anzuola
- Integration of OWL Ontologies
 in MPEG-7 and TV-Anytime Compliant Semantic Indexing 398
Chrisa Tsinaraki, Panagiotis Polydoros, and Stavros Christodoulakis
- Adaptive Web-Based Courseware Development
 Using Metadata Standards and Ontologies 414
Lydia Silva Muñoz and José Palazzo Moreira de Oliveira

Conceptual Modeling II

- Objects Meet Relations:
 On the Transparent Management of Persistent Objects 429
Luca Cabibbo
- The *GMD* Data Model and Algebra for Multidimensional Information 446
Enrico Franconi and Anand Kamble

Towards a Framework for Model Migration	463
<i>Werner Esswein, Andreas Gehlert, and Grit Seiffert</i>	

Data Warehousing

OLAP Hierarchies: A Conceptual Perspective	477
<i>Elzbieta Malinowski and Esteban Zimányi</i>	

Analysing Slices of Data Warehouses to Detect Structural Modifications ..	492
<i>Johann Eder, Christian Koncilia, and Dieter Mitsche</i>	

Empirical Validation of Metrics for Conceptual Models of Data Warehouses	506
<i>Manuel Serrano, Coral Calero, Juan Trujillo, Sergio Luján-Mora, and Mario Piattini</i>	

Enterprise Modelling II

Goal-Driven Analysis of Process Model Validity	521
<i>Pnina Soffer and Yair Wand</i>	

Data Warehouse Methodology: A Process Driven Approach	536
<i>Claus Kaldeich and Jorge Oliveira e Sá</i>	

Interactive Models for Supporting Networked Organisations	550
<i>John Krogstie and Håvard D. Jørgensen</i>	

Support for Collaboration between Individuals and Organisations II

Cooperation of Processes through Message Level Agreement	564
<i>Jelena Zdravkovic and Paul Johanesson</i>	

CoDoc: Multi-mode Collaboration over Documents	580
<i>Claudia-Lavinia Ignat and Moira C. Norrie</i>	

Author Index	595
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