Robert Meersman Zahir Tari et al. (Eds.)

On the Move to Meaningful Internet Systems 2004: CoopIS, DOA, and ODBASE

OTM Confederated International Conferences CoopIS, DOA, and ODBASE 2004 Agia Napa, Cyprus, October 2004 Proceedings, Part I

Part I



DOA







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Volume Editors

Robert Meersman Vrije Universiteit Brussel, STAR Lab Pleinlaan 2, Bldg. G/10, 1050 Brussels, Belgium E-mail: meersman@vub.ac.be

Zahir Tari
RMIT University, School of Computer Science and IT
City Campus, GPO Box 2476 V, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia
E-mail: zahirt@cs.rmit.edu.au

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OTM 2004 General Co-chairs' Message

The General Chairs of OnTheMove 2004, Larnaca, Cyprus, are once more proud to observe that the conference series we started in Irvine, California in 2002, and continued in Catania, Sicily last year, has turned out to be a concept that attracts a representative selection of today's research in distributed, heterogeneous yet collaborative systems, of which the Internet and the WWW are its prime examples.

Indeed, as such large, complex and networked intelligent information systems become the focus and norm for computing, it is clear that one needs to address and discuss in a single forum the implied software and system issues as well as methodological, theoretical and application issues. This is why the OnTheMove (OTM) Federated Conferences series covers an increasingly wide yet closely knit range of topics such as data and Web semantics, distributed objects, Web services, databases, workflows, cooperation, ubiquity, interoperability, and mobility. OnTheMove wants to be a primary scientific forum where these aspects for the development of internet- and intranet-based systems in organizations and for e-business are addressed in a quality-controlled fundamental way. This third, 2004 edition of the OTM Federated Conferences event therefore again provided an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to understand and publish these developments within their respective as well as within their broader contexts.

OTM first of all co-locates three related, complementary and successful main conference series: DOA (Distributed Objects and Applications), covering the relevant infrastructure-enabling technologies, ODBASE (Ontologies, DataBases and Applications of SEmantics) covering Web semantics, XML databases and ontologies, and CoopIS (Cooperative Information Systems) covering the application of these technologies in an enterprise context through, for example, workflow systems and knowledge management. Each of these three conferences treats its specific topics within a framework of (a) theory, (b) conceptual design and development, and (c) applications, in particular case studies and industrial solutions.

Following and expanding the example set in 2003, we solicited and selected quality workshop proposals to complement the more "archival" nature of the main conferences, with research results in a number of selected and more "avant garde" areas related to the general topic of distributed computing. For instance, the so-called Semantic Web has given rise to several novel research areas combining linguistics, information systems technology, and artificial intelligence, such as the modeling of (legal) regulatory systems and the ubiquitous nature of their usage. We were glad to see that in 2004 several of the Catania workshops remerged with a second edition (notably WoRM and JTRES), and that four other workshops could be hosted and successfully organized by their respective proposers: GADA, MOIS, WOSE, and INTEROP. We trust that their audiences mutually productively and happily mingled with those of the main conferences.

A special mention for 2004 is in order for the new Doctoral Symposium Workshop where three young postdoc researchers organized an original setup and formula to bring PhD students together and allow them to submit their research proposals for selection. A limited number of the submissions and their approaches were independently evaluated by a panel of senior experts at the conference, and presented by the students in front of a wider audience. These students also got free access to all other parts of the OTM program, and only paid a heavily discounted fee for the Doctoral Symposium itself. (In fact their attendance was largely sponsored by the other participants!) If evaluated as successful, it is the intention of the General Chairs to expand this model in future editions of the OTM conferences and so draw in an audience of young researchers to the OnTheMove forum.

All three main conferences and the associated workshops share the distributed aspects of modern computing systems, and the resulting application-pull created by the Internet and the so-called Semantic Web. For DOA 2004, the primary emphasis stayed on the distributed object infrastructure; for ODBASE 2004, it was the knowledge bases and methods required for enabling the use of formal semantics; and for CoopIS 2004 the main topic was the interaction of such technologies and methods with management issues, such as occurs in networked organizations. These subject areas naturally overlap and many submissions in fact also treat envisaged mutual impacts among them. As for the earlier editions, the organizers wanted to stimulate this cross-pollination with a shared program of famous keynote speakers: this year we got no less than Roberto Cencioni of the EC, Umesh Dayal of HP Labs, Hans Gellersen of Lancaster University, and Nicola Guarino of the Italian CNR! As before we encouraged multiple-event attendance by providing authors with free access to other conferences or workshops of their choice.

We received a total of 350 submissions for the three conferences and approximately 170 in total for the workshops. Not only can we therefore again claim success in attracting a representative volume of scientific papers, but such a harvest allowed the program committees of course to compose a high-quality crosssection of worldwide research in the areas covered. In spite of the large number of submissions, the Program Chairs of each of the three main conferences decided to accept only approximately the same number of papers for presentation and publication as in 2002 and 2003 (i.e., an average of 1 paper out of 4 submitted, not counting posters). For the workshops, the acceptance rate varied but was stricter than before, about 1 in 2, to 1 in 3 for GADA and WoRM. Also, for this reason, we decided to separate the proceedings into two books with their own titles, with the main proceedings in two volumes and the workshop proceedings in a separate, third volume, and we are grateful to Springer for their suggestions and collaboration in producing these books. The reviewing process by the respective program committees as usual was performed very professionally and each paper in the main conferences was reviewed by at least three referees. It may be worthwhile to emphasize that it is an explicit OnTheMove policy that all conference program committees and chairs make their selections completely

autonomously from the OTM organization. Continuing an equally nice (but admittedly costly) tradition, the OnTheMove Federated Event organizers decided again to make ALL (sizeable!) proceedings available to ALL participants of conferences and workshops, independent of their registrations.

The General Chairs really are especially grateful to all the many people who were directly or indirectly involved in the setup of these federated conferences and in doing so made them a success. Few people realize what a large number of people have to be involved, and what a huge amount of work, and, yes, risk organizing an event like OTM entails. In particular we therefore thank our eight main conference PC co-chairs (DOA 2004: Vinny Cahill, Steve Vinoski, and Werner Vogels; ODBASE 2004: Tiziana Catarci and Katia Sycara; CoopIS 2004: Wil van der Aalst, Christoph Bussler, and Avigdor Gal) and our 15 workshop PC co-chairs (Angelo Corsaro, Corrado Santoro, Mustafa Jarrar, Aldo Gangemi, Klaus Turowski, Antonia Albani [2x], Alexios Palinginis, Peter Spyns [2x], Erik Duval, Pilar Herrero, Maria S. Perez, Monica Scannapieco, Paola Velardi, Herve Panetto, Martin Zelm) who, together with their many PC members, did a superb and professional job in selecting the best papers from the large harvest of submissions. We also thank our Publicity Chair (Laura Bright) and Publication Chair (Kwong Yuen Lai), and of course our overall Workshops Chair (Angelo Corsaro).

We do hope that the results of this federated scientific event contribute to your research and your place in the scientific network. We look forward to seeing you at next year's edition!

August 2004

Robert Meersman, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium Zahir Tari, RMIT University, Australia

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The OTM (On The Move) 2004 Federated Conferences, which involved CoopIS (Cooperative Information Systems), DOA (Distributed Objects and Applications) and ODBASE (Ontologies, Databases and Applications of Semantics), were proudly supported by RMIT University (School of Computer Science and Information Technology) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Department of Computer Science).

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Table of Contents, Part I

Part I	
Cooperative Information Systems (CoopIS) 2004 International Conference	
PC Co-chairs' Message	1
Keynote	
Business Process Optimization	2
Workflow/Process/Web Services, I	
Discovering Workflow Transactional Behavior from Event-Based Log	3
A Flexible Mediation Process for Large Distributed Information Systems	19
Exception Handling Through a Workflow	37
Workflow/Process/Web Services, II	
A Flexible and Composite Schema Matching Algorithm	55
Analysis, Transformation, and Improvements of ebXML Choreographies Based on Workflow Patterns	66
The Notion of Business Process Revisited	85

${ m Workflow/Process}_{eta}$	/Web	Services,	III
-------------------------------	------	-----------	-----

Disjoint and Overlapping Process Changes: Challenges, Solutions, Applications Stefanie Rinderle, Manfred Reichert, Peter Dadam	101
Untangling Unstructured Cyclic Flows – A Solution Based on Continuations Jana Koehler, Rainer Hauser	121
Making Workflow Models Sound Using Petri Net Controller Synthesis Juliane Dehnert, Armin Zimmermann	139
Database Management/Transaction	
Concurrent Undo Operations in Collaborative Environments Using Operational Transformation	155
Refresco: Improving Query Performance Through Freshness Control in a Database Cluster	174
Automated Supervision of Data Production – Managing the Creation of Statistical Reports on Periodic Data	194
Schema Integration/Agents	
Deriving Sub-schema Similarities from Semantically Heterogeneous XML Sources	209
Supporting Similarity Operations Based on Approximate String Matching on the Web Eike Schallehn, Ingolf Geist, Kai-Uwe Sattler	227
Managing Semantic Compensation in a Multi-agent System	245
Modelling with Ubiquitous Agents a Web-Based Information System Accessed Through Mobile Devices	264

Events

A Meta-service for Event Notification	283
Classification and Analysis of Distributed Event Filtering Algorithms Sven Bittner, Annika Hinze	301
P2P/Collaboration	
A Collaborative Model for Agricultural Supply Chains Evandro Bacarin, Claudia B. Medeiros, Edmundo Madeira	319
FairNet – How to Counter Free Riding in Peer-to-Peer Data Structures. Erik Buchmann, Klemens Böhm	337
Supporting Collaborative Layouting in Word Processing	355
A Reliable Content-Based Routing Protocol over Structured Peer-to-Peer Networks Jinling Wang, Beihong Jin, Jun Wei, Jing Li	373
Applications, I	
Covering Your Back: Intelligent Virtual Agents in Humanitarian Missions Providing Mutual Support	391
Dynamic Modelling of Demand Driven Value Networks	408
An E-marketplace for Auctions and Negotiations in the Constructions Sector Marina Bitsaki, Manos Dramitinos, George D. Stamoulis, George Antoniadis	422
Applications, II	
Managing Changes to Engineering Products Through the Co-ordination of Human and Technical Activities Wendy K. Ivins, W. Alex Gray, John C. Miles	442
Towards Automatic Deployment in eHome Systems: Description Language and Tool Support	460

A Prototype of a Context-Based Architecture for Intelligent Home Environments	7
Trust/Security/Contracts	
Trust-Aware Collaborative Filtering for Recommender Systems	2
Service Graphs for Building Trust	9
Detecting Violators of Multi-party Contracts	3
Potpourri	
Leadership Maintenance in Group-Based Location Management Scheme	Į
TLS: A Tree-Based DHT Lookup Service for Highly Dynamic Networks	}
Minimizing the Network Distance in Distributed Web Crawling	
Ontologies, Databases, and Applications of Semantics (ODBASE) 2004 International Conference	
PC Co-chairs' Message	1
Keynote	
Helping People (and Machines) Understanding Each Other: The Role of Formal Ontology	
Knowledge Extraction	
Automatic Initiation of an Ontology	
Knowledge Extraction from Classification Schemas	