Lois Delcambre
Christian Kop
Heinrich C. Mayr
John Mylopoulos
Oscar Pastor (Eds.)

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Volume Editors

Lois Delcambre
Portland State University, Computer Science Department
P.O. Box 751 Portland, OR 97207-0751, USA
E-mail: lmd@cs.pdx.edu

Christian Kop
Heinrich C. Mayr
Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt
Institute of Business Informatics and Application Systems
Klagenfurt, Austria
E-mail: {chris,mayr}@ifit.uni-klu.ac.at

John Mylopoulos
University of Toronto, Bahen Center for Information Technology
40 St George Street, Room BA7266
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2E4, Canada
E-mail: jm@cs.toronto.edu

Oscar Pastor
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
Dept. de Sistemas Informáticos y Computación
Camino de Vera s/n, 46022 Valencia, España
E-mail: opastor@dsic.upv.es

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Preface

Conceptual modeling is fundamental to any domain where one must cope with complex real-world situations and systems because it fosters communication between technology experts and those who would benefit from the application of those technologies. Conceptual modeling is the key mechanism for understanding and representing the domains of information system and database engineering but also increasingly for other domains including the new "virtual" e-environments and the information systems that support them. The importance of conceptual modeling in software engineering is evidenced by recent interest in "model-driven architecture" and "extreme non-programming". Conceptual modeling also plays a prominent role in various technical disciplines and in the social sciences.

The Annual International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (referred to as the ER Conference) provides a central forum for presenting and discussing current research and applications in which conceptual modeling is the major emphasis. In keeping with this tradition, ER 2005, the 24th ER Conference, spanned the spectrum of conceptual modeling including research and practice in areas such as theories of concepts and ontologies underlying conceptual modeling, methods and tools for developing and communicating conceptual models, and techniques for transforming conceptual models into effective (information) system implementations. Moreover, new areas of conceptual modeling including Semantic Web services and the interdependencies of conceptual modeling with knowledge-based, logical and linguistic theories and approaches were also addressed.

The Call for Papers attracted 169 research papers from 37 different nations; 31 papers from 22 nations, i.e., 21.9%, were selected for presentation at the conference and publication in these proceedings based on a stringent review process in which each paper was assessed by at least three reviewers. These accepted papers, together with three invited keynote speeches, a demo and poster session, and a concluding panel discussion, were featured in 14 technical conference sessions. ER 2005 also featured five workshops organized in 15 technical sessions and 7 tutorials presented by outstanding experts in their fields. We were enthusiastic about the quality of this year's program in all its particulars.

Many individuals contributed to making ER 2005 a success. First, we thank the authors for their valuable contributions. Second, we thank the members of the Program Committee and the additional reviewers for their detailed reviews and discussion. Special appreciation is due to our last-minute reviewers, i.e., the "Swat Team," who provided additional reviews for papers, nearly around the clock, in parallel with the PC chairs meeting. Similarly, we thank the chairs of the various tracks for their effectiveness. And we offer special thanks to our keynote speakers for their insightful contributions.

We are very grateful to Peter Jelitsch, our student who composed these proceedings and painstakingly adapted nearly every paper to the LNCS layout. Likewise we acknowledge the engagement and enthusiasm of all members of the organizational team, who gave their best to make ER 2005 an unforgettable event. Last but not least we thank our sponsors and supporters, in particular the University of Klagenfurt, the Governor of Carinthia and the Mayor of Klagenfurt, for their financial support.

Klagenfurt, October 2005

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