Dimitris Karagiannis, Heinrich C. Mayr (Eds.)

Information Systems Technology and its Applications

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Preface

Information Systems Technology is changing the way businesses operate: It continues to evolve very rapidly in the context of the transformation of traditional businesses into the network economy. We are witnessing a tremendous growth in the number, types, and novelty of information systems, as well as an increased level of sophistication and architectural diversity.

The ISTA conference series provides a platform for experts from practice and academia who are working from different perspectives on information systems. As such it is intended to initiate and strengthen the co-operation of practitioners, researchers, users and information providers involved in the development and deployment of commercial and industrial information systems by integrating, in particular such persons from the NIS states. The papers in this volume indicate that this idea is becoming real and stimulates fruitful discussions. Starting off as a Central and East-European initiative in 2001, ISTA was globalized and migrated via Salt Lake City (2004), Palmerston North (2005) to this year’s venue, Klagenfurt where it forms a part of UNISCON 2006, the “United Information Systems Conference”, which besides ISTA comprises the 9th Int. Conf. on Business Information Systems (BIS 2006) and the 11th Int. Conference on Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems (NLDB 2006).

The program of ISTA 2006 is the result of a careful review process in which most of the 33 submitted full papers were assessed by more than two experienced reviewers. The selected 12 full papers are published within this issue together with 3 extended abstracts and 1 invited paper. Actual and important subjects are addressed, like semantic interoperability, modeling issues, development methodologies and techniques for specific application environments.

Many persons deserve appreciation and recognition for their contribution to make ISTA 2006 a success. First of all we have to thank the authors for their valuable contributions. Similarly, we thank the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers, who spent a lot of time in assessing submitted papers and participating in the discussions on acceptance or rejection. Special appreciation is due to those organizations who provided funds supporting the travelling cost of NIS participants. Last but not least, we express our thanks to the UNISCON organization team including our engaged and competent students.

Vienna and Klagenfurt, May 2006

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# Table of Content

## Keynote

Method Engineering: Theory and Practice  
*Brian Henderson-Sellers*  
13

## Full Papers

Coordinating Higher Education as an e-Government Initiative  
*Olga Cherednichenko, Dmytro Kuklenko, Sergiy Zlatkin*  
27

An Investigation of the Target Environment for Agile Methods  
*Diane Strode, Alexey Tretiakov*  
39

A Generic Ontology of Rational Negotiation  
*Vadim Ermolayev, Natalya Keberle*  
51

Tamper Protection of Online Clients through Random Checksum Algorithms  
*Gisle Grimen, Christian Mönch, Roger Midtstraum*  
67

Semantic Interoperability in the Norwegian Petroleum Industry  
*Jon Atle Gulla, Stein L. Tomassen, Darius Strusunskas*  
81

Fragments for Composing Collaborative Systems  
*Igor T. Hawryszkiewycz, Henderson-Sellers Brian, Tran N.*  
95

A JXTA-based Music Information Retrieval System  
*Hyosook Jung, Seongbin Park*  
107

Use of Tailored Process Models to Support ERP End-Users  
*Renate Kristiansen, Jon Atle Gulla, Hallvard Trætteberg*  
119

Optimization of Data Sets Allocation in the Distributed Databases  
*Sergiy V. Lazdyn, Alexander O. Telyatnikov*  
131

Multiple Criteria Ranking Enterprises Based on Inconsistent Estimations  
*Alexey Pertovsky*  
143
Tool Supported Aspectual Predesign

Vladimir A. Shekhovtsov, Arkadiy V. Kostanyan, Eugene Gritskov, Yury Litvinenko

Towards Generic Layouts for Multi-Channel Publishing: "XF-Extensible Formatting"

Heli Tervo, Anne Honkaranta, Paula Leinonen

Extended Abstracts

A Vision to Construct Multiple Data Views in Peer Data Management Systems

Rozlina Mohamed, M.B. Al-Mourad and Yasser M. A. Khalifa

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: digital platform designing with native XPath enabled storage and retrieval on MySQL

Thomas Nicolai, Marc-Frederic Schäfer, Lars Kirchhoff

Fuzzy-Logic Modeling Approach for System Requirements Management

Mykola Tkachuk, Michael Godlevsky, Andriy Zemlyanoy, Rustam Gamzayev