

Preface

Communities are groupings of distributed objects that are capable of communicating, directly or indirectly, through the medium of a shared context. To support communities on a wide scale will require developments at all levels of computing, from low-level communication protocols supporting transparent access to mobile objects, through to distributed operating systems, through to high-level programming models allowing complex interaction between objects. This workshop brought together researchers interested in the technical issues of supporting communities.

This workshop was the third in the *DCW* series. The first two, entitled *Distributed Computing on the Web*, took place in 1998 and 1999 at the University of Rostock, with proceedings published by the University of Rostock Press. This year, the workshop also incorporated the *ISLIP* (*International Symposium on Languages for Intensional Programming*) symposium. The *ISLIP* symposia have taken place every year since 1988, and have led to two volumes published by World-Scientific (*Intensional Programming I*, 1995, and *Intensional Programming II*, 2000). While the two conferences emerged from different needs, their focus merged to such an extent that it became clear that a joint conference promised to offer great opportunities.

The 19 papers presented in these proceedings were selected from 30 submissions from around the world. Each submission was fully refereed by at least three members of the program committee or by other external referees. The reviewers of each paper were carefully selected to ensure they showed the required expertise for the papers' topics. If a reviewer felt that a paper was not in her/his field of expertise she/he was encouraged to inform the program chair. In this case another program committee member or additional referee was asked to review the paper. Special care was taken to avoid conflicts of interest by ensuring that if a program committee member was co-author of one of the submissions, then the paper would be reviewed by program committee members or additional reviewers who were not close collaborators of the submitters.

This year, we were pleased to welcome two invited speakers who are at the forefront of academic research and of industrial development. Jacob Slonim of Dalhousie University (Canada) presented his work on the *KALI* project about *Creating an electronic commerce device which promotes universal access*. Peter Beckman from TurboLinux' TurboLabs (USA) exposed the most recent developments of emerging on-line communities on the Internet that thrive on instant response and privacy in his talk *Clusters, servers, thin clients, and on-line communities*.

In addition to the papers, the workshop includes a tutorial presentation about the Web Operating System (WOSTM), a working decentralized operating system where the different nodes are *versioned*. This system has been jointly developed by researchers in Canada, Germany, Australia, and the USA.

Along with the official presentations published in these proceedings, a number of poster presentations and system demonstrations of networked systems were given. Summaries of these presentations and demonstrations can be found at the Web site www.wos-community.org/dcw2000.

We would especially like to thank all the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers for their work in preparing the thorough reviews of the submitted papers. A special thanks also to Rachel Lapierre for the administrative support before and during the workshop.

We would also like to thank all the sponsors for their support and especially Laval University for hosting us. Finally, we would like to thank all authors for submitting their contributions and the authors of accepted papers for their collaboration in preparing these proceedings.

We are convinced that this workshop series is very timely, and answers the needs of a great many researchers who want to focus on building networked communities. We hope that you find the contributions of this workshop interesting and stimulating.

June 2000

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