Preface

Net.ObjectDays (NODe) has established itself as one of the most significant events on Objects, Components, Architectures, Services and Applications for a Networked World in Europe and in the world. As in previous years, it took place in the Messekongresszentrum (Fair and Convention Center) in Erfurt, Thuringia, Germany, this time during 7–10 October 2002. Founded only three years ago as the official successor conference to JavaDays, STJA (Smalltalk and Java in Industry and Education) and JIT (Java Information Days), NODe has grown into a major international conference that attracts participants from industry, research and users in equal measure since it puts strong emphasis on the active exchange of concepts and technologies between these three communities.

Over the past few years, the NODe conference has developed a remarkable track record: a new paradigm (*Generative Programming*) was born at NODe (citation James Coplien), nearly all of the most prominent researchers and contributors in the object-oriented field (and beyond) have given keynotes at NODe, new topics have been integrated (like Agent Technology and Web-Services) and, now, for the first time, postconference proceedings are being published by Springer-Verlag. Altogether three volumes will be available. This volume is compiled from the best papers of the *Web Databases* and the *Web-Services* workshops. Two additional volumes will be published, one containing the best contributions of the main conference and another one with the best contributions to the agent-related workshops and the *3rd International Symposium on Multi-Agent Systems, Large Complex Systems, and E-Businesses (MALCEB 2002)* that were cohosted with NODe 2002: M. Aksit, M. Mezini, R. Unland (editors) *Objects, Components, Architectures, Services, and Applications for a Networked World* (*LNCS 2591*) and R. Kowalczyk, J. Müller, H. Tianfield, R. Unland (editors) *Agent Technologies, Infrastructures, Tools, and Applications for e-Services* (*LNAI 2592*).

This volume contains the keynote speeches as well as 19 peer-reviewed, original papers that were chosen from the papers accepted for the workshops. This means that the papers in this volume are a subset of the papers presented at the conference, which in turn were selected by the programme committees out of the submitted papers based on their scientific quality, the novelty of the ideas, the quality of the writing, and the practical relevance. This double selection process not only guaranteed high-quality papers but also allowed the authors to consider comments and suggestions they had received during the conference and to integrate them into their final version. Furthermore, authors were allowed to extend their papers to fully fledged versions. We hope that the results will convince you as much as they did us and that these proceedings give you many new inspirations and insights.

The contents of this volume can best be described by an excerpt from the original Call for Papers:

Web Databases
The workshop centers on database technology and the Web. Flexibility, scalability, heterogeneity and distribution are typical characteristics of the Web infrastructure. Whereas these characteristics offer rich potential for today's and future application domains, they put high demands on database systems and especially their architecture, testing interoperability, access to and maintenance of structured and semistructured (heterogeneous) data sources, and the integration of applications. Of particular importance and interest to the workshop is database support for XML (Extensible Markup Language) and Web-services.

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Web-services promise to ease several current infrastructure challenges. Especially they are expected to herald a new era of integration: integration of data, processes, and also complete enterprises on the basis of a set of loosely related lightweight approaches that hide all technical implementation details except the Web, which serves as the basic transport and deployment mechanism. Interoperability will surely prove itself as the critical success factor of the Web service proliferation promised by some analysts. In order to accomplish this interoperability, various standardization bodies such as the W3C, UN and OASIS have initiated activities working on specifications of building blocks of a Web-service architecture. Nevertheless, a significant number of vendors now offer the first commercial solutions, which have been implemented to create some real-world services.

As editors of this volume, we would like to thank once again all programme committee members, as well as all external referees for their excellent work in evaluating the submitted papers. Moreover, we would like to thank Mr. Hofmann from Springer-Verlag for his cooperation and help in putting this volume together.

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Akmal B. Chaudhri,
Mario Jeckle,
Erhard Rahm,
Rainer Unland

2nd Annual International Workshop "*Web Databases*" of the Working Group "Web and Databases" of the German Informatics Society (GI)

Organizers

Akmal B. Chaudhri, IBM developerWorks, USA
Erhard Rahm, University of Leipzig, Germany
Rainer Unland, University of Essen, Germany

Members of the International Programme Committee

Wolfgang Benn, TU Chemnitz
Ron Bourret, Independent Consultant
Hosagrahar V. Jagadish, University of Michigan
Udo Kelter, University of Siegen
Alfons Kemper, University of Passau
Thomas Kudraß, HTWK Leipzig
Meike Klettke, University of Rostock
Marco Mesiti, University of Genoa
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Kjetil Nørvåg, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Jaroslav Pokorný, Charles University
Awais Rashid, University of Lancaster
Werner Retschitzegger, University of Linz
Harald Schöning, Software AG
Gottfried Vossen, University of Münster
Gerhard Weikum, University of Saarbrücken

Workshop on "*Web-Services – Research, Standardization, and Deployment*" (WS-RSD 2002)

Organizer

Mario Jeckle
DaimlerChrysler Corporate Research Center Ulm
Wilhelm Runge Str. 11
89073 Ulm, Germany
E-mail: mario@jeckle.de

Members of the International Programme Committee

Dieter Fensel, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Christopher Ferris, Sun Microsystems
Bogdan Franczyk, University of Leipzig
Frank Leymann, IBM
Jean-Philippe Martin-Flatin, CERN
Erich Ortner, Technical University of Darmstadt
Günther Specht, University of Ulm
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Liang-Jie Zhang, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center