

Preface

The Workshop on Web Services, E-Business, and the Semantic Web (WES) was held May 27–28, 2002 in conjunction with CAiSE 02, the 14th International Conference on Advanced Information Systems Engineering. The workshop comprised three tracks: a track on Web services co-chaired by Barbara Pernici (Politecnico di Milano) and Jian Yang (Tilburg University); a track on e-business, co-chaired by Maria E. Orłowska (University of Queensland) and Christoph Bussler (Oracle Corporation, USA); and a track on e-services and the Semantic Web, co-chaired by Rick Hull (Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies, USA) and Sheila McIlraith (Knowledge Systems Laboratory, Stanford University, USA).

The Internet is changing the way businesses operate. Organizations are using the web to deliver their goods and services, to find trading partners, and to link their existing (maybe legacy) applications to other applications. Web services are rapidly becoming the enabling technology of today's e-business and e-commerce systems, and will soon transform the Web as it is now into a distributed computation and application framework.

On the other hand, e-business as an emerging concept is also impacting software applications, the everyday services landscape, and the way we do things in almost each domain of our life. There is already a body of experience accumulated that demonstrates the difference between just having an online presence and using the Web as a strategic and functional medium in e-business-to-business interaction (B2B) as well as in marketplaces.

Finally, the emerging Semantic Web paradigm promises to annotate Web artifacts to enable automated reasoning about them. When applied to e-services, the paradigm hopes to provide substantial automation for activities such as discovery, invocation, assembly, and monitoring of e-services. But much work remains to be done before realizing this vision.

Clearly Web services must satisfy a number of challenging requirements in order to be able to play a crucial role in the new application domain of e-business and distributed application development. They should be modeled and designed to reflect the business objectives. Although some progress has been made in the area of Web service description and discovery, and there are some important standards like SOAP, WSDL, and UDDI emerging, there is still a long way to go. There is still a list of issues that need to be addressed and research that needs to be done in connection with foundations, technology support, modeling methodologies, and engineering principles before Web services become the prominent paradigm for distributed computing and electronic business.

The goal of this workshop was to bring Web services, e-business, and Semantic Web technology issues together for discussion and review. This included new research results and developments in the context of Web services and e-business as well as the application of existing research results in this new fascinating area. In addition to the presentation of research papers, the workshop included three

invited speakers: Aad van Moorsel (HP, USA) on “Ten-Step Survival Guide for the Emerging Business Web”; Mike Papazoglou (Tilburg University, The Netherlands) on “The World of E-Business: Web Services, Workflows, and Business Transactions”; and Ian Horrocks (University of Manchester) on “DAML+OIL: a Reason-able Web Ontology Language.”

We would like to thank the WES program committee for their hard work in helping make this workshop a success. We would also like to thank our invited speakers for their participation. Finally, we would also like to acknowledge Bell Labs Research, a Division of Lucent Technologies for their financial support of this event.

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