2005 9th IFIP/IEEE International Symposium
on Integrated Network Management

Integrated Network Management IX

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“Managing New Networked Worlds”

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IFIP

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Preface

Over the course of the past International Symposia on Integrated Network Management, we have been able to witness the evolution of the field of integrated management. Some of the topics have changed. For example, the days of the management protocol wars now seem from an era that has long gone by, while new topics such as self-management have emerged. Also, the scope of the field itself has evolved, with integrated management no longer restricted to networks (as still reflected in the symposium's title) but extending to other domains that are intrinsically related to networks, such as networking services and networked applications. At the same time, there has been remarkable continuity in other themes that have managed to stay topical through the years, such as management middleware or monitoring technologies.

One area that has been evolving dramatically is the context in which management is applied, namely networking technology itself. We are witnessing the dawn of a new era in networking. New networked worlds emerge in which connectivity becomes increasingly ubiquitous and the infrastructure blends in seamlessly with business functions, applications, and the supported environment. These new worlds are characterized by properties such as convergence, context awareness, accelerated service lifecycles, virtualization of resources, massive P2P infrastructures, and unprecedented security challenges. Further, new types of networks are emerging such as sensor, agent, storage-area, and grid-based networks. All of this incurs new challenges and opportunities for network management and the ways in which it is approached, requiring management technology to evolve as rapidly as the new networked worlds. Only by keeping networking technology manageable does its deployment become practical. Accordingly, the motto of this year's International Symposium on Integrated Network Management is "Management of New Networked Worlds".

IM 2005 expects to provide participants with the opportunity to hear about the latest technological advances, documented in the Proceedings that you are looking at right now, and serve as the catalyst for fruitful exchanges of ideas. We hope that this will help spark new thoughts and ideas among participants which they will be able to apply to their own projects back home, providing value long after the symposium has ended. The Technical Program Committee has put together a strong technical program that is presented in two technical tracks. It consists of 53 papers that are distributed over 16 technical sessions.

We received a total of 238 submissions (including 15 short papers) from 34 countries. As a result, IM 2005 is the most selective ever in terms of acceptance rate (23%). We believe that the paper selection process was at the same time rigorous and fair. To arrive at the technical program, each submission was reviewed by at least 3 and in most cases by 4 international experts, for a total of 903 reviews. Each paper and its reviews were discussed at last November's Technical Program Committee meeting at UC Davis, California, where final paper selection took place; by the nature of things, many difficult decisions had to be made. Also, as of today (February 22nd), there are 10832 email messages concerning IM 2005 in our mailbox, making for an EP (emails to paper) ratio that is in the triple digits. (This number is actually a less dramatic than it sounds as half of these were generated by EDAS, our submission and review management system.)

The technical program is completed by two poster sessions in which 56 posters are presented, whose selection was finalized by the Poster Chairs. In addition to the two technical tracks, IM offers a third track that includes three panel discussions as well as, for the first time at IM, application sessions that include 19 presentations on experiences and practical lessons learned that were selected by the Application Session Committee. As usual, the tracks are complemented with various keynotes by distinguished speakers and a rich set of tutorials. In addition and as another “first”, IM is accompanied by three workshops – SelfMan 2005, E2EMON 2005, and MICMC 2005. Finally, IM takes place around the same time and in the same place as Telemanagement World, allowing for some cross-pollination between the two events. With all these exciting possibilities, we hope that you will find IM 2005 an enriching and rewarding experience.

As is so often the case with such events, this symposium would not have been possible without the collective effort and hard work of a lot of people. We would therefore like to express our gratitude, first and foremost of all to the authors of the technical papers and posters: without you, there would be no symposium. Our thanks extend also to the submitters whose work we were unfortunately not able to include in the program. To our Technical Program Committee and more than 200 additional reviewers: thank you for your tireless commitment which not only helped all of us stay on top of the task but undoubtedly helped improve the final program. Felix Wu and UC Davis were formidable hosts of the TPC meeting. Behind the scenes, the Organizing Committee helped us navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of all the non-technical aspects of the program, many of which are not obvious at first. The IEEE production staff was of tremendous help for the production of the final Proceedings. We thank them all. Finally, a very special “thank you” goes to Lisandro Zambenedetti Granville for his fabulous support with EDAS – you are a true IM hero!

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22 February 2005