
THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: EMERGING LANDSCAPES

IFIP – The International Federation for Information Processing

IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people.

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.

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*IFIP International Conference on Landscapes of ICT
and Social Accountability, Turku, Finland, June 27-29,
2005.*

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INTRODUCTION

Penny Duquenoy, Chris Zielinski and Kai Kimppa
Respectively Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of IFIP WG9.2

In 1990, members of IFIP Working Group 9.2 were instrumental in producing one of the first books to describe the ‘Landscape’ of the new phenomena created by the uptake of computerization – the so-called Information Society¹.

Ten years on, at the annual Namur meeting of our Working Group, in January 2000, a proposal was made to produce a second book and the brainstorming began. In the ten years that had passed the developments in computer technology had brought the Internet within reach of ordinary citizens, and the World Wide Web had spawned a new ‘e-industry’. The landscape of the information society had changed dramatically, and it continues to change at a breathtaking pace.

This book is the result of our discussions at that July meeting, and the culmination of our “Landscapes” Conference in July 2005 held at Turku University, Finland. The themes chosen for the conference – philosophy, ethics and sociological aspects, culture and education; social aspects; politics and regulation; economics and work; technology and emerging technologies – represent the many perspectives we can adopt from which to view this landscape. The papers reproduced here illustrate the diverse impacts of the information society and the changing paradigms within education, law, health care, the workplace and on future societal infrastructures through

¹ Berleur, J., A. Clement, R. Sizer, & D. Whitehouse (editors). *The Information Society: Evolving Landscapes. Report from Namur*. Springer-Verlag: New York & Capus University Publications: North York. 1990

research initiatives and the development of new technologies. In other words, we have attempted to capture the new ‘emerging landscape’ of the Information Society.

A picture of profound technological and social change emerges from this holistic approach. We believe it offers a key to understanding the ramifications of computer technologies within the information society, and of the social accountability of all those working with and affected by them.

Finally, we would like to thank the University of Turku for providing us with the space for discussion and information exchange, and Turku Centre for Computing Science (TUCS) for their valuable support.

Penny Duquenoy
Chair

Chris Zielinski
Vice Chair

Kai Kimppa
Secretary

on behalf of IFIP WG9.2