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Preface

Communities are groupings of distributed objects that communicate, directly or indirectly, through the medium of a shared context. This conference brought together researchers interested in the technical issues of supporting communities.

DCW 2002 was held in Sydney, Australia, and was hosted by the Software Engineering Research Group and the School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of New South Wales. It was the fourth in the DCW series, the previous conferences having taken place in Québec (2000, LNCS 1830) and in Rostock (1998 and 1999, University of Rostock Press).

The program committee selected 25 papers from 59 submissions from around the world. Each submission was fully refereed by at least three reviewers, either members of the program committee or other external referees. Reviewers were selected to ensure they had the required expertise for the papers' topics. 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 submitting authors.

In addition to these papers, the proceedings begin with a fully refereed summary chapter, entitled Open Problems in Distributed Communities, which gives an overview of the field.

This year, we were pleased to welcome as the invited speaker Philippe van Nedervelde, CEO of E-SPACES (Belgium) and X3D Technologies (USA), who gave us a fascinating presentation on Virtual 3D World Communities.

We would like to thank the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers for the thorough reviews of the submitted papers, the authors for submitting their contributions, and the authors of accepted papers for their collaboration in preparing these proceedings. Special thanks goes to Blanca Mancilla, the local arrangements chair, for all the work she did before, during, and after the conference.

We are convinced that this conference series is very timely, and meets the needs of many researchers interested in building networked communities. We hope that you find the proceedings interesting and stimulating, and hope that you will join us in Ulm in Spring 2004 for the next DCW conference.

September 2002

John Plaice
Peter Kropf
Peter Schulthess
Jacob Slonim

Organization

DCW 2002 was organized with the support of the School of Computer Science and Engineering and the Software Engineering Research Group at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, in cooperation with ACM, ACM SIGPLAN, and ACM SIGWEB.

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