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Preface

In recent years we have witnessed the explosion of multimedia traffic on the Internet. The availability of high-bandwidth connections together with the recent advances in high-quality video and audio compression techniques have created a fertile ground for the growth of multimedia applications such as interactive video on-demand, collaborative distance learning, and remote medical diagnosis. Furthermore, the availability of low bit rate video and audio applications (e.g., H.263 and G.728) and the proliferation of pervasive devices create a new demand for wireless multimedia communication systems. After a decade or more of research and development in multimedia networking, the research community has learned a number of lessons. First, increasing the capacity of the "best effort" networks and services does not provide an effective and permanent solution for offering a guaranteed Quality of Service (QoS). Second, the integration of service and network management is a key element in providing end-to-end service management. Third, management techniques for Internet multimedia services must be scalable and adaptive to guarantee QoS and maintain fairness with optimal network resource.

The IFIP/IEEE International Conference on Management of Multimedia Networks and Services 2001 was the fourth in its series aimed at stimulating technical exchange in the merging field of management of multimedia networking. The IFIP/IEEE MMNS is the premier IEEE/IFIP conference and known for its high-quality papers from various research communities. The aim of this conference is to provide a forum for exploratory research and practical contributions from researchers all over the world. A total of 106 papers were submitted to the conference, from North America, Europe, South America, The Middle East, and The Far East, of which 23 were accepted as full papers and 6 were accepted as short/position papers. The program covers a variety of research topics in the area of management of multimedia networks, i.e., QoS management, multi-point and multicast services management, monitoring, network programmability for multimedia services, policy-based management for multimedia services, packet scheduling and dropping techniques, resource management in wireless multimedia, configuration management of edge and core for multimedia services, wireless and mobile network management, multimedia traffic management, multimedia content protection, deployment of multimedia services, multimedia service engineering, multimedia session management and middleware support for management.

In closing we would like to thank the members of the Program Committee and the army of reviewers that helped us put together this year's program. We are also indebted to Raouf Boutaba and Guy Pujolle in the Advisory Committee, for generously providing their advice and assistance. Finally, we are indebted to Hazem Hamed and Bin Zhang, for their assistance in handling the electronic paper submission process.

August 2001

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