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Toru Ishida Katherine Isbister (Eds.)

Digital Cities

Technologies, Experiences, and Future Perspectives

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Preface

Digital city projects – building platforms to support community networking – are currently going on world-wide. European and American cities, as well as Asian cities, are creating digital meeting places and information resources for local residents and remote visitors. The Kyoto Meeting on Digital Cities covered successes and design challenges of currently implemented digital cities. In this volume, we have gathered and grouped papers from the workshop into seven sections, which reflect different perspectives and approaches to this large (and growing) research area.

We begin with papers that present a broad theoretic and analytical perspective on digital city creation. Here you will find wide-reaching analysis of first-generation digital city and community networking efforts (Aurigi, Serra, van den Besselaar), as well as analysis of what is desirable and feasible in next-generation digital cities (Ishida, Mitchell).

In the next two sections, we include reports on current digital city and community network efforts from around the world, including Belgium, Canada, China, England, Finland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States. These papers discuss planning, design, evaluation, and iteration. We hope they will provide useful insights and lessons to others who are currently creating digital cities. Following these papers is a section, which explores specific applications of the digital city – from education to job hunting to disaster management.

The remaining three sections present technological innovations to support and sustain digital cities. We have divided these technologies into three broad areas: those that aid in visualization of the digital city, those that support mobile exploration of digital city resources, and those that seek to build social interaction and encourage community formation in digital cities.

The Kyoto Meeting on Digital Cities brought together researchers and practitioners from around the world, and sparked exciting dialogue and debate about digital cities and their future. We sincerely hope this volume will serve the same purpose for our readers. We would like to express our great appreciation of the co-organizers and the local arrangement people of the meeting: they are Yoh'ichi Tohkura, Jun-ichi Akahani, Kaoru Hiramatsu, Stefan Lisowski, Kenji Kobayashi, Kenji Ishikawa, Hideyuki Nakanishi, Masayuki Okamoto, Satoshi Oyama, Yang Yeon-Soo, Saeko Nomura, Hirofumi Yamaki, Takushi Sogo, Shoko Toda, and Yoko Kubota. Special thanks to Makoto Takema, who did tremendous work in editing this volume.

January 2000

Toru Ishida
Katherine Isbister

Table of Contents

DESIGN AND ANALYSIS PERSPECTIVES

Designing the Digital City 1
William J. Mitchell

Understanding Digital Cities 7
Toru Ishida

Digital Cities: Organization, Content, and Use 18
Peter van den Besselaar, Isabel Melis, Dennis Beckers

Digital City or Urban Simulator? 33
Alessandro Aurigi

Next Generation Community Networking: Futures for Digital Cities 45
Artur Serra

DIGITAL CITY EXPERIMENTS

Experiences of European Digital Cities 58
Eric Mino

The Information Society in the City of Antwerp 73
Bruno Peeters

Helsinki Arena 2000 - Augmenting a Real City to a Virtual One 83
Risto Linturi, Marja-Riitta Koivunen, Jari Sulkanen

The Geographic Information System (GIS) of Turin Municipality 97
Guido Bolatto, Adriano Sozza, Ivano Gauna, Maddalena Rusconi

Digital City Bristol: A Case Study 110
Annelies de Bruine

Digital City Shanghai: Towards Integrated Information & Service Environment 125
Ding Peng, Mao Wei Liang, Rao Ruo Nan, Sheng Huan Ye, Ma Fan Yuan, Toru Ishida

Experiments in the Digital 'Engineering City Oulu' 140
Lech Krzanik, Minna Mäkäräinen

COMMUNITY NETWORK EXPERIMENTS

Reconfiguring Community Networks: The Case of PrairieKNOW 151
Noshir Contractor, Ann Peterson Bishop

The Mutual Development of Role, Rule, and Tool Through the VCOM Project 165
Shoko Miyagawa, Ikuyo Kaneko

Davis Community Network (DCN): A Regional Community Networking Initiative in North-Central California 179
Richard Lowenberg

Examining Community in the Digital Neighborhood: Early Results from Canada's Wired Suburb 194
Keith N. Hampton, Barry Wellman

On-Line Forums as an Arena for Political Discussions 209
Agneta Ranerup

APPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL CITIES

Towards the Integration of Physical and Virtual Worlds for Supporting Group Learning 224
Fusako Kusunoki, Masanori Sugimoto, Hiromichi Hashizume

Digital City for Disaster Reduction - Development of Pictogram System for Disaster Management - 236
Haruo Hayashi, Satoshi Tanaka, Kazunori Urabe, Haruhide Yoshida, Satoshi Inoue, Hideki Shima, Nobuhisa Deki, Jun Kasagi, Takahiro Nishino, Masasuke Takashima

The Digital City's Public Library: Support for Community Building and Knowledge Sharing 246
Scott Robertson

Agent Community with Social Interactions for Worker and Job Hunting . . 261
Takayoshi Asakura, Takahiro Shiroshima, Toshiaki Miyashita

VISUALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES

The Motion Generation of Pedestrians as Avatars and Crowds of People . . 275
Ken Tsutsuguchi, Kazuhiro Sugiyama, Noboru Sonehara

Image-Based Pseudo-3D Visualization of Real Space on WWW 288
Masahiko Tsukamoto

Dynamic Zone Retrieval and Landmark Computation for Spatial Data 303
Hiroaki Kawagishi, Kengo Koiso, Katsumi Tanaka

Environment for Spatial Information Sharing 314
Hiroshi Tsuji, Takaaki Yamada, Maki Tamano, Tsuneo Sobue, Shuji Kitazawa

Image Maps: Exploring Urban History through Digital Photography 326
Brian K. Smith, Erik Blankinship, Alfred Ashford III, Michael Baker, Timothy Hirzel

MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES

Navigation Support in a Real City Using City Metaphors 338
Kensaku Fujii, Shigeru Nagai, Yasuhiko Miyazaki, Kazuhiro Sugiyama

Public Applications of SpaceTag and Their Impacts 350
Hiroyuki Tarumi, Ken Morishita, Yahiko Kambayashi

Location Oriented Integration of Internet Information - Mobile Info Search - 364
Katsumi Takahashi, Seiji Yokoji, Nobuyuki Miura

Fairy in a Smart IC Card: Interfacing People, Town, and Digital City 378
Takao Terano, Toshikazu Nishimura, Yoko Ishino, Eiji Murakami

SOCIAL INTERACTION AND COMMUNITYWARE

A Warm Cyber-Welcome: Using an Agent-Led Group Tour to Introduce Visitors to Kyoto 391
Katherine Isbister

Extending the Services and the Accessibility of Community Networks 401
Antonietta Grasso, Dave Snowdon, Michael Koch

Creative Contents Community 416
Toshiyuki Asahi, Hisashi Noda, Daigo Taguchi, Kazuhiro Ishihara

Public Opinion Channel: A Challenge for Interactive Community Broadcasting 427
Shinatro Azechi, Nobuhiko Fujihara, Kaoru Sumi, Takashi Hirata, Hiroyuki Yano, Toyoaki Nishida

Author Index 443