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# Interactive Distributed Multimedia Systems and Telecommunication Services

6th International Workshop, IDMS'99  
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# Preface

The 1999 International Workshop on Interactive Distributed Multimedia Systems and Telecommunication Services (IDMS) in Toulouse is the sixth in a series that started in 1992. The previous workshops were held in Stuttgart in 1992, Hamburg in 1994, Berlin in 1996, Darmstadt in 1997, and Oslo in 1998.

The area of interest of IDMS ranges from basic system technologies, such as networking and operating system support, to all kinds of teleservices and distributed multimedia applications. Technical solutions for telecommunications and distributed multimedia systems are merging and quality-of-service (QoS) will play a key role in both areas. However, the range from basic system technologies to distributed multimedia applications and teleservices is still very broad and we have to understand the implications of multimedia applications and their requirements for middleware and networks. We are challenged to develop new and more fitting solutions for all distributed multimedia systems and telecommunication services to meet the requirements of the future information society.

The IDMS'99 call for papers attracted 84 submissions from Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. The program committee (PC) members and additional referees worked hard to review all submissions such that each contribution received three reviews. Based on the comments and recommendations in these reviews, the PC carried out an online meeting over the Internet that was structured into two discussion and ballot phases. For this, we used a full conference organization system, called ConfMan, developed in Oslo for the previous IDMS, that combines the World Wide Web and e-mail with a database system, and enforces security, privacy, and integrity control for all data acquired, including the comments and votes of the PC. The final result of the discussions and ballots of the PC online meeting was the final program, and the only additional task for us as program co-chairs was to group the selected papers and structure them into sessions.

At IDMS'99 a high-quality program with 4 tutorials, 3 invited papers, 25 full papers and 3 position papers, coming from 13 countries, included topics as user aspects, QoS, distributed applications, new networks, multimedia documents, platforms for collaborative systems, storage servers, flow and congestion control.

This technical program enabled IDMS'99 to follow the tradition of previously very successful IDMS workshops. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the organizers of the previous IDMS workshops for their confidence, which allowed us to take on the responsibility of having IDMS'99 in Toulouse, and particularly to the previous organizers, Thomas Plagemann and Vera Goebel, who gave us very valuable information and help. We would like to acknowledge the cooperative efforts of ACM and IEEE, and the financial support from CNRS, Région Midi-Pyrénées, DGA, France Telecom and Microsoft, which allowed us to keep the fees of IDMS'99 affordable and to offer a very interesting technical and social program. Finally, we would like to thank all the people that helped

us here in Toulouse, and particularly, Daniel Daurat, Sylvie Gay, Marie-Thérèse Ippolito, Joëlle Penavayre, Marc Boyer, Jean-Pierre Courtiat, Laurent Dairaine, and Pierre de Saqui-Sannes.

July 1999

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