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Next Generation Information Technologies and Systems

4th International Workshop, NGITS'99 Zikhron-Yaakov, Israel, July 5-7, 1999 Proceedings



Series Editors

Gerhard Goos, Karlsruhe University, Germany Juris Hartmanis, Cornell University, NY, USA Jan van Leeuwen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Volume Editors

Ron Y. Pinter IBM Research Laboratory in Haifa Matam – Advanced Technology Center Haifa 31905, Israel E-mail: pinter@il.ibm.com

Shalom Tsur SurroMed, Inc. 1060 East Meadow Circle Palo Alto, CA 94303, USA E-mail: tsur@surromed.com

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Foreword

The Next Generation Information Technologies and Systems (NGITS) workshop series is a biannual event held in Israel since 1993. Like its predecessors, NGITS'99 brings together active members of the international research community interested in information technology and knowledge based systems. Many of the base technologies in the traditional areas of database management systems, information retrieval, and resource optimization, are being deployed nowadays in novel systems and applications that flourish with the astonishing increase in computational power, storage capacity, communication, and - of course - the advent of the world-wide web. These new fronts, in turn, present an ever growing set of challenges to the technologies, such as data availability, information integrity, and knowledge extraction, fuelling an exciting set of activities.

Our workshop clearly reflects this trend, offering a rich sample of the state of the art at the close of the millennium and a glimpse of what is to come in the next one. In response to the call for papers, we received 34 high quality submissions, 22 of which were carefully selected by the Program Committee for presentation at the workshop and inclusion in these proceedings. These include 17 full length papers as well as 5 short papers (that will be accompanied by demonstrations during the workshop). In addition, it is our pleasure to feature two invited talks, given by Professor J. Ullman of Stanford University and IBM Fellow C. Mohan.

We classified the selected papers into a number of broad topics, which were also used to organize the workshop sessions:

- Exploring the World Wide Web
- Database Technology
- Storage, Meta Information, Ontologies, and Software Engineering
- Agent and Workflow Management Technology
- Data Warehousing and Mining

We would like to extend our thanks to the many individuals who spared no time or effort to contribute to the success of this event:

The authors, the Program Committee members, and the technical reviewers, Tova Berger, Antje Endemann, Dagan Gilat, Danna Pascal, and Nilly Schnapp for their support in organization and logistics.

Finally, we would like to recognize the NGITS'99 institutional sponsors (listed in alphabetic order) and would like to thank them for their generous support:

The IBM Research Lab in Haifa,

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The Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

Haifa, Israel May 1999 Ron Pinter, Shalom Tsur Program Co-chairs

> Opher Etzion General Chair

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Ron Y. Pinter IBM Research Laboratory in Haifa Matam – Advanced Technology Center Haifa 31905, Israel E-mail: pinter@il.ibm.com

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