E-GOVERNMENT

ICT PROFESSIONALISM AND COMPETENCES

SERVICE SCIENCE

IFIP – The International Federation for Information Processing

IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

> *IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people.*

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.

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IFIP 20th World Computer Congress, Industry-Oriented Conferences, September 7-10, 2008, Milano, Italy

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IFIP 2008 World Computer Congress (WCC'08)

Message from the Chairs

Every two years, the International Federation for Information Processing hosts a major event which showcases the scientific endeavours of its over one hundred Technical Committees and Working Groups. 2008 sees the 20th World Computer Congress (WCC 2008) take place for the first time in Italy, in Milan from 7-10 September 2008, at the MIC - Milano Convention Centre. The Congress is hosted by the Italian Computer Society, AICA, under the chairmanship of Giulio Occhini.

The Congress runs as a federation of co-located conferences offered by the different IFIP bodies, under the chairmanship of the scientific chair, Judith Bishop. For this Congress, we have a larger than usual number of thirteen conferences, ranging from Theoretical Computer Science, to Open Source Systems, to Entertainment Computing. Some of these are established conferences that run each year and some represent new, breaking areas of computing. Each conference had a call for papers, an International Programme Committee of experts and a thorough peer reviewed process. The Congress received 661 papers for the thirteen conferences, and selected 375 from those representing an acceptance rate of 56% (averaged over all conferences).

An innovative feature of WCC 2008 is the setting aside of two hours each day for cross-sessions relating to the integration of business and research, featuring the use of IT in Italian industry, sport, fashion and so on. This part is organized by Ivo De Lotto. The Congress will be opened by representatives from government bodies and Societies associated with IT in Italy.

This volume is one of fourteen volumes associated with the scientific conferences and the industry sessions. Each covers a specific topic and separately or together they form a valuable record of the state of computing research in the world in 2008. Each volume was prepared for publication in the Springer IFIP Series by the conference's volume editors. The overall Chair for all the volumes published for the Congress is John Impagliazzo.

For full details on the Congress, refer to the webpage http://www.wcc2008.org.

Judith Bishop, South Africa, Co-Chair, International Program Committee
Ivo De Lotto, Italy, Co-Chair, International Program Committee
Giulio Occhini, Italy, Chair, Organizing Committee
John Impagliazzo, United States, Publications Chair

WCC 2008 Scientific Conferences

TC12	**AI**	Artificial Intelligence 2008
TC10	**BICC**	Biologically Inspired Cooperative Computing
WG 5.4	**CAI**	Computer-Aided Innovation (Topical Session)
WG 10.2	**DIPES**	Distributed and Parallel Embedded Systems
TC14	**ECS**	Entertainment Computing Symposium
TC3	**ED_L2L**	Learning to Live in the Knowledge Society
WG 9.7	**HCE3**	History of Computing and Education 3
TC3		
TC13	**HCI**	Human Computer Interaction
TC8	**ISREP**	Information Systems Research, Education and Practice
WG 12.6	**KMIA**	Knowledge Management in Action
TC2	**OSS**	Open Source Systems
WG 2.13		
TC11	**IFIP SEC**	Information Security Conference
TC1	**TCS**	Theoretical Computer Science

IFIP

- is the leading multinational, apolitical organization in Information and Communications Technologies and Sciences
- is recognized by United Nations and other world bodies
- represents IT Societies from 56 countries or regions, covering all 5 continents with a total membership of over half a million
- links more than 3500 scientists from Academia and Industry, organized in more than 101 Working Groups reporting to 13 Technical Committees
- sponsors 100 conferences yearly providing unparalleled coverage from theoretical informatics to the relationship between informatics and society including hardware and software technologies, and networked information systems

Details of the IFIP Technical Committees and Working Groups can be found on the website at http://www.ifip.org.

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Contents

e-government

e-government for small local government organizations 1
Walter Castelnovo

Why is *True* eGovernment still difficult to be achieved? 11
Fugini Mariagrazia, Maggiolini Piercarlo, Nanini Krysnaia, Boselli Roberto, Cesarini Mirko and Mezzanzanica Mario

A normative approach to democracy in the electronic government framework 21
Andrea Maggipinto and Ezio Visconti

Knowledge Representation and Management for E-Government Documents 31
Flora Amato, Antonino Mazzeo, Antonio Penta and Antonio Picariello

The Accounting System of Central State Administrations 41
Francesco Cancellaro

The Italian Public Administration Electronic Market: Scenario, Operation, Trends 47
Danilo Broggi

ICT professionalism and Competences

The Emergence of Software Engineering Professionalism 59
Stephen B. Seidman

IT Professional role today and tomorrow 69
Colin Thompson

European Universities and the ICT Industry 81
Vasile Baltac

How to move forward and implement e-skills on a long term basis 95
Franco Patini

IT and Professionalism in Developing Countries
Focus on Africa 97
Moira de Roche

A Model for Rating and Certifying Competences in the
EUCIP Framework 109
Andrea Violetti, Susanna Daddi and Stefano Hajek

The need for a standard qualification of ICT professional
competences 123
Paolo Schgör

EUCIP Driving the IT-Professional Competence in Norway 133
Renny Bakke Amundsen

The EUCIP Scheme in the Italian University System 139
Marco Ferretti

IT skill requirements in Public Administration 149
Pietro Paolo Trimarchi

International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3) - Overview 159
Charles Hughes

IP3 - National Societies' Roles and Responsibilities 165
Roger G. Johnson

The Emerging ISO International Standard for Certification
of Software Engineering Professionals 173
Juan Garbajosa

European Standardisation Process 179
Noel Geoffrey McMullen and John O'Sullivan

Service Science

Compliance Requirements for Business-process driven SOAs 183
Michael P. Papazoglou

Business Process Design: Towards Service-Based
Green Information Systems 195
Barbara Pernici, Danilo Ardagna and Cinzia Cappiello

SIFET-CBA Project 205
Mario A. Bochicchio, Antonella Longo, Federica Longo and Antonio Bernardo

Reengineering Lead to Cash - Process and Organization 219
Giorgio Rimini and Paolo Roberti

Business Process Monitoring: BT Italy case study 227
Giorgio Rimini and Paolo Roberti

Dealing with Availability in an international Service Management scenario 235
Flavio Gaj and Giovanni Umberto Germani

Service level and Value to Customer as key business drivers: a case studying a leader truck industry 245
Maximiliano Cascini, Manuela Maini and Thiago Barroero

Explaining the Evolving Web - Mixing Technology with Pleasure 261
Robert I. Benjamin, Rolf T. Wigand and Johanna L. H. Birkland

Value-Aware Service Model Driven Architecture and Methodology 277
Xiaofei Xu and Zhongjie Wang

Strategic Modelling of Enterprise Information Requirements 287
Gianmario Motta and Giovanni Pignatelli

ICT Portfolio: Mapping Business and ICT Services 299
Giovanni Pignatelli, Gianmario Motta and Giovanni Umberto Germani