
NETWORK-CENTRIC COLLABORATION AND SUPPORTING FRAMEWORKS

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- Working conferences.

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NETWORK-CENTRIC COLLABORATION AND SUPPORTING FRAMEWORKS

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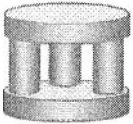
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PRO-VE'06 – 7th IFIP Working Conference on VIRTUAL ENTERPRISES

Helsinki, Finland, 25-27 September 2006

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FOREWORD

Collaborative networks in action

Collaborative Networks (CN) is a fast developing area, as shown by the already large number of diverse real-world implemented cases and the dynamism of its related involved research community. Benefiting from contributions of multiple areas, namely computer science, computer engineering, communications and networking, management, economy, social sciences, law and ethics, etc., the area of Collaborative Networks is being consolidated as a **new scientific discipline** of its own.. On one hand significant steps towards a stronger **theoretical foundation** for this new discipline are being taken. On the other hand, a growing number of **application cases** are being developed and applied in industry and services. A good collection of active and emerging VO Breeding Environments and Professional Virtual Communities can be found in various regions of the world. This phenomenon is particularly evident in Europe where considerable investments in collaborative networks have been made in many of its regions.

Based on the experiences and lessons learned in many research projects and pilot cases developed during the last decade, a new emphasis is now being put on the development of holistic frameworks, combining business models, conceptual models, governance principles and methods, as well as supporting infrastructures and services. In fact, reaching the phase in which the computer and networking technologies provide a good starting basis for the establishment of collaborative platforms, the emphasis is now turning to the understanding of the collaboration promotion mechanisms and CN governance principles. Therefore, issues such as the value systems, trust, performance, and benefits distribution are gaining more importance.. Encompassing all these developments, the efforts to develop reference models for collaborative networks represent a major challenge in order to provide the foundation for further developments of the CN.

PRO-VE represents a good synthesis of the work in this area, and plays an active role in the promotion of these activities. Being recognized as the most focused scientific and technical conference on Collaborative Networks, PRO-VE continues to offer the opportunity for presentation and discussion of both the latest research developments as well as the practical application case studies. Following the vision of **IFIP** and **SOCOLNET**, the PRO-VE conference offers a forum for collaboration and knowledge exchange among experts from different regions of the world.

This book includes a number of selected papers from the PRO-VE'06 conference, representing a comprehensive overview of recent advances in various domains and lines

of research and development on collaborative networks. Of particular relevance are the topics of modeling frameworks, value systems and competency management, trust building and risk, performance indicators and network management, collaboration platforms and tools, VO creation and negotiation, and applications in industry and services.

The PRO-VE'06 held in Helsinki, Finland, is the 7th event in a series of successful conferences including PRO-VE'99 (held in Porto, Portugal), PRO-VE 2000 (held in Florianopolis, Brazil), PRO-VE'02 (held in Sesimbra, Portugal), PRO-VE'03 (held in Lugano, Switzerland), PRO-VE'04 (held in Toulouse, France), and PRO-VE'05 (held in Valencia, Spain).

We would like to thank all the authors both from academia/research and industry for their contributions. We appreciate the dedication of the PRO-VE program committee members and other reviewers who helped both with the selection of articles and contributed with valuable comments to improve their quality.. As a result of this cooperative and highly distributed work we hope that the PRO-VE'06 book constitutes a valuable tool for all those interested in the emerging applications, research advances, and challenges of the collaborative networks.

The editors,

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