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We would like to dedicate this volume of DEXA proceedings to our dear friend

Norman Revell

(14.5.47 – 7.2.07)

We miss you.

The DEXA Society

Preface

The annual international conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA) is now well established as a reference scientific event. The reader will find in this volume a collection of scientific papers that represent the state of the art of research in the domain of data, information and knowledge management, intelligent systems, and their applications.

The 18th instance of the series of DEXA conferences was held at the University of Regensburg, Germany, September 3–7, 2007.

Several collocated conferences and workshops covered specialized and complementary topics to the main conference topic. Six conferences—the Eighth International Conference on Data Warehousing and Knowledge Discovery (DaWaK), the Seventh International Conference on Electronic Commerce and Web Technologies (EC-Web), the Fifth International Conference on Electronic Government (EGOV), the 3rd International Conference on Trust, Privacy, and Security in Digital Business (TrustBus), the 3rd International Conference on Industrial Applications of Holonic and Multi-Agent Systems (HoloMAS), and the 1st International Conference on Network-Based Information Systems (NBiS)—and 19 workshops were collocated with DEXA.

The conference is a unique international event with a balanced depth and breadth of topics. Its much appreciated conviviality fosters unmatched opportunities to meet, share the latest scientific results and discuss the latest technological advances in the area of information technologies with young scientists and engineers as well as senior world-renown experts.

This volume contains the papers selected for presentation at the conference. Each submitted paper was reviewed by three or four reviewers, members of the Program Committee or external reviewers appointed by members of the Program Committee. Based on the reviews, the Program Committee accepted 86 of the 267 originally submitted papers.

The excellence brought to you in these proceedings would not have been possible without the efforts of numerous individuals and the support of several organizations.

First and foremost, we thank the authors for their hard work and for the quality of their submissions.

We also thank Josef Küng, A Min Tjoa, Gerald Quirchmayr, Gabriela Wagner, the members of the Program Committee, the reviewers, and the many others who assisted in the DEXA organization for their contribution to the success and high standard of DEXA 2007 and of these proceedings.

Finally we thank the DEXA Association, the Austrian Computer Society, the Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing (FAW), and the University of Regensburg, especially Günther Pernul and his team, for making DEXA 2007 happen.

June 2007 Roland Wagner

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