Lecture Notes in Computer Science 5424

Commenced Publication in 1973
Founding and Former Series Editors:
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Mobile Response

Second International Workshop
on Mobile Information Technology
for Emergency Response, MobileResponse 2008
Bonn, Germany, May 29-30, 2008
Revised Selected Papers

Springer

Volume Editors

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Preface

Mobile Response 2008, the Second International Workshop on Mobile Information Technology for Emergency Response, aimed at a focussed exchange on how mobile information technology can be effectively used to the benefit of emergency response. The gap between the great potential benefit that usable mobile IT could yield in the domain of emergency response and the specific design challenges for such technologies in this particularly unforgiving domain was the foundation of our decision to create a venue for researchers and practitioners from different disciplines. During this year's workshop the latest approaches and technical solutions in the area of mobile information technology for emergency response planning and execution were presented and demonstrated.

We invited participation from research, industry and public rescue organizations to enable an in-depth discussion of the opportunities and drawbacks of new digital technologies for emergency response. The call for papers for the second Mobile Response workshop attracted over 25 submissions from 11 different countries, including international submissions from the USA, Brazil and Japan. An international Program Committee with experts on mobile information technology, emergency response and emergency response equipment selected 12 submissions for presentation during the workshop. The program was completed by two outstanding keynote presentations and one invited presentation on prevailing topics of high interest to the scientific and practitioner communities.

Mobile Response 2008 was held during May 29–30 on the premises of the Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology in Bonn, Germany. The presentations offered not only an interesting overview of how different disciplines address the design of mobile IT, but also provided insight into the perspectives from different countries as well as the different perspectives of scientists, industrial representatives and practitioners. The interesting discussions during the workshop raised important questions from which the following were identified as most pressing:

1. How can the apparent gap between practitioners' needs and promising research efforts be bridged with a strong involvement of industry?

2. Can mobile ICT help reduce complexity in disaster management and emergency response work? Or does it actually introduce new complexity to the situation.

3. How can we bring research prototypes to product level and introduce them to the daily work of practitioners? How can a successful knowledge transfer be established?

We expect these issues to be the focus of the community's activies in the next few years.

We would like to thank the members of the Program Committee who were very helpful in attracting attention to the event and reviewing the submissions. We would like to thank everybody who was involved in the preparation of the event, particularly our colleagues from Fraunhofer IAIS and Fraunhofer FIT. Most importantly we would like to thank everybody who submitted to Mobile Response 2008, all the presenters and all the participants who contributed to an intriguing exchange during the event. Special thanks go to our keynote presenters Chris Johnson (Glasgow University) and Bartel Van de Walle (Tilburg University) who gave most interesting talks and participated in the lively discussions during the two-day event with huge enthusiasm. After having organized two very successful workshops in 2007 and 2008, we plan to continue with Mobile Response in 2009 and would like to invite everybody interested to check www.mobile-response.org for announcements on this event.

July 2008   Jobst Löffler
                                                                                                    Markus Klann

Organization

Mobile Response 2008 was organized by the Fraunhofer Institute for Intelligent Analysis and Information Systems IAIS and the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology FIT. The symposium took place during May 29–30, 2008, on the premises of the Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology B-IT in Bonn, Germany.

Organizing Committee

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Workshop Co-chair   Markus Klann (Fraunhofer FIT, Germany)

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