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Message from the Chairs

The starting day of the IMC 2009 conference coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Berlin Wall coming down, reuniting Germany after more than 40 years of separation. We took this as a good sign as we also hoped for the joining of worlds that previously were poles apart, to talk about innovative assistive technologies for the next few decades.

Ubiquitous computing will point out new kinds of applications in the twenty-first century: to access and process information anywhere, anyplace, and anytime; to support users in their every-day life. Alone inside computer science, this is associated with a number of sub-disciplines, each addressing individual aspects of ubiquitous computing, each characterized by individual contributions and research challenges, and each having its individual platforms in the world-wide community. With IMC 2009 we sought to bridge this gap.

From a bottom-up perspective, infrastructures for ubiquitous computing are being enabled by rapidly emerging communications systems, based on different wireless technologies as well as utilizing such technologies for cellular architectures, for personal communications, and for wireless local area networks. From a top-down perspective, applications like intelligent assistance with a high degree of autonomy require sensing, aggregation, and interpretation of contextual data for understanding and supporting the personal needs of the users in time. A number of cross-cutting issues emerge in putting together these perspectives, finally bringing up the main subjects of the IMC 2009 conference:

- Enabling the electronic assistant to understand the user's goals and preferences as well as the individual strategies employed by the user for achieving these goals
- Sensing and understanding the user's personal environment and the ways the environment influences his activities and strategies
- Providing intuitive interaction by supporting novel input technologies as well as tailored information visualization techniques
- Making this support available in the user's environment, e.g., smart home, smart office, etc.
- Modeling, simulating, and rapidly deploying new scenarios, architectures, and tools for interactive mobile applications
- Managing security, privacy, and trust in sensor-rich dynamic environments

The conference aims to provide an international forum for researchers, students, and professionals in order to present current research results on these subjects, and to bring together experts from both academia and industry for the exchange of ideas and discussion of future challenges. In this way, researchers from various fields all over the world are working together hand in hand in order to bridge the gap between theoretical possibilities and technical necessities. The vision of intelligent assistive systems is now within reach.

The IMC 2009 program consisted of three invited talks from international experts, four tutorials on fundamental techniques related to the conference topics, nine regular paper sessions, and a short paper / poster session. We received close to 50 submissions from 15 countries world-wide. Based on the anonymous reviews provided by members of the international Program Committee, the Steering Committee recommended accepting 50% of the contributions as regular papers and another 15% as short papers with poster presentation. To our regret there were a few interesting papers that we had to reject. However, the reviewing results showed a high quality as well as an interesting variety of submissions.

We would like to thank all authors for carefully preparing the results of their work submitted to IMC 2009, thus enabling an interesting and high-quality conference program. Moreover, we are deeply grateful to all members of the Program and Steering Committees for their efforts in quickly and thoroughly evaluating the papers. Finally, our special thanks go to the organizers Ulrike Lucke and Daniel Versick for their great work. They handled all the organizational tasks as well as the communications, the electronic submission, reviewing, and publication procedure in an efficient and timely manner.

As another reference to recent German history, we were pleased to welcome our conference guests in the formerly "hidden" part of Germany. Our conference venue was a newly established resort in Rostock-Warnemünde, directly at the shore of the Baltic Sea in the north-eastern part of Germany. Despite Rostock being an old hanseatic city, open to the world, with a long tradition in shipping and trading, 20 years ago nobody would have bet on gathering international researchers at the beach of Warnemünde today!

November 2009

Djamshid Tavangarian
Thomas Kirste
Dirk Timmermann

Organization

The International Conference on Intelligent Interactive Assistance and Mobile Multimedia Computing 2009 – IMC2009 – was organized by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of Rostock University.

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