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Conceptual Modeling – ER 2010

29th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling
Vancouver, BC, Canada, November 1-4, 2010
Proceedings

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2010936075

CR Subject Classification (1998): D.2, F.3, D.3, I.2, F.4.1, D.2.4

LNCS Sublibrary: SL 3 – Information Systems and Application, incl. Internet/Web and HCI

ISSN 0302-9743
ISBN-10 3-642-16372-6 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York
ISBN-13 978-3-642-16372-2 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

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© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2010
Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author, data conversion by Scientific Publishing Services, Chennai, India
Printed on acid-free paper 06/3180

Preface

This publication comprises the proceedings of the 29th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2010), which was held this year in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Conceptual modeling can be considered as lying at the confluence of the three main aspects of information technology applications — the world of the stakeholders and users, the world of the developers, and the technologies available to them. Conceptual models provide abstractions of various aspects related to the development of systems, such as the application domain, user needs, database design, and software specifications. These models are used to analyze and define user needs and system requirements, to support communications between stakeholders and developers, to provide the basis for systems design, and to document the requirements for and the design rationale of developed systems.

Because of their role at the junction of usage, development, and technology, conceptual models can be very important to the successful development and deployment of IT applications. Therefore, the research and development of methods, techniques, tools and languages that can be used in the process of creating, maintaining, and using conceptual models is of great practical and theoretical importance. Such work is conducted in academia, research institutions, and industry. Conceptual modeling is now applied in virtually all areas of IT applications, and spans varied domains such as organizational information systems, systems that include specialized data for spatial, temporal, and multimedia applications, and biomedical applications.

The annual International Conference on Conceptual Modeling is the premiere forum for presenting and discussing developments in the research and practice of conceptual modeling. The diversity of the conference is manifested in the call for papers. The call this year included information modeling; semantics, metadata, and ontology; Web information systems and the Semantic Web; business process modeling and enterprise architecture; semi-structured data and XML; integration of models and data; information retrieval, filtering, classification, and visualization; methods, tools, evaluation approaches, quality and metrics; requirements engineering, reuse, and reverse engineering; maintenance, change and evolution of models; integrity constraints and active concepts; knowledge management and business intelligence; logical foundations; and empirical methods.

We are delighted to provide you with an exciting technical program this year. The Program Committee received 147 submissions from authors in 32 countries, reflecting the international nature of the conference. Thirty submissions were accepted as full papers for presentation and publication in the proceedings (an acceptance rate of 20%). The authors of a further seven papers were invited to present in poster sessions. Their papers are included as short papers (six pages) in the proceedings.

The technical program consisted of 10 sessions covering all aspects of conceptual modeling and related topics. The technical program included one panel, dedicated to empirical methods in conceptual modeling research. In addition, the poster session

included two demonstrations. In parallel to the technical sessions were two additional streams, combining specialized workshops and tutorials. One of the workshops was dedicated to the Doctoral Consortium. Most workshops represented continuing activities from previous ER conferences. As well, we were fortunate to obtain the participation of three keynote speakers, each providing a different perspective on IT: industry and consulting (John Thorp of Thorp Network Inc.), research and development (Mamdouh Ibrahim of IBM), and IT management (Ted Dodds of University of British Columbia).

We would like to thank all those who helped put this program together. The Program Chairs extend special thanks to the 70 members of the Program Committee who worked many long hours reviewing and discussing the submissions. They tolerated frequent reminders with good humor. The high standard of their reviews not only provided authors with outstanding feedback but also substantially contributed to the quality of the technical program. It was a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of researchers. Thanks go also to the 72 external reviewers who helped with their assessments. They are individually acknowledged in the proceedings.

We would also like to especially thank the chairs of the various activities that make any conference diverse and interesting. This included Workshop Chairs Gillian Dobbie and Juan-Carlos Trujillo; Doctoral Consortium Chairs Andrew Burton-Jones, Paul Johannesson, and Peter Green; Tutorial Chairs Brian Henderson-Sellers and Vijay Khatri; Panel Chairs Bernhard Thalheim and Michael Rosemann; and Demonstrations program and posters Chairs Gove Allen and Hock Chan.

We are very grateful to Sase Singh, the Proceedings Chair, for working with the authors and conference submission system to organize the conference proceedings. Palash Bera helped us in publicizing the conference. William Tan was always available as our Webmaster. Heinrich Mayr and Oscar Pastor from the ER steering committee were generous with their time in answering our questions and providing guidance. We thank Andrew Gemino, as Local Arrangement Co-chair, for making sure that the conference ran smoothly. Finally, special thanks are due to Jessie Lam, who, in her role as a Local Arrangements Co-chair, made a major contribution to making everything happen.

All aspects of the paper submission and reviewing processes were handled using the EasyChair Conference Management System. We thank the EasyChair development team for making this outstanding system freely available to the scientific community.

Finally, we would like to thank the authors of all submitted papers, workshops, tutorials, panels, and software demonstrations, whether accepted or not, for their outstanding contributions. These contributions are critical to the high quality of an ER conference, and without them this conference could have not taken place.

November 2010

Jeffrey Parsons
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