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Preface

The 14th DEXA 2003 International Conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications was held during September 1–5, 2003 at the Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. The DEXA line of conferences has already gained its own reputation and respected position as a platform for the exchange of ideas among theoreticians and practitioners in the wider area of computer science, but mainly in the areas of database and knowledge-based technologies.

Since DEXA 1993, which was held in Prague, DEXA has grown into a multiconference consisting of four more focused and specialized conferences besides DEXA itself, namely the DaWak conference, EC-Web conference, eGOV conference, and this year happening for the first time, the HoloMAS conference. In addition, the DEXA workshop is a special event offering enough space for specialized discussion, and acting – in a certain sense – as an incubator for new conferences.

The DEXA conference itself is growing in volume and quality each year. This time there were 236 papers submitted and reviewed and the program committee selected 91 of the best papers to be included in this volume. Each of the submitted papers was carefully reviewed by at least three independent PC members or external reviewers.

The DEXA proceedings quite clearly reflect the current trends in the database area and we are happy with the balanced content of both the conference and the proceedings.

We would like to express our thanks at this point to all the institutions that actively supported this event, namely:

- Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic
- DEXA Association, Linz, Austria
- FAW, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria
- Austrian Computer Society
- Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK
- The Gerstner Lab, as part of the EU Center of Excellence MIRACLE at the Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic

We would also like to thank the whole DEXA implementation team, especially the PC members and the reviewers who did a wonderful job in preparing the technical content of the conference. Special thanks go to Prof. Roland R. Wagner and Prof. A Min Tjoa, who remain persistently the main driving forces behind the DEXA line of events, and also to Gabriela Wagner, who dedicated all her efforts to the success of the DEXA event.

Prag, Linz
June 2003

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