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Preface

E-services, and in particular Web services, are emerging as a promising technology for the effective automation of application integration across networks and organizations. The basic technological infrastructure for e-services is structured around three major standards: SOAP, WSDL, and UDDI. These standards provide building blocks for service description, discovery, and interaction. E-service technologies have clearly influenced positively the development of integrated systems by providing programmatic access to e-services through SOAP, WSDL, and UDDI. E-services are evolving toward being able to solve critical integration issues including security, transactions, collaborative processes management, semantic aspects, and seamless integration with existing middleware infrastructures.

VLDB-TES 2003 was the fourth workshop in a successful series of annual workshops on technologies for E-services, held in conjunction with the VLDB conference. The objective of VLDB-TES 2003 was to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users to exchange new ideas, developments, and experiences on issues related to E-services. VLDB-TES 2003 took place in Berlin, Germany. It featured the presentation of 16 regular papers. In addition to the presentation of research papers, the workshop included two invited talks and a panel discussion.

We would like to thank the authors for submitting their papers to the workshop, the members of the program committee, and the external reviewers for the tremendous job they did in reviewing the submitted papers. Special thanks go Helen Paik and Quan Z. Sheng for all their help with the logistics of the review process. We are grateful to Fabio Casati for all his help and guidance with all aspects of the workshop. We also thank Helen Paik and Sara Comai who served as the publicity co-chairs and Axel Marten who organized and planned the local arrangements.

July 2003

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