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Management of Multimedia Networks and Services

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Preface

Welcome to MMNS 2003.

Multimedia services over IP networks are proliferating at an enormous speed. There is also increasing demand for solutions that provide assured levels of service quality. All of these require novel paradigms, models, and architectures for realizing integrated end-to-end service management rather than managing network elements in isolation. Providing scalable Quality of Service (QoS) while maintaining fairness, along with secure and optimal network resource management, are key challenges for the future Internet. These challenges apply to both fixed and wireless networks.

This book contains all of the papers presented at the 6th IFIP/IEEE International Conference on Management of Multimedia Networks and Services (MMNS 2003) hosted by The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, September 7–10, 2003. MMNS 2003 follows the successful conferences held in Santa Barbara (2002), Chicago (2001), Fortaleza, Brazil (2000), Paris (1998), and Montreal (1997). MMNS uses single-track presentations, which provide an intimate setting for discussion and debate. The conference is known for its high quality papers from various research communities. In just six years, MMNS has established itself as one of the premier conferences focusing on the management of multimedia networks and services. The conference objective is to bring together researchers working in all facets of network and service management as applied to broadband networks and multimedia services. MMNS deals with all aspects of designing, developing, and deploying networked multimedia systems, and it serves as a forum for the dissemination of state-of-the-art research and development results. MMNS also includes panel sessions in which experts offer their observations and opinions about current hot topics.

This year MMNS was augmented by a workshop on End-to-End Monitoring Techniques and Services (E2EMON). This one-day workshop offered a unique opportunity for researchers in this area to exchange ideas and experience that foster the development of generic and custom monitoring for next-generation Internet services. Many thanks are due to Professor Ehab Al-Shaer for his sterling efforts in organizing this.

The success of MMNS ultimately depends on the committee members and on the quality of the submissions. As in previous years, we were fortunate to have a large number of enthusiastic members who worked tirelessly to ensure that we had a high quality conference. We thank all the authors who submitted papers, and also the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers who carefully reviewed the submissions. Each paper submitted was reviewed by at least three reviewers, and conflicting reviews were extensively discussed by the program committee. This procedure has once again resulted in a varied and high quality program completed by the excellent tutorials and keynotes presentations,

thanks to John Strassner, Petre Dini, and George N. Aggélou for the tutorials and Ian F. Akyildiz and Derek McAuley for the keynotes.

As conference chairs, it was a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and conscientious program committee.

This year once again saw the continued support of IFIP and IEEE. In addition we would like to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by Invest Northern Ireland, which sponsored the conference banquet. We also acknowledge the cooperation of Alfred Hofmann of Springer-Verlag, which has now been the official publisher for the last three conferences. We would like to acknowledge the valuable support and guidance provided by the steering committee: Ehab Al-Shaer, Giovanni Pacifici, Guy Pujolle, and Raouf Boutaba, and to thank the previous conference chairs for the benefit of their experience. Also, thanks to Massum Hassen for his help in organizing the tutorials, and Ahmed Mehaoua, John Vicente, and Tham Chen Kong for helping to advertise the conference and make it a successful event. Finally, we thank all the staff who assisted both at Queen's University Belfast, UK, and at Evry University, France. Particular thanks are due to Qiang Gu, Danielo Gomes, Emi Garcia, Mauro Fonseca, and not least to Paula Matthews. The application of her considerable experience, coupled with her unbounded enthusiasm and professionalism, assured a much more efficient conference than would otherwise have been possible.

For those of you who attended the conference we hope you found this year's MMNS a valuable experience, and were able to savour the technical presentations, renew old friendships, and hopefully make new ones. We hope everyone enjoyed their stay in Belfast.

September 2003

Alan Marshall, Nazim Agoulmine

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Table of Contents

Stream Control and Management

CORBA-Based Stream Control and Management for IP-Based Production Studio Networks	1
<i>Terence Song, Dritan Kaleshi, Alistair Munro</i>	
IP Video Streaming with Fine-Grained TCP-Friendly Rate Adaptation ..	18
<i>Toufik Ahmed, Ahmed Mehaoua, Raouf Boutaba, Youssef Iraqi</i>	
A Proposal for Distributed Conferencing on SIP Using Conference Servers	32
<i>R. Venkatesha Prasad, Richard Hurni, H.S. Jamadagni</i>	
Dynamic Configuration of Multimedia Applications	46
<i>Slim Ben Atallah, Oussama Layaida, Noel De Palma, Daniel Hagimont</i>	

Management and Control of Multicast Communications

MAFIA: A Multicast Management Solution for Access Control and Traffic Filtering	64
<i>Krishna N. Ramachandran, Kevin C. Almeroth</i>	
A Heuristic Algorithm for the Multi-constrained Multicast Tree	78
<i>Wen-Lin Yang</i>	
The Performance of PoolODMRP Protocol	90
<i>ShaoBin Cai, XiaoZong Yang</i>	
M3G: A Mobile Multicast Multimedia Gateway for Seamless IPv4/IPv6 Transition	102
<i>Yassine Hadjadj Aoul, Daniel Negru, Abdelhamid Nafaa, Ahmed Mehaoua</i>	

Ad hoc and Sensor Networks

TCP Friendly Rate Adaptation for Multimedia Streaming in Mobile ad hoc Networks	115
<i>Zhenghua Fu, Xiaoqiao Meng, Songwu Lu</i>	
BeanWatcher: A Tool to Generate Multimedia Monitoring Applications for Wireless Sensor Networks	128
<i>André Lins, Eduardo F. Nakamura, Antonio A.F. Loureiro, Claudionor J.N. Coelho Jr.</i>	

Managing Services Quality through Admission Control and Active Monitoring	142
<i>Solange Lima, Paulo Carvalho, Alexandre Santos, Vasco Freitas</i>	

Pervasive Accounting of Resource Consumption for Wireless Services with Adaptive QoS	155
<i>Paolo Bellavista, Antonio Corradi, Silvia Vecchi</i>	

QoS and Mobility Management in Wireless Networks

Delay Guaranteed Fair Queueing (DGFQ) in Multimedia Packet Networks	170
<i>Hyunho Yang, Kiseon Kim</i>	

Mobility Model for Multimedia Mobile Radio Network	183
<i>Sonia Ben Rejeb, Sami Tabbane, Zied Choukair</i>	

On Reciprocal Altruism and Its Application to QoS	196
<i>Nupur Kothari, Vartika Bhandari, Dheeraj Sanghi</i>	

A Novel DCA Scheme for Resource Sharing in Cellular Environments with Heterogeneous Traffic	209
<i>Vahid Tabataba Vakili, Arash Aziminejad</i>	

Traffic Engineering and Routing

A New Bandwidth Guaranteed Routing Approach for Online Calculation of LSPs for MPLS Traffic Engineering	220
<i>Karl Hendling, Brikena Statovci-Halimi, Gerald Franzl, Artan Halimi</i>	

New Management Methods for Feature and Preference Interactions.....	233
<i>Zohair Chentouf, Soumaya Cherkaoui, Ahmed Khoumsi</i>	

Minimum Interference Routing: The Precomputation Perspective	246
<i>Gábor Rétvari</i>	

A Virtual Signalling Protocol for Transparently Embedding Advanced Traffic Control and Resource Management Functionality in ATM Core Networks	259
<i>K. Katzourakis, G. Kormentzas, K. Kontovasilis, C. Efstathiou</i>	

Differentiated Network Services

Providing Enhanced Differentiated Services for Real-Time Traffic in the Internet	272
<i>Tamrat Bayle, Reiji Aibara, Kouji Nishimura</i>	

Automatic Management of the QoS within an Architecture Integrating New Transport and IP Services in a DiffServ Internet	286
<i>C. Chassot, G. Auriol, M. Diaz</i>	

Achieving Relative Differentiated Services Using Proportional Probabilistic Priority Scheduling on Network Processor	300
<i>Chee-Wei Tan, Chen-Khong Tham</i>	

On Demand Networking Using Policies

Realizing on Demand Networking	313
<i>John Strassner</i>	

An Architecture for Access Network Management with Policies (AN-PBM)	328
<i>Olivier Corre, Idir Fodil, Vladimir Ksinant, Guy Pujolle</i>	

Administrative Policies to Regulate Quality of Service Management in Distributed Multimedia Applications	341
<i>Michael Katchabaw, Hanan Lutfiyya, Michael Bauer</i>	

Multimedia QoS Management

Predicting Violations of QoS Requirements in Distributed Systems	355
<i>Sandra Taylor, Hanan Lutfiyya</i>	

Scheduling Time-Sensitive IP Traffic	368
<i>Pedro Sousa, Paulo Carvalho, Vasco Freitas</i>	

Security Management

Authentication Issues in Multi-service Residential Access Networks	381
<i>Judith Rossebø, John Ronan, Kristian Walsh</i>	

Secure Inclusion of Phones Into Online E-meetings	396
<i>Peter Parnes</i>	

End-to-End Monitoring Techniques and Services Workshop

Evaluating the Accuracy of Active Measurement of Delay and Loss in Packet Networks	409
<i>John A. Schormans, Tijana Timotijevic</i>	

On Using Multi-agent Systems in End to End Adaptive Monitoring	422
<i>Leila Merghem, Dominique Gaiti, Guy Pujolle</i>	

A New Available Bandwidth Measurement Technique for Service Overlay Networks	436
<i>Cao Le Thanh Man, Go Hasegawa, Masayuki Murata</i>	

Management of <i>Peer-to-Peer</i> Networks Applied to <i>Instant Messaging</i>	449
<i>Guillaume Doyen, Emmanuel Nataf, Olivier Festor</i>	
A Remote Resource Monitoring Approach in Active Networks	462
<i>Yuhong Li, Lars Wolf, Fangming Xu</i>	
SCAMPI: A Scalable and Programmable Architecture for Monitoring Gigabit Networks	475
<i>Jan Coppens, Steven Van den Berghe, Herbert Bos, Evangelos P. Markatos, Filip De Turck, Arne Oslebo, Sven Ubik</i>	
Architecture for Efficient Monitoring and Management of Sensor Networks	488
<i>Mohamed Younis, Poonam Munshi, Ehab Al-Shaer</i>	
Unicast Probing to Estimate Shared Loss Rate	503
<i>Dinh-Dung Luong, Attila Vidács, József Bíró, Daisuke Satoh, Keisuke Ishibashi</i>	
VoD Service Traffic Monitoring with Neural Agent	516
<i>Danielo G. Gomes, Nazim Agoulmine, J.N. de Souza</i>	
MMNS Posters	529
Author Index	531