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Foreword

"A new 'information society' is emerging, in which management, quality and speed of information are the key factors for competitiveness: as an input to the industries as a whole and as a service provided to ultimate consumers, information and communication technologies influence the economy at all stages."¹

RACE has concerned itself for several years with the development of infrastructures, methods and techniques to make integrated telecommunication services available throughout the European Union, in a market shaped by many monopolies and severe regulation. Still, the situation is far from satisfactory, as also stated in the White Paper: "... supply of services is inadequate and, where it does exist, too costly, with the result that the demand is also too low ...".

Without efficient and usable service there can be no information market 'sans frontiers', no *information society*. And these services need to be created, deployed, managed and maintained efficiently and economically. A *service infrastructure* is needed that allows services to be introduced and used effectively while hiding other, underlying, heterogeneous communications and information services infrastructures.

The group of RACE projects called 'Intelligence in Services and Networks' addresses the essential issues of how to create and manage this infrastructure. They have made this book possible together with other initiatives and individual R&D activities from Europe and many other parts of the world. The book is a result of a conference exploring the vital technical issues in developing a telecommunications service infrastructure. As a response to the call for papers a total of 99 contributions was received for evaluation. A careful selection process supervised by the Programme Committee has resulted in 47 papers presented and printed in this book. Introductions to the topics are provided by the session chairpersons, who were very active in aligning the papers from the different sources.

The editors would like to thank all contributors for their effort and their cooperation, which has made this book possible. A special thank you is devoted to the local organising committee, especially Carmelita Görg and Andrew Butterfield who helped to bring the papers to a common format.

Hans-Jürgen Kugler
Al Mullery
Norbert Niebert

¹

"Growth, competitiveness, employment—The challenges and ways forward into the 21st century", White Paper, European Commission, Brussels, 1994

Preface

The book addresses a number of issues related to the design of telecommunication services in a rapidly changing technological and regulatory environment. The advent of intelligent and user-oriented service control facilities and terminals, together with the potential offered by digital broadband networks, opens up totally new concepts in service provision and operation - utilising integrated voice, data, and video rather than the separate telephone and data services of today.

The book addresses the design of telecommunication services in such a rapidly changing technological and regulatory environment.

The global nature of telecommunications and the liberalisation of the European market for the provision of services means that several operators may compete in providing the same services or services which rely on others forming a new infrastructure.

The success of this investment, however, will be determined by the uptake of services by potential subscribers. The need to fulfill the high quality requirements pertinent to telecommunication services and respond effectively to changes in usage patterns and market forces, means that highly flexible, reliable, secure, and efficient service and network management systems are required.

This book is concerned with the infrastructure necessary to develop, deploy, manage, and effectively market new and innovative services - approaches often referred to as Intelligence in Services and Networks, or IS&N systems for short. The book therefore addresses "seed" services, architectures, processes, methods, tools, and techniques. The issue of an advanced Service infrastructure in a European context is a crucial factor for the further development and deployment of telecommunication technologies.

The challenges are outlined in the book together with state of the art solutions. The articles presented originate from work carried out in RACE and other international initiatives like EURESCOM and TINA-C as well as from individual contributions.

List of Referees

Serious and detailed reviews are an essential foundation for the quality of the selection and later production process of the papers. The reviewers for the papers presented in this book have fulfilled their role with real personal engagement. It is therefore a great pleasure to thank them as well as the authors for their efforts.

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Holger Berse | Ferdinando Lucidi |
| Andrew Butterfield | Wolfango Maggi |
| Mario Campolargo | Patrick McLaughlin |
| Joe Chester | Donal O' Mahony |
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| Anne M. Clarke | Rick Reed |
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| June Hunt | Manfred Thüring |
| Kerstin Keil | Sebastiano Trigila |
| Ivan Kruzela | Bernhard Walke |
| Richard Lewis | Frank Wilson |

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