

Lecture Notes in Computer Science

Edited by G. Goos, J. Hartmanis and J. van Leeuwen

1364

Wolfram Conen Gustaf Neumann (Eds.)

Coordination Technology
for Collaborative Applications
Organizations, Processes, and Agents



Springer

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Cataloging-in-Publication data applied for

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

**Coordination technology for collaborative applications :
organizations, processes, and agents / Wolfram Conen ; Gustaf
Neumann (ed.). - Berlin ; Heidelberg ; New York ; Barcelona ;
Budapest ; Hong Kong ; London ; Milan ; Paris ; Santa Clara ;
Singapore ; Tokyo : Springer, 1998
(Lecture notes in computer science ; Vol. 1364)
ISBN 3-540-64170-X**

CR Subject Classification (1991): H.4-5, C.2, I.2, J.1, J.4

ISSN 0302-9743

ISBN 3-540-64170-X Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York

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Printed in Germany

Typesetting: Camera-ready by author
SPIN 10631829 06/3142 - 5 4 3 2 1 0 Printed on acid-free paper

Preface

In June 1996, we co-organized the WETICE'96 workshop "*Web Infrastructure for Collaborative Applications*". The need to intensify the inter-disciplinary exchange of ideas, concepts, and results related to collaborative applications became obvious as we tried to formulate a consolidated workshop report. Motivated by these experiences we organized the ASIAN'96¹ post-conference workshop "*Coordination Technology for Collaborative Applications*". Again, people with an interesting mix of opinions and perspectives contributed to the workshop. At the end of this workshop several encouraging and fruitful discussions between the participants emerged. However, we still had the feeling that a more general framework was needed to unify the viewpoints and to obtain a deeper understanding of this area. We hope that this book is a small contribution to this ambitious goal.

We selected the best contributions to the ASIAN'96 workshop and complemented them with invited position papers. The outcome is a collection of papers focusing either on the technical background, the organizational perspective, or the application context. These viewpoints should enable a stimulating and interesting discourse and we hope that reading this book will extend the perspectives on coordination technology and its use for collaboration.

We hope that you enjoy reading the book as much as we enjoyed editing it.

If you have questions, comments, or remarks, don't hesitate to contact the editors.

October 1997

Wolfram Conen, Gustaf Neumann

¹ The workshop "Coordination Technology for Collaborative Applications" was held as part of the ASIAN'96, the Second Asian Computer Science Conference in Singapore, December 2-5, 1996. The conference was organized by the Department of Information Systems & Computer Science, National University of Singapore. The workshop was organized by Wolfram Conen (University of Essen, Germany), Gustaf Neumann (University of Essen, Germany), and Peter Bernus (Griffith University, Australia).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Joxan Jaffar and Roland Yap for the excellent organization of the ASIAN'96 conference, and for giving us the opportunity to organize the workshop that led to this book. Many thanks to Peter Bernus for his help in preparing and organizing the workshop. The workshop would not have been possible without the contributors that submitted papers and the participants that encouraged us with their discussions to proceed towards this book. Finally we would like to express our special thanks to Alfred Hofmann and the Springer-Verlag for giving us the opportunity to work on this book.

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