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Bernhard Plattner (Ed.)

Broadband Communications

Networks, Services, Applications, Future Directions

1996 International Zurich Seminar
on Digital Communications, IZS'96
Zurich, Switzerland, February 21-23, 1996
Proceedings

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Institut für Technische Informatik und Kommunikationsnetze
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
ETH Zentrum, CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland

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Foreword

In the second half of the 1990s broadband networks will evolve to become an indispensable resource in national economies and our society as a whole. It is obvious at the time of this writing that ATM will be deployed as a solution for broadband networks in wide and local area environments; as a matter of fact various broadband network testbeds have been set up throughout the world, and in Europe a wide-area ATM pilot network encompassing eighteen countries has been put to service and is about to be replaced by commercial services in some countries. It can be expected that before long real applications will be running on top of various broadband networks and experience with their use will become available.

It is for the reasons outlined above that the theme of IZS '96 was selected to be "Broadband Communications", emphasizing the three areas of *networks*, *experience with services*, and *application technology*.

Selecting such a broad theme implies that the conference will provide a snapshot of the state of the art in communication technology. The response to the Call for Papers indeed met the expectations of the Programme Committee: Close to 70 manuscripts dealing with many aspects of broadband communications were submitted. The manuscripts were reviewed rigorously by the members of the PC or other knowledgeable reviewers, such that each manuscript received four independent opinions, which were instrumental in the decision process conducted by the PC. Finally, the PC chose 26 papers from the set of submitted manuscripts. Many good contributions had to be rejected, but we anticipate that most of these will be published elsewhere.

By explicitly including *services* and *applications* as subtopics in the Call for Papers the Programme Committee hoped to attract reports of systems in which the emerging broadband communication infrastructure was actually used productively. However, a brief look a the conference programme and the table of contents of the proceedings shows that interesting and well-written reports about applications of broadband networks are not readily found. There is just one session which discusses applications, which actually includes two papers invited by the PC.

We are indebted to many individuals who contributed to the IZS '96: Specifically, we thank the members of the Organizing Committee for their dedication and hard work prior and during the conference, the members of the Programme Committee for their invaluable advice in selecting the best papers and creating the programme, and the authors of manuscripts and speakers for publishing and presenting their research results.

We also acknowledge the contributions of the sponsors, which helped alleviate the problems that are always associated with a restricted budget, and the support of the patrons, which made this event possible.

January 1996

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Broadband Communications, Networks, Services, Applications, Future Directions

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