

Preface

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Published online: 18 July 2017

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It is our pleasure to present this special issue of *International Journal of System Assurance Engineering and Management*. In this issue (Volume X, Issue LISS 2016), we selected nine papers which have gone through several rounds of review and revision, and represent a cross-section of research in security and assurance issues in computer science and business areas that touch upon both technical and managerial issues. The preliminary versions of these papers were presented at the Fifth *International Conference on Logistics, Informatics and Service Science (LISS 2015)*, which was jointly hosted by Beijing Jiaotong University and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · BarcelonaTech, in July 23–26, 2015 at Barcelona Spain.

Ever since the first meeting in Beijing (July 2011), *LISS* conferences have been a big scientific event for researchers and practitioners in the areas of IT, logistics and service science. Increasingly more participants from outside China attended the Conference, thus expanding its impact in the scientific world. Since 2012, the organizers of *LISS* decided to publish selected best full papers presented at the Conference as special issues of respected scientific journals. Publication of extended full papers of presentations given at the Conference provides advantages for both authors and reviewers. On the one hand, the authors had the opportunity to considerably improve the quality of their work through previous deep discussions with peers during the Conference. On the other hand, we could use the precious help of our expert colleagues, who followed the presentations, in assessing the quality of selected papers, hence

achieving an even worthier evaluation of these contributions.

After receiving the camera-ready papers for *LISS 2015* we started to select candidates for submissions to many respected scientific journals. To provide an equal opportunity to all authors of invited papers from *LISS 2015*, we announced in the conference circulars the inclusion of a special issue on *International Journal of System Assurance Engineering and Management*. From here on, authors of 54 submissions were invited to revise and extend, according to the publishing standards, to a full paper volume their Conference contributions, eventually shaping a Special Issue of *International Journal of System Assurance Engineering and Management*. Based on a regular reviewing process ten papers were finally accepted, representing an acceptance rate <30%.

The topics covered by papers published in this Special Issue include:

- Information security risk assessment problem (Hou et al.) and security management (Ding et al.).
- Security problems and issues in cloud environment (Jing et al.; Gu et al.).
- Risk control and intellectual property protection problem (Shen; Liang et al.).
- Security issues in transportation and (Chen; Zhao).
- Network traffic assurance (Wang) and scheduling (Wu et al.).

The 10 papers examine security issues in different contexts; various approaches with analytical methods, design science methods and the like have been applied to reach the findings presented there. Moreover, they demonstrate the practical relevance of academic research in the IT area.

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To sum up, we would like to thank all those who kindly contributed to this Special Issue: authors who submitted their papers, reviewers for their kind help and cooperation, and the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Ajit Kumar Verma, for his gracious invitation and continued support. We are also indebted for the assistance provided in the preparation and publication of this issue to the publishing and production team of *International Journal of System Assurance*

Engineering and Management. We hope that you will enjoy reading these papers as much as we enjoyed reviewing, compiling and editing this Special Issue.

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Guest Editors