A new research journal involves an element of risk. Will it meet a practical need? Will it play a unique role in an often-crowded area? Has it addressed an audience? And, most importantly, will researchers contribute their work to attract the audience and make it a success?

The fields of web portals and Service Oriented Architecture generally today face two new challenges: First is the impact of the international economic situation on enterprise appetite for new technology investment. This comes alongside a second challenge, a debate on whether SOA will meet its promise or has been oversold by its advocates. Contributions in this and our previous two issues have already begun to address these questions.

This issue contains good mix of research and practitioners’ papers. The paper titled A Cloud Portal Architecture for Large-Scale Application Services by Jun-Jang Jeng, et al. investigates possibility leveraged clouds in developing application services within the context of large corporate with the magnitude of thousands of application services being built, delivered and used. Instead of using cloud simply for a better runtime engine, IBM Watson Research Center based Jun-Jang Jeng’s team proposes to use cloud as the development platform to accelerate and optimize the solution development process based on large scale application services. The paper focuses on the portal architecture of the proposed framework - coined as Cogito-C that contains four spaces: (a) infrastructure space; (b) application space; (c) business space; and (d) presentation space. The paper also illustrates Cogito-C as the models within these spaces. The focus in on the descriptive models of this framework. The reader are presented with the examples which explain how this framework is organized and exploited for large-scale application services.

The other IBM contribution from IBM Research laboratory in Germany titled Lotus Workforce Management – Streamlining Human Resource Management by Jerh O’Connor et al. deals with never-ending problem with administrative tasks associated with human resource. This paper examines the approach taken by IBM Lotus Workforce Management, which is a self-service solution for IBM WebSphere Portal.

With the fifth issue of the International Journal of Web Portals, readers can begin to form an opinion on these questions.

In this issue we also continue introducing additional features:

**Looking at Content Management Systems.** In this issue we are commencing a series of studies and papers about portal development and the role of Content Management System in portals.

**Business case studies and position papers.** The 3rd issue carried the second of a series of case studies based on the experience of business practitioners in the front line of implementing Service Oriented Architecture and web portals.
in medium and large enterprises using a range of tools and approaches. In the 4th issue we introduced the first of the series of position papers focusing on the issue of creating of successful portals by Joe Lamantia, MediaCatalyst B.V., Netherlands.

Alongside this we continue to benefit from research contributions from industry product leaders.

Through these and other innovative approaches we hope to meet our goal of providing a research journal addressing the interests of both academic researchers and industry practitioners. Are we succeeding? We welcome your feedback.

Dr. Jana Polgar
co-Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Greg Adamson
co-Editor-in-Chief

Jana Polgar joined NextDigital as a senior consultant after working as a lecturer at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia where she was teaching subjects focusing on web services, SOA and portal design and implementation in postgraduate courses at the Faculty of Information Technology. Her research interests include web services, SOA and portal applications. She has also extensive industry experience in various roles ranging from software development to management and consulting positions. She holds master’s degree in electrical engineering from VUT Brno (Czech Republic) and PhD from RMIT Melbourne.

Greg Adamson currently works as a portal project manager in the financial services industry. He has worked with Internet-based services as a consultant and in delivery in Australia, Asia and Europe since 1991. He has experience in the media, banking, health insurance, government, trade and telecommunications sectors among others. Adamson has a PhD in the field of e-business from RMIT in Melbourne. This was undertaken from a multidisciplinary approach involving business, technical, regulatory, media and historical perspectives. He has a bachelor’s in technology (engineering) from the University of Southern Queensland.
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