About the Contributors

Akoumianakis, Demosthenes (PhD) – Editorial Advisory Board Member & Reviewer is an associate professor at the Department of Applied Information Technology & Multimedia, Technological Education Institution of Crete. He is also the founder and director of the Interactive Software and Systems Engineering Laboratory (iSTLab, http://www.istl.teiher.gr/). He received a BA (Hons) in computing in business from The University of Huddersfield (1990) and MSc and PhD degrees in human computer interaction from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK in 1995 and 1999 respectively. His work on his final year dissertation was awarded the 1st IBM prize from the Department of Computing & Mathematics of the University of Huddersfield. Prof Akoumianakis has published widely in referred archival scientific journals, international conferences and workshops and is the author of a textbook on human computer interaction (in Greek). He also serves as a member of the scientific committee for various established archival journals, international conferences and national / international standards bodies.

* * *

Chrisoula Alexandraki (MSc) is a software engineer and an active researcher in the field of Music Technology with special interest in the areas of: network music performance, distributed environments for music collaboration, multimedia streaming technologies, multimodal interaction techniques based on sound and music, sound representation in multichannel and spatial audio systems and games technology. She received an MSc degree in Music Technology from the University of York (UK) in 1998, and a Degree in Physics from the University of Athens (Greece) in 1996. Additional studies include piano performance and music theory. She is a Lecturer at the Department of Music Technology & Acoustics of the Technological Educational Institute of Crete, where she teaches the subjects ‘Music Communication Protocols’ and ‘Audio Programming’. She has participated in various R&D projects and is currently the primary investigator of the DIAMOUSES research project and a member of the research team of the eKoNES consortium.

Ioannis Barbounakis (PhD) is a lecturer at the Department of Electronics, Technological Educational Institute of Crete. He received an electrical engineering degree from The Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece (1991) and MSc and PhD degrees in digital communications from the Technical University of Crete, Greece and the University of Bradford, UK in 1993 and 2000 respectively. His dissertation thesis was in the area of error correction techniques for the general class of correlative encoded continuous phase modulation signals. He is actively involved in various national and European collaborative research and development projects, with emphasis on service quality, wireline/wireless network
aspects and Grid Technologies. Dr. Barbounakis has published in referred archival scientific journals, international conferences and workshops and is co-author of a chapter of the textbook on “Wireless local Loops Theory and Applications” ISBN: 0471-49846-7, June 2001, Wiley & Sons, England. He also serves as a member of the scientific community for various established archival journals.

Henry Been-Lirn Duh (PhD) is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Interactive and Digital Media Institute, and NUS-KEIO CUTE joint research center at National University of Singapore. He received degree from psychology, design and engineering respectively. His current research interests include human-computer interaction, usability engineering, mobile computing, user experiences and interaction design, and game effects in advanced display and mobile systems. His work periodically appear in the prestigious conferences such as ACM CH, ACM ACE, MobileHCI, and journals such as PRESENCE. He is a senior member of ACM, member of IEEE and FAA certified PPL and AGI.

Hsueh-hua Vivian Chen (PhD) is currently an assistant professor in Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. She is trained in the area of culture and communication. Her current research interest is socio-cultural impact of new media technology such as digital games, blogs, and internet. Research topics include issues of relationship building, social interaction, lifestyle and popular culture. Previously, she looks at the interplay between culture and communication medium as well as human communication behaviors. She has been awarded several research grants to conduct research on the impact of gaming and the gaming culture constructed. She has published papers on social interaction in gaming in prestigious conferences and journals.

Dima Dimitrova (PhD) - Reviewer holds a PhD from the University of Toronto and works in the areas of work, new technologies and social networks. She has almost 20 years of research experience in a range of areas, including remote work and workplace and knowledge networks. Among her recent projects are a study of a nation-wide network of researchers and a project on the role of public-private consortia for innovation. Her work has been published independently or in collaboration in the New Technology, Work and Employment, Annual Review of Sociology, Business Value Directions, Telektronikk, Notiziario Del Lavoro, Human Resource Management in Europe, and elsewhere. She teaches organizational studies at York University and is a research associate with NetLab at the University of Toronto and with the Ontario Metropolis Centre. She has a research and consulting business and volunteers at Scadding Court Community Centre.

Juan Manuel Gonzalez Calleros (MSc) is a researcher assistant of the University catholic of Louvain (UCL). He is member of the Belgian Lab of Human Computer Interaction and of the UsiXML consortium. Having received a scholarship award, he came to Belgium and completed his DEA in computer Science from UCL. He received a master degree in Computer Sciences at National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronic (Mexico). Juan Manuel Gonzalez Calleros is pursuing a PhD in computer sciences with the thesis Model driven engineering of 3D User Interfaces at UCL, Louvain School of Management (IAG-LSM). Her research interests include workflow models, model-driven engineering for developing user interfaces, in general, and 3D user interfaces, in particular.
About the Contributors

Nikos Grammalidis (PhD) is a senior researcher (Researcher C’) with the Informatics and Telematics Institute. He received the BS and PhD degrees in electrical and computer engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in 1992 and 2000, respectively. His PhD dissertation was titled “Analysis, coding and processing of multi-view image sequences using object-based techniques”. Prior to his current position, he was a researcher on 3D Imaging Laboratory at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His main research interests include computer vision, 3D data processing, virtual reality, multimedia image communication, stereo and multi-view image sequence coding. His involvement with those research areas has led to the co-authoring of 16 articles in refereed journals, two book chapters and more than 40 papers in international conferences. Since 1992, he has been involved in more than 10 projects, funded by the EC and the Greek Ministry of Research and Technology. He has served as a regular reviewer for a number of international journals and conferences.

Josefina Guerrero García (MSc) is doing her PhD research in the domain of management sciences, option “Information Systems” at Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Louvain School of Management (IAG-LSM). She received a DEA (Diplôme d’Etudes Approfondies) in management sciences from the same university in 2006 and a Master’s Degree in management at Instituto de Estudios Universitarios (Mexico) in 2001. She is a member of the Belgian Laboratory of Computer Human Interaction (BCHI) and the UsiXML Consortium. Her research interests include workflow models, computer supported cooperative work, and information systems.

Chris Kimble (PhD) – Editorial Advisory Board Member is an associate professor of Information Systems at Euromed Marseille École de Management, France. Prior to that, he was a lecturer in information systems at the University of York and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK. His research focuses on communities of practice, knowledge management and distributed collaborative working. He has published articles in several journals and has also published two collections of edited papers on Communities of Practice as books.

Emmanuel Koku (PhD) is an assistant professor of sociology in the Department of Culture and Communication at Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA. He is a graduate of the University of Ghana, Legon, Queen’s University (Canada), and the University of Toronto (Canada). His research interests are social network analysis, virtual communities, sociology of development, sociology of health, research methods/social statistics. His current research examines the lived-experiences of persons living with HIV in Africa and US, as well as analysis of professional and informal networks of academic researchers and policy makers.

Dimitrios Kotsalis received a BSc in applied informatics & multimedia from the Technological Education Institution of Crete in 2007. In the past, he has worked for Forthnet S.A (Greece) and the Technological Education Institution of Crete (Greece). During this period he has been involved in a few Research and Technological Development projects, funded by national and European organizations. Kotsalis, since May 2006, is an Associated Researcher in istlab (research laboratory of the Technological Educational Institution of Crete) and since February 2008, is an Associated Lecturer in the Department of Applied Informatics & Multimedia, Faculty of Applied Technologies at the Technological Education Institution of Crete. His current research interests are in the areas of HCI, DSM and VCoP.
George Lekakos (PhD) is an assistant professor in e-business at the Department of Information and Communication Systems, University of the Aegean, Greece. He leads the Intelligent Media Lab (IML), which is a research group within the ELTRUN Research Center (http://www.eltrun.gr) at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), Greece. He also teaches in AUEB at undergraduate and postgraduate courses (e-business). He is also teaching staff at the Greek Open University. During the previous three years he worked in adjunct and visiting teaching posts at the Department of Computer Science, University of Cyprus, and the Department of Technology Education and Digital Systems, University of Piraeus, Greece. He holds a BSc in Mathematics (University of Thessaloniki, Greece), MSc in Formal Methods in Software Engineering (University of London, UK), and PhD in Interactive Television (Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece). He has published more than thirty-five papers in international journals and conferences, he is co-editor of books and conference proceedings, and he serves as editorial board member of international journals. He is member of the EuroITV steering committee and the IFIP TC14 working group on interactive television (WG 14.6). For the last 8 years, he has been working in several EU funded projects and has been appointed as project reviewer by the European Commission and the General Secretariat of Research and Technology in Greece.

Edurne Loyarte (PhD) is the financial and quality manager of VICOMTech, a technological centre of computer graphics located in San Sebastian. She received her Bachelor's degree in business management and administration from the University of Deusto with a speciality master in strategy. She is PhD in economics and business administration from the University of Deusto (San Sebastian) with the thesis called “A model of cultivation and integration of Communities of Practice for organizations in the Basque Country”. Therefore, she has published some articles in the field of communities of practice.

Evangelia Mantzari is a PhD candidate at Athens University of Economics and Business, in the Department of Management Science and Technology (AUEB, DMST). She is part of ELTRUN, the e-Business Research Center of Athens University of Economics and Business, and she is actively engaged in projects relating to Interactive Digital Television, Consumer Behavior, e-Business and e-Government. Also, she is currently member of the coordinating committee for the Greek eBusiness Forum for Interactive Digital TV, which aims in evaluating the conditions for the media market’s transition. Mantzari holds an International MBA degree (AUEB, DMST) and a first degree in economics from the University of Piraeus. Besides her research activity, she is employed as a financial consultant for the National Bank of Greece and as a trainer in the field of electronic business and marketing for the national program of lifelong learning of the Greek Ministry of Education. During her post-graduate studies, she has been involved in the joint research of the Greek Ministry of Internal Affairs and Athens University, Department of Informatics for “E-Government Applications around the world”.

Giannis Milolidakis is on the Ecricome PhD Programme at the Euromed Management School. He obtained his BSc in information technology and multimedia from the Department of Applied Information Technology and Multimedia of the Technological Educational Institution of Crete in 2007. The last two years he has been working as an associated researcher in the Interactive Software Technologies & System Engineering Laboratory which is a research unit of the Technological Educational Institution of Crete. During this time he participated in various local and large scale research and development projects. His current research interests are in the areas of human computer interaction and virtual communities and in particular communities of practice.
Natalie Pang - Reviewer is a PhD candidate in Monash University’s Faculty of Information Technology. Her research focuses on the knowledge commons in the contemporary media environment, and cases of cultural institutions engaging community participation. Her teaching interests include information management, usability evaluations, peer to peer technologies and approaches, and digital libraries. A graduate of Melbourne University and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, Pang has worked in Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia. Other than her involvement in ongoing research with communities from China, Italy, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia, she has also previously served as an honorary research associate of Museum Victoria in Australia and a visiting scholar at the School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Pang is currently a contributing member of the Foundation for Peer to Peer Alternatives, with interests in participatory technologies in Web 2.0, social networks and discourse on open content licenses applicable in the digital environment.

Kyriakos Paterakis received a BSc from the Information Technology and Multimedia department at the Technological Education Institution of Crete in 2008. Since January 2008, he is an associate researcher at the iSTLab research laboratory, Technological Education Institution of Crete.

Anargyros Plemenos was born in Melbourne, Australia. He received a BSc from the Information Technology and Multimedia department at the Technological Education Institution of Crete in 2008. Since January 2008, he is an associate researcher at the iSTLab research laboratory: Technological Education Institution of Crete.

Ekaterina Prasolova-Førland (PhD) obtained her PhD degree in computer science from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in 2004. She is currently an associate professor at the Program for Learning with ICT (LIKT) at NTNU. Her research interests include educational and social aspects of 3D Collaborative Virtual Environments and augmented environments as well as virtual universities, mobile learning and educational games. Dr. Prasolova-Førland has published more than 30 papers in refereed conference proceedings and journals. She is currently involved in two EU-financed projects focusing on educational games in 3D virtual worlds.

Richard Ribeiro (MSc) - Reviewer was trained as an electrical engineer and has a Master’s degree in electrical engineering. He worked as lecturer in computer science in Brazil for twelve years and is now a PhD student in the department of Computer Science at University of York where his research is focused on communities of practice and knowledge management.

Olga Rivera (PhD) is a professor in organization and business policy and Head of the team on Innovation and Knowledge Management at the University of Deusto (San Sebastian). She is also a member of Orkestra, Basque Institute for Competitiveness and part of the MOC (Microeconomics of Competitiveness) Network, launched by the Institute of Strategy and Competitiveness of the University of Harvard. Professor Rivera has worked on clusters, Learning Organizations and Learning Networks, focusing in these last years on the interaction between Knowledge Sharing and Innovation Capability.
Emmanuela Rombogianaki (BSc) received a BSc in applied information technology and multimedia from the Department of Applied Information Technology and Multimedia, Technological education Institution of Crete. From December 2007 to May 2008, she was an associate researcher at the iSTLab research laboratory at the Technological Education Institution of Crete.

Diana Schimke studied computer science with a minor in psychology at Ulm University and is currently pursuing her PhD in computer science. Her research interests lie in virtual communities and evaluating strategies for virtual communities to function properly. She is currently working at the University of Regensburg where she coordinates the CyberMentor project.

Stelios Sfakianakis (MSc) received his BSc in computer science in 1995 and his MSc with highest distinction in advanced information systems in 1998 from the University of Athens. In January 2000 he joined the ICS-FORTH’s Biomedical Informatics Laboratory (BMI). His interests include the Semantic integration and composition of services in state of the art computational environments such as the Grid and the Semantic Web. Additionally he is interested in the design of programming languages and their various paradigms, such as functional, object and data oriented, and concurrent.

Wes Shumar (PhD) – Editorial Advisory Board Member is an associate professor of anthropology at Drexel University, USA. His research focuses on higher education, ethnographic evaluation in education, virtual community, the semiotics of mass culture, and the self in relation to contemporary personal and political issues of identity and globalization. Since 1997, Prof. Shumar has worked as an ethnographer at the Math Forum, a virtual math education community and resource center. Currently he is involved in various NSF-funded projects, including the projects ‘The Virtual Math Teams (VMT)’ and ‘Leadership Development for Technology Integration: Developing an Effective NSDL Teacher Workshop Model’. Prof. Shumar is co-editor of Building Virtual Communities: Learning and Change in Cyberspace, published by Cambridge University Press.

Chris Stary (PhD) is currently a full professor and the head of the department of Business Information Systems – Communications Engineering at the University of Linz. His interest is in model-based and user-oriented application design. Areas of application include articulation work, modelling, multimedia systems, e-learning, organisational development and adaptive systems engineering.

Heidrun Stoeger (PhD) is a full professor at the University of Regensburg. She holds the chair for school research, school development and evaluation. Her main research fields are learning and instruction, gender issues and evaluation. She is project leader of CyberMentor at the University of Regensburg.

Georgios Triantafyllidis (PhD) was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1975. He received the Diploma degree in electrical engineering and the PhD degree in image/video processing from Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1997 and 2002, respectively. From 1997 till 2000 he worked as a research assistant at the Information Processing Lab of the Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki. From 2000 to 2008 he joined the Informatics and Telematics Institute in Thessaloniki as an associate researcher and since 2003 as a senior researcher. From 2005 to 2008 he was also with the Electrical and Computer Eng Dept of the Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki as a visiting lecturer. Since 2008, he has been assistant professor in the Applied Information Technology and Multimedia Dept of the
About the Contributors

Technological Educational Institute of Crete, Greece. He has been involved in several national and international research projects, where he conducted research in various fields of image/video processing and coding, computer vision and computer graphics and published more than 50 referred research papers.

**Manolis Tsiknakis (PhD) – Editorial Advisory Board Member** received the BEng degree in electronic engineering, in 1983, the MSc degree in microprocessor engineering, in 1985, and the PhD degree in control systems engineering from the University of Bradford, Bradford, U.K., in 1989. Since 1992, he has been with the Institute of Computer Science, Foundation for Research and Technology–Hellas, Greece, where he is currently a principal researcher. He is the head of the Center of eHealth Technologies, and has been the technical coordinator of the development of HYGEIANet, the regional health information network of Crete. He is the initiator and co-chair of the ERCIM Biomedical Informatics Working Group. He is the scientific coordinator of the Advancing Clinico-Genomic Trials on Cancer EU funded integrated project and also involved in a number of R&D projects in the domain of cancer biomarker discovery and translational medicine. His current research interests include biomedical informatics, component-based software engineering, biomedical information integration, ambient intelligence in eHealth and mHealth service platforms, and IT adoption related issues.

**Dimitrios Tzovaras (PhD)** is a senior researcher in the Informatics and Telematics Institute. He received the Diploma in electrical engineering and the PhD in 2D and 3D image compression from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in 1992 and 1997, respectively. Prior to his current position, he was a leading researcher on 3D imaging at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His main research interests include image compression, 3D data processing, virtual reality, multimedia image communication, 3D motion estimation, stereo and multiview image sequence coding. His involvement with those research areas has led to the co-authoring of over twenty articles in refereed journals and more than 50 papers in international conferences. He has served as a regular reviewer for a number of international journals and conferences. Since 1992, Dr Tzovaras has been involved in more than 20 projects, funded by the EC and the Greek Ministry of Research and Technology.

**Nikolas Valsamakis (MSc)** is a composer and performer of electroacoustic music. He studied music with D Kamarotos and S Vasiadiades in the Center of Contemporary Music research in Athens, Greece and Music Technology (Msc) with Simon Emerson in City University in London, England. He is especially interested in the directions of algorithmic composition, microsound, nonstandard synthesis, interactive systems, live electronics and soundscape composition. He explores and applies computer technology and electronics in the creation of his own meta-tools for music composition as well as in the construction of musical meta-instruments for live performance. In 2004 was invited composer in residence in the Center de Creation Musicale Iannis Xenakis (CCMIX) in Paris. He is a founding member and President of the Hellenic Electroacoustic Music Composers Association (ΕΣΣΗΜ - HELMCA) and founding member of the Hellenic Society of Acoustic Ecology (ΕΕΑΕ - HSAE). He is lecturer in the Music Technology & Acoustics Department of TEI of Crete, in Rethymnon, Greece.

**Jean Vanderdonckt (PhD)** is full professor in computer science at Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Louvain School of Management (IAG-LSM) where he leads the Belgian Laboratory of Computer-Human Interaction (BCHI). This laboratory is conducting research, development, and
consulting services in the domain of user interface engineering, a domain that is located midway between software engineering, human-computer interaction, and usability engineering. Vanderdonckt is the founder and the coordinator of the UsiXML Consortium that structures activities towards the definition and the usage of UsiXML (User Interface eXtensible Markup Language) as a common User Interface Description Language. He is the coordinator of HCI activities within the Similar network of excellence (The European research taskforce creating human-machine interfaces SIMILAR to human-human communication). He is also a member of the European COST n°294 Action MAUSE on usability engineering and of the SESAMI Working Group. He is a senior member of IEEE, ACM, and SIGCHI. He is also co-editor in chief of Springer HCI Series of books.

Kam Hou Vat - Reviewer is currently a lecturer in the Department of Computer and Information Science, under the Faculty of Science and Technology, at the University of Macau, Macau SAR, China. His current research interests include learner-centered design with constructivism in Software Engineering education, architectured applications developments for Internet software systems, information systems for learning organization, information technology for knowledge synthesis, and collaborative technologies for electronic organizations and virtual communities.

George Vellis is an associated researcher at the istLab, Technological Education Institution of Crete. He received a BSc in applied informatics & multimedia from the Technological Education Institution of Crete in 2007. In the past, he has worked for Forthnet S.A (Greece) and the Technological Education Institution of Crete (Greece). During this period he has been involved in a few research and technological development projects, funded by national and European organizations. Since September 2008, he is an associated lecturer in the Department of Applied Informatics & Multimedia, Faculty of Applied Technologies at the Technological Education Institution of Crete. His current research interests are in the areas of user interface software technologies and collaborative computing.

Nikolas Vidakis (PhD) - Reviewer received a BSc(Hons) in computing in business from the University of Northumbria at Newcastle in 1993 and obtained his PhD degree from the Technical University of Vienna in 1997. In the past, he has worked for the Technical University of Vienna (Austria), Minoan Lines S.A. (Greece) and the Technological Education Institution of Crete (Greece). During his work at Minoan Lines and the Technological Education Institution of Crete he has been involved in a few research and technological development projects, funded by national and European organizations. Since October 2005, Dr Vidakis has been a lecturer in the Department of Applied Informatics & Multimedia, Faculty of Applied Technologies at the Technological Education Institution of Crete. His current research interests are in the areas of software engineering, virtual communities of practice, and in particular electronic villages, on-line communities, as well as 3D interactive artifacts.

Adam Vrechopoulos (PhD) is an assistant professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), Department of Management Science and Technology and Scientific Coordinator of the Interactive Marketing and Electronic Services (IMES) research group at the ELTRUN Research Center at AEUB. His research interests are digital marketing, electronic retailing and consumer behaviour in multichannel retailing. He holds a PhD from Brunel University at UK, an MBA from ALBA, and a BSc in information systems from AUEB. He has participated in many funded research projects and acted as researcher at the Electronic Business Interaction Research Group at Brunel University and at the
ELTRUN Research Center at AUEB. He has published more than 70 papers in peer reviewed journals and academic conferences, and has acted as a reviewer for several international journals, member of conferences’ scientific committees and books’ editor. He is the 2002 “Gold Award” winner of the ECR Europe Academic Partnership Award. Before starting his academic career he worked in the industry in marketing, sales and project management positions.

Theodor Wyeld - Reviewer has a background in architecture and planning, and games development and is widely published in these fields. He has given keynote lectures on the topics of information visualisation, cultural heritage knowledge communication, and virtual environments as cross-cultural classrooms. He currently lectures in interaction design and user evaluation at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.

Michael Zervakis (PhD) holds a PhD degree from the University of Toronto, Department of Electrical Engineering, since 1990. He joined the Technical University of Crete on January 1995, where he is currently full professor at the department of Electronic and Computer Engineering. Prof. Zervakis is the director of the Digital Image and Signal Processing Laboratory (DISPLAY) and is involved in research on modern aspects of signal processing, including estimation and constrained optimization, multi-channel and multi-band signal processing, wavelet analysis for data/ image processing and compression, biomedical imaging applications, neural networks and fuzzy logic in automation applications. He has been involved in more than 20 international projects and has published more than 90 papers in related areas of image/signal processing.

Albert Ziegler (PhD) is a full professor at the Ulm University. He holds the chair for educational psychology. His main research fields are giftedness, gender studies, and learning and instruction with new media. He is project leader of the CyberMentor project at Ulm University.