Afterword

With recent advances in network technologies and infrastructure, there is increasing demand for ubiquitous access to networked services. New challenges arise in the study of services engineering, an emerging research area devoted to the software engineering of service-oriented applications. An environment which demands ubiquitous and just-in-time capabilities (or services) which can be discovered and used transparently among dynamic communities of providers and consumers who may or may not have had previous interaction. It is clearly a vision that has only begun to realize its potential and one which depends upon many of the same underlying concerns addressed in distributed computing including architecting, managing and evolving capabilities. However, the XML services computing paradigm is specifically tailored for today’s increasingly cross-organizational, cross-jurisdictional and cross-domain enterprise. Moreover, the XML services computing environment depends upon the enterprise network as the platform. The many recent advances in XML services computing technologies and infrastructure has opened the enterprise to increasing demands for interoperable ubiquitous access to networked services that can support an endless array of enterprise business processes. Architecting and deploying Web services-based systems for such an enterprise necessitates full understanding of the business processes and explicit modelling of the internal and external environment so that the constraints can be incorporated in the overall architecture of the enterprise.

In summary, this book crystallizes the emerging XML data technologies and trends into positive efforts to focus on the most promising solutions in services computing. The 16 chapters in this book provide clear proof that XML data technologies are playing an ever increasing important and critical role in supporting business service processes. The chapters also further research new best practices and directions in XML services.

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