About the Contributors

Kai Jakobs joined Aachen University’s (RWTH) computer science department as a member of the technical staff in 1985. Since 1987, he has been head of the technical staff for the chair of Informatik 4 (communication and distributed systems). He holds a PhD in computer science from the University of Edinburgh. Earlier research interests and activities concentrated broadly on the user friendliness of communication networks. This included, for instance, the support of group communication, user-friendly naming, directory services, and services to be provided by the underlying infrastructure. More recently, his interest shifted to various aspects of standards and the standardization process, focusing on the individual’s role in standards setting, and on the pros and cons of user participation in this process. In addition, he has been working on a number of projects on various aspects of information networks. Jakobs is coauthor and editor of a textbook on data communication and, more recently, nine books on standardization processes in IT. More than 170 of his papers have been published in conference proceedings, books, and journals. He has been on the program committees of numerous international conferences, and has also served as an external expert on evaluation panels of various European research and development programs on both technical and socioeconomic issues.

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Michel Avital is an assistant professor of information systems at Case Western Reserve University. His research focuses on the sociotechnical aspects of information technologies and emphasizes a positive stance toward our capacity to construct better organizations and technologies. Michel has published articles on topics such as information systems design, creativity, knowledge sharing collaborative action, and appreciative inquiry. Michel is guided by the premise that information technologies are agents of organizational and social innovation, and that their consideration is vital to our success. For more information, visit http://avital.case.edu.

Ulrich Blum, born 1953, is a professor of economics. Following his PhD (1982) and his habilitation (1986) at the University of Karlsruhe, he was visiting professor and Lynen Scholar of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the University of Montreal in 1986 and 1987 and in 1987 and 1988. From 1987 to 1991, he was a professor of economics at the University of Bamberg. In 1991 he was appointed a professor of economics at the Dresden University of Technology and became its founding dean for the new Faculty of Economics and Management. There he held the chair of economics and political economy until 2004, when he became president of the Institute for Economic Research in Halle, one of the five national economic research centers of Germany. Since 2005, he has been the convener of a
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**Bart Brusse** studied sociology and mass communication at the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He started his career in the cable industry where he worked in strategy, programming, and business development. In early 2000, he founded ConTeSt consultancy and worked with a variety of companies on several digital media projects. On behalf of CENELEC and ETSI, he produced several reports on standardization in interactive digital television for the European Commission. From early 2004 to early 2007, he managed the COPRAS project on behalf of CEN, which focused on improving interfacing between ICT research and standardization. Currently, Brusse is active in DVB where he is the secretary to the organization’s working groups focusing on interactive TV and security. In addition, he focuses on new media development, as well as on the development and implementation of associated technology policies.

**Albert Feilzer** studied dentistry at the University of Amsterdam. In 1989 he obtained his PhD. From 1982 to 1998, he worked part time in a dental clinic in Amsterdam as a dentist general practitioner and part time as an academic researcher at the Department of Dental Materials Science of the Academic Center of Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA). In 1998 he changed to a full-time occupation at ACTA. Since July 2001, he has worked, besides at ACTA, for one day a week as a professor of standardization in the Department of Management of Innovation and Technology at the Rotterdam School of Management (Erasmus University, Rotterdam). Since January 2002, he has been chairman of the Platform Kenbaarheid van Normen en Normalisatie, a project to improve the visibility and awareness of standards and standardization, initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

**G. Keith Fuller** received his PhD from the University of British Columbia and is currently an assistant professor of management science at the Odette School of Business at the University of Windsor, Ontario. He also has a BAS and MEng from the University of Toronto. Prior to returning to university for his PhD, he worked as a consultant in the IS field for nearly 20 years.

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**Heiko Hahn**, born 1972, studied business administration and management at the Universities of Bayreuth and Sheffield before becoming a researcher at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich. He holds an MBA from Bayreuth University and a PhD from the University of Augsburg. His main research interests include systemic- and market-related aspects of component-based software development.
John Hurd has served as manager for Digital/Compaq’s Industry Standards and Consortia Group, as well as chair of the ITIC (Information Technology Industry Council) Standardization Policy Committee.

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Kai Reimers is currently a professor of information systems at RWTH Aachen University with the Faculty of Business and Economics. From 1998 to 2003, he worked as a visiting professor at the School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He earned a doctorate in economics from Wuppertal University and a venia legendi at Bremen University. He has published in international journals including European Journal of Information Systems, Electronic Markets, Electronic Commerce Research, Communications of the AIS, and Journal of Information Technology. He authored or coauthored five books in the field of information systems. His main fields of research are interorganizational systems, IT management, and IT standards.

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