

Foreword

Mobile technologies, mobile business and the relevance of mobility, overall, to our society have been a core area of my work over the past few years. As an active researcher and the organizer and past chair of the International Conference on Mobile Business series, I have been privileged to observe the advances in research and the practice of mobility in business and society. This handbook is an excellent representation globally of the mobility movement. Mobility includes the study of mobile devices, the capacities and security of wireless networks, the various ways to source contents for mobile service providers, the usability issues of small screen devices, mobile enterprise architectures, and the entertainment and educational value of mobility – to name but a few. These areas of mobility in business and society are highlighted in this second edition, edited by Dr Unhelkar.

While I had the privilege of reviewing and writing the foreword to the previous edition of this handbook (which still remains a significant contribution to the field of mobility) this second edition has provided new and unique discussions from contributing authors in the areas of strategic use of mobility, context awareness in mobile computing, transitioning to mobile business, mobile networks and the ever increasing importance of the application of any technology (mobile technology in this case) to the environment. My own philosophy of research in the mobile domain is that industry practitioners and academics *must* collaborate to understand, document and provide practical solutions to the challenges of adopting mobility. Therefore, it is pleasing to once again note the inclusion of numerous industry case studies in this book.

As with the previous edition, this handbook provides a judicious combination of reporting research as well as sharing industrial expertise. These contributed chapters bring to the reader a sensible and practical combination of the theory and practice of mobility in business. The wide coverage of topics and the variety of contributors to this handbook make this book an excellent addition to the literature on mobile business.

The chapters in this book are of excellent quality and well referenced. They provide avid researchers with further links to extend and expand their research. The contributions to this handbook are from authors with varying backgrounds from a number of countries. The sharing of practical experiences from authors from around the globe has been achieved in this edited work.

I highly recommend this handbook, and its previous edition, to both researchers and practitioners in the industry as an invaluable desktop reference. This book will not only aid practitioners in what they are currently doing with mobile business, but will also open up numerous directions for further investigative research work.

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