

Acknowledgments

We believe that the book will be a comprehensive compilation of the thoughts and vision required to create intelligent enterprises of the 21st century. There is thorough discussion of a variety of concepts, tools, and technologies required for knowledge creation and management in intelligent enterprises. The presentations illustrate the concepts with a variety of public, private, societal, and organizational applications. They offer practical guidelines for designing and developing intelligent enterprises. Thus, the book should benefit undergraduate and graduate students taking courses in knowledge management, intelligent enterprises, and related areas. It should also be of interest to the practitioners seeking to better support and improve their decision making. Hopefully, the book will also stimulate new research about creating and maintaining intelligent enterprises by academicians and practitioners.

This book would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of many people: the authors, reviewers, our colleagues, and the staff at Idea Group Publishing. The editors would like to thank Mehdi Khosrow-Pour for inviting us to produce this book, Jan Travers for managing this project, and Michele Rossi, development editor, for answering our questions and keeping us on schedule.

Many of the authors of chapters in this book served as reviewers of other chapters, and so we are doubly appreciative of their contributions. We also acknowledge our respective universities for affording us the time to work on this project and our colleagues and students for many stimulating discussions. Finally, the authors wish to acknowledge their families for providing time and support for this project.

Jatinder N. D. Gupta, University of Alabama in Huntsville, USA
Sushil K. Sharma, Ball State University, USA
June 2003