EDITORIAL PREFACE

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Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of the IJBDCN in the year 2011! The past couple of years have seen tremendous changes in telecom. A new world order is emerging fast. Telecommunication is no more the stronghold of traditional telecom service providers, network equipment makers and handset vendors. The emergence of the Internet as the convergent communication medium, advent of cloud based service provisioning, evolution of social networking, development of applications that tremendously enhance user experience, increasing use of mobile Internet and the associated innovations in smartphone markets are changing ways in which we communicate, do commerce and entertain ourselves. Complementing these developments is the increased use of mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs) enabled by the continuous improvisations in local access Wi-Fi networks. Research in MANETs has resulted in improved routing algorithms that promise ubiquitous and reliable network connectivity especially suitable for peer-to-peer communication.

The most important aspect of this evolution is that this phenomenon is global and the challenges vary across countries. Associated with this technology and business evolution are risks and security threats that try to undermine the very nature of the industry.

This issue of IJBDCN specifically looks at research issues relating the above aspects, specifically in the areas of Internet commerce, security and MANETs.

In the first article, by Smith, one of the important aspects of on-line trading, namely trust across buyers and merchants are evaluated in detail. Using a large data set of sample responses in the U.S. market, the author analyzes the variables including price, reputation and feedback, security, and payment method that affect buyer behavior in online auction programs. Using an exhaustive multi-variate analysis, the author concludes that buyers, especially working professionals find that the feedback systems to be very important, and are more willing to engage in online trading activities and more willing to pay a higher price for merchandise being sold by a seller with a better reputation, regardless of gender. They also find out that customers are concerned with the total price, including shipping cost, regardless of gender. Finally, in terms of the convenience of payment method, electronic forms are preferred by working professionals in transacting online trading activities, regardless of age and gender.

Shaqrah, in the second article, does an in-depth analysis of the relationship between internet security and e-business competence at banking and exchange firms in Jordan. Using a Structured Equation Modeling on a large data set of responses from the IT and related officials in Jordanian banks, financial institutions and exchange firms, the author analyzes the relationship amongst variables such as influence of security hazard, protection measures, Internet performance, trust, and Confidentiality-

Integrity-Availability (CIA) triad on online business activities. The author concludes that trust and CIA triad are the most critical factors as applicable to online business, especially for banks and exchange firms.

The third paper by Al-Bahadili and Sabri is related to network management of MANETs. Route discovery has been an important research issue in MANETs. The authors in this paper propose an improved version of the traditional probabilistic flooding algorithm in the route discovery phase of dynamic routing protocols, taking in to account not only the number of first-hop neighbors but also the expected presence of noise in the network. The authors through

simulations report that the improved algorithm results in improved reachability and hence the reliability of the network.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue as much as you have done the previous issues of IJBDCN. If you have any feedback or suggestions to send us, please feel free to do so.

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Debashis Saha is a professor with the MIS Group, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Calcutta. Previously, he was with CSE Department at Jadavpur University (Kolkata, India). He received his BE (Hons) degree from Jadavpur University (Kolkata, India), and the MTech and PhD degrees from the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur) all in electronics and telecommunication engineering. His research interests include e-commerce, mobile commerce, IT governance, e-governance, mobile computing, ICT for development, wireless networking, pervasive communication and computing, network operations, management and security, and network economics. He has supervised fourteen doctoral theses, published about 250 research papers in various conferences and journals, and directed four funded research projects on networking. He has co-authored several book chapters, a monograph, and five books including Networking Infrastructure for Pervasive Computing: Enabling Technologies and Systems *(Norwell, MA: Kluwer, 2002) and* Location Management and Routing in Mobile Wireless Networks *(Boston, MA: Artech House, 2003). Dr. Saha is the recipient of the prestigious career award for Young Teachers from AICTE, Government of India, and is a SERC Visiting Fellow with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. He is a Fellow of West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (WAST), Senior Life Member of Computer Society of India, Senior Member of IEEE, member of ACM, member of AIS, and member of the International Federation of Information Processing Working Group's 6.8 and 6.10. He was the founding Chair of Calcutta Chapter of IEEE Communications Society.*

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