EDITORIAL PREFACE

Nik Bessis, University of Derby and University of Bedfordshire, UK

The fourth issue of the second volume is based on invitations made to authors of best papers presented at the 1st IADIS International Conference on Collaborative Technologies 2010 that was held on July 26-28, 2010, Frieburg, Germany.

Collaborative technologies have been the subject of intense research for many years. It has often been found that the identification and thus, the effective and efficient utilization of available tools and resources are a challenging process, yet frequently a very supportive mechanism for sustaining and creating an advantage within any setting. Current technologies are now capable of supporting collaborative activities in the cyberspace in a far more advanced manner. This includes enabling the sharing, integration and collaborative use of networked computer-based dispersed resources such as humans, data, application, software, services and hardware.

Current synchronous and asynchronous paradigms include but are not limited to web, peer-to-peer, service oriented, grid and next generation technologies. Even though the advantages of these types of evolutionary research are continually acknowledged, it is only recently that the need to appreciate their applicability into the real world of the information society has been realized. During the last decade, scientists have almost exclusively used these for their own research and development purposes, but lately the focus is clearly shifting to more interdisciplinary (or transdisciplinary) applica-

tion domains that are closer to everyday life. These can provide individuals from different organizations and locations with the opportunity for collaboration as a means to help assist diversified progression. As such, the size and complexity of applying collaborative technologies are enormous and thus, there is a particular need to acknowledge research undertaken as a means to broaden the applicability and scope of the current body of knowledge in the area.

The issue comprises five articles, selected after a careful review process, and is organized as follows.

In the first article, Zhu et al. present a conceptual meta-design model, the Hive-Mind Space (HMS) model, which provides localized habitable environments for diverse stakeholders and tools for them to tailor the system, allowing the co-evolution of systems and practices. A case study approach is used to demonstrate the implementation of the model.

In the second article, Dekeyser and Hidders present a novel collaborative technique for documents, which is based on transactions, schedulers, conflicts and locks. Their proposed technique can be used in specific situations where a strict form of concurrency control is required.

In the third article, Ardissono et al. describe a framework supporting the development of open collaboration environments, which integrate heterogeneous business services. The framework facilitates the user cooperation in

the execution of shared activities by offering a workspace awareness support, which abstracts from the business services employed to operate.

In the fourth paper, Thimm and Rasmussen argue that the widespread knowledge of the many aspects of the network is an effective vehicle to promote trust within the network, successfully resolve conflicts, and build a prospering collaboration climate. Following this, authors present an extensible information modeling framework encompassing complementary concepts that are designed to enable an active provisioning service.

In the last article, Schirmer and Gross present the CollaborationBus Aqua editor, a sophisticated, yet lightweight editor for con-

figuring ubiquitous environments in groups. The CollaborationBus Aqua editor simplifies the configuration and offers advanced concepts for sharing and browsing configurations among users.

I wish to thank the authors for their contribution to this issue and the reviewers for their useful suggestions and feedback to the authors. I wish readers found this issue useful in their research and academic activity.

Nik Bessis
Editor-in-Chief
IJDST

Nik Bessis is currently a Head of Distributed and Intelligent Systems (DISYS) research group, a Professor and a Chair of Computer Science in the School of Computing and Mathematics at University of Derby, UK. He is also an academic member in the Department of Computer Science and Technology at University of Bedfordshire (UK). He obtained a BA (1991) from the TEI of Athens, Greece and completed his MA (1995) and PhD (2002) at De Montfort University (Leicester, UK). His research interest is the analysis, research, and delivery of user-led developments with regard to trust, data integration, annotation, and data push methods and services in distributed environments. These have a particular focus on the study and use of next generation and grid technologies methods for the benefit of various virtual organizational settings. He is involved in and leading a number of funded research and commercial projects in these areas. Prof. Bessis has published widely and is the editor of three books and the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Distributed Systems and Technologies *(IJDST). In addition, Prof. Bessis is a regular reviewer and has served as a keynote speaker, conferences/workshops/track chair, associate editor, session chair and scientific program committee member.*