

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue of Revised and Extended Papers From the 24th International Conference on Collaboration and Technology, CRIWG 2018

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Collaboration technology has become ubiquitous and has been integrated in tools for supporting a wide range of human activities, from engineering activities to learning, from social media to e-commerce. The International Conference on Collaboration Technologies, CRIWG, that featured its 24th edition in 2018, has focused on collaboration technology design, development, and evaluation. The background research has been influenced by a number of disciplines, such as computer science, management science, information systems, engineering, psychology, cognitive sciences, and social sciences.

Following a long-standing tradition, this special issue intends to present highlights from CRIWG 2018. For this special issue, the authors of six CRIWG 2018 papers submitted revised and extended versions of their works, which went through a reviewing process. During this reviewing process, the authors were asked to include several changes before producing their final versions.

At the end of this process, four papers have been accepted for being included in this special issue. These four papers cover a range of topics of collaborative computing research, from collaborative learning to collaboration through social media and novel forms of commerce.

In the first paper, “Is group-awareness context-awareness? Converging Context-awareness and Group awareness support,” M. Pinheiro and C. Souveyet address the problem of coupling group awareness and context information. This work builds on a good literature review, advocating a unified view of group awareness and context information, simplifying both groupware architecture and information treatment. The proposed approach is exemplified by using a context distribution mechanism for distributing both group awareness and context information among group members.

Problem-based learning (PBL) has been gaining popularity as a learning methodology that helps students improve their understanding and retention of knowledge through an active learning process. One of the issues in introducing PBL is to guarantee that the teachers have the competences needed in the PBL model, which differ from those used in traditional teaching approaches. In the paper “A Web-Based Platform for Competence Development in PBL Supervision,” H. Hüttel and D. Gnaur, address this issue reporting the experience with the introduction of “PBL exchange,” a platform to support PBL practices at the University of Aalborg in Denmark.

In the paper “Conversational Commerce and Cryptocurrency Research in Urban Office Employees in Thailand,” T. Rungvithu and C. Kerdvibulvech examine the differences between conversational and conventional commerce by comparing customer satisfaction using customer interviews. They further examine the adoption and potential advantages of cryptocurrencies in the Thai market.

Social media has become an important element in politics, with Twitter and WhatsApp playing an important role in the dissemination of political messages in recent elections. G. Nobre, K. Ferreira, I. Silva and G. Barbosa study the sentiment of Brazilian online population regarding different political events using data from Twitter, based on the positive and negative opinions expressed. They further study how the opinion of online population compares to the positioning of the whole population, showing that there is an equivalence of such positions.

As editors of this special issue, we would like to thank the authors of submissions for their effort in extending and revising their original CRIWG 2018 submissions. We hope these papers can help readers broaden their perspective on collaboration technology and how this technology is used for different purposes and in different geographic locations.

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