



Message from the Program Co-Chairs

These proceedings contain the research and industrial papers presented at the Seventeenth International Conference on Data Engineering held in Heidelberg, Germany. Keeping with the tradition of ICDE, this years' conference emphasizes the engineering aspects of data management but also considers data engineering in a wider sense that encompasses middleware, distributed systems and workflow. The areas in which papers were requested are: XML, metadata and semistructured data; database engines and engineering; query processing; data warehouses, data mining and knowledge discovery; advanced information systems middleware; scientific and engineering databases; extreme databases; e-commerce and e-services; workflow and process-oriented systems; emerging trends; and system applications and experience.

A total of 296 research papers were submitted to the conference from 34 countries. After a thorough review process the program committee accepted 54 research papers organized in 17 research sessions. 7 industrial sessions make up the industrial track focusing on e-commerce, data warehousing, and mobility. The plenary panel expands on the theme of mobility and will explore the issues involved in managing billions of devices. The program is highlighted by 3 invited speakers who address key application domains of data engineering: Stuart Feldman (IBM) addresses e-business, Peter Zencke (SAP) discusses data engineering issues in standard business software while Gerhard Barth (Dresdner Bank) presents the new challenges in the financial sector.

Special thanks are due to Peter Lockemann and Tamer Özsu for organizing the industrial track. The program is flanked by interesting tutorials organized by Guido Moerkotte and Eric Simon, a variety of demos of interesting research prototypes organized by Andreas Eberhart and site-visits with presentations at some of the leading software development centers of the Rhine-Main-Neckar region.

The quality of the technical program depends on the high number of superior papers submitted and the effort of the reviewers. Therefore, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work and the members of the program committee, the vice-chairs and the many referees who invested so much time and effort in assembling an interesting program. Their names are listed separately.

Finally we would like to express our appreciation to Andreas Reuter and David Lomet, the general chairs who have driven the organization of ICDE 2001. The local arrangements and countless other tasks were tirelessly handled by Isabel Rojas.

We hope that the conference will be stimulating and enjoyable to all who attend it, and that the papers in these proceedings will be a source of relevant information for the data engineering community.

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