Preface

Recent advances in Internet and World Wide Web have made access to various databases and data resources much easier. At the same time they induce many more problems to make intelligent usage of all data that are both available and relevant. A result of this novel challenge is a considerable increase in the worldwide research effort to elaborate concepts and techniques for efficient support of cooperative work over the Internet and cooperative building of advanced database applications. These issues already provided many lively discussions during the previous CODAS Symposia. The purpose of this third symposium has been once more to exchange most recent research results on issues related to cooperative database systems and applications.

We were happy to host a keynote address given by Dr. Umeshwar Dayal, from HP Lab at Palo Alto (CA, USA), presenting his vision on major future directions in the field.

Two of the contributions that directly address cooperation and coordination in heterogeneous systems deal with data issues: how to integrate semi-structured and structured data sets, how to remedy data inconsistencies. A third one deals with distributed event management.

Many contributions address one of the current hot topics in data management. XML, Object-Relational approaches, Data Warehousing and Data Mining, Digital Libraries. Web based systems also come in, seen from the agent perspective. Actually, the low focus on Web developments in this CODAS symposium is likely to be due to the existence of a companion conference (the week after) entirely devoted to Web Information Systems.

Agents are a popular way in the scientific community to organize cooperation. Three more contributions develop agent-based approaches. Similarly, workflows are a quite popular technology in enterprise environments. A set of papers deals with either workflow or enterprise systems.

Finally, a few papers investigate traditional database management techniques, such as efficient data structures and optimization.

Altogether we believe these proceedings offer a good overview of a domain that undergoes constant evolution and, sometimes, revolution. We would like to express here our gratitude to all the authors of these papers that made the symposium possible and interesting.

We hope you will enjoy reading these contributions.

See you at the next CODAS symposium

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