2008 and 2009 will most likely be remembered in history as years of turmoil in the financial market and the world economy in large. This coincides with an increasing momentum in the development of global market and internet economy, both of which started in the 1990s when barriers between countries were torn down and new technologies found their opportunities. The question is: what went wrong – is it that we should not encourage globalisation and internet, or there are still some fundamental issues that have not been well addressed in the context of new development?

Following the successful running of BINDIS’08 in Turku, Finland, we now continue to run BINDIS’09 in Seattle, Washington. This year’s theme is “Enabling Technologies for Service Standardisation”. In particular, we are interested in visionary ideas and thoughts in the area of service chain management with particular focus on tackling issues such as interoperability and sustainability that have been highlighted weak spots in this area. The final program solicited five papers that best fit such need, which are organised into two sessions:

Session 1 (service creation & management)
- Content management represents a large service market in the digital economy. Huang et al proposed a cooperative framework of service chain for managing digital library that are composed of digital library alliances co-operating with content service providers to serve content customers based on service oriented architecture (SOA).
- Grid computing is a typical application area for SOA. Chevalier et al looked at non-functional requirement aspect in grid computing and described a lightweight, configurable and easy-to-deploy meta-scheduler for business and application constraint management, which is responsible for load-balancing between sites.
- The majority in the service market are still labour-based services as opposed to digital ones. Li surveyed service level agreement (SLA) optimisation in the context of SLA management, e-business and optimisation techniques, and proposed five major tracks of development to render industry-strength SLA optimisation capabilities for service enterprises and chains.

Session 2 (service marketing & interoperability)
- There are significant gaps between service providers and service consumers on the understanding and denotation of services. Geldart et al proposed to use interpretation graphs as internal representation that can be extracted from both natural language text of service descriptions and user enquiries; the graphs can then be compared and ranked based on similarity scores.
- Within a business environment, the quality of service (QoS) is one of the most important factors for differentiating between similar services. However, there is no significant standard QoS solution available that could be integrated and interoperated effectively and automatically with the existing web service architecture. Soomro et al proposed such a solution.

A workshop series cannot be successful without the strong support from its international workshop committees. As with last year, we are so fortunate to have a team of top experts across the globe to help shape the topic structure of the workshop and to provide high-quality paper reviews and advices. We owe hearty thanks to all the PC members and reviewers, and we do hope you will find this year’s workshop program relevant and inspiring, which can open up new R&D avenues of crucial economic and social values.

Yang Li