Preface

Distributed object technology now commands a central role in modern computer systems, with their promise of portability, interoperability, and support for software evolution (amongst other things. There is also a rich tapestry of techniques now available including OMG’s CORBA, Sun’s J2EE technology, and Microsoft’s DCOM and .NET and, importantly, an increasingly impressive portfolio of successful case studies in a variety of industries. This is all made possible because of the excellent R&D in this area over the past 10 years. This is not to say however that all the hard work has been done. Rather, this is a highly dynamic and active area, as witnessed for example by the recent emergence of (server-side component technologies, the rapid development of highly complementary modelling and meta-modelling technologies such as UML and XML, and the recent challenges issues by the OMG in terms of Model Driven Architecture. There are also many fundamental research questions remaining unanswered such as: how can we develop more configurable and indeed re-configurable distributed object technologies to meet the demands of an increasing diversity of application domains, how do we bridge the gap between enterprise modelling and systems design, how do we extend such technologies to deal with mobility or multimedia without losing the inherent simplicity of the approaches, etc. These are all issues that are at the heart of the DOA series of symposia.

DOA’01 is the third event in this series, building on highly successful events held at Antwerp (2000 and Edinburgh (1999. The focus of DOA’01 (and indeed the previous incarnations is on both the fundamentals of distributed object systems as well their use to solve industrial applications. In particular, we aim to provide a forum for different people interested in distributed object technology, including researchers (who provide technical and theoretical solutions to specific problems of distributed objects, practitioners (who show how distributed object systems are used to solve real world problems, and users (who are interested in understanding how distributed object technology can be exploited in their application domains. Topics to be covered in the symposium include: support for mobility, monitoring and management, meta-data services, enterprise architectures/ workflow, reflection and re-configuration, multimedia and various aspects of fault-tolerance. We are also delighted to have 2 sessions on industrial experiences in areas as diverse as hard real-time systems and support for radiology, and also 1 associated session on applications.

In total, 65 papers were submitted to DOA ’01. We were particularly impressed by the strength, depth and indeed relevance of work submitted to the event, reflecting the very high standard of research in this area. We accepted 33 papers from this list, following a rigorous evaluation process. Three program committee members, all well-known academic or industrial experts in different areas of distributed object systems, reviewed each paper. Two styles of paper were considered: research papers and practical papers reflecting the unique balance in DOA. The final program also includes three keynote addresses from eminent experts in the field: Sean Baker (IONA), David Sharp (Boeing),
and John Miller (Microsoft). In addition, this year we have a number of innovations including an “Any Questions” style of industrial panel, and a specially arranged PhD Session. We will also have a poster session for papers that contained interesting ideas but just failed to make it into the final program.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank all people involved in making this symposium successful, including the authors, the program committee, the general, publicity and local organization chairs. Without their input this symposium would, of course, not have been possible. To you and to all those who did not have the opportunity of attending the DOA 2001 symposium, we are pleased to offer these proceedings as a snapshot of the state of distributed object research.

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