Minitrack on Internet and the Information Superhighway

Robert W. Blanning  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
blannirw@vanderbilt.edu

David King  
Comshare, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
dave@comshare.com

This is the third year in which we have offered a minitrack on Internet and the Information Superhighway (IISH). The purpose of this minitrack is to present original research in what is primarily a practitioner activity. That is, IISH is of great interest to business executives, professionals, and ordinary citizens, but little research has been done in this area. Of course, much research has been done by computer scientists on computational and communications issues, but this work is of little or no interest to IISH users and policy makers.

In our previous two minitracks we have had papers on (1) information access in the IISH, (2) convergence of telephony and cable to form the IISH, (3) intelligent agents in the IISH, (4) the use of the IISH by Fortune 500 companies, (5) teaching IISH classes at the university level, (6) geographical variation of IISH activity in the U.S., and (7) multi-agent support systems.

This year we have 5 papers in our minitrack, as follows:

(1) "Some Hypermedia Ideas for the WWW" by Michael Bieber, Fabio Vitali, Helen Ashman, V. Balasubramanian, and Harri Oinas-Kukkonen examines criteria for the development of third-generation and fourth-generation hypermedia functionalities on the World Wide Web.

(2) "An Intranet Solution for a Real Time GPMS in Newspaper Production" by Björn Hedin, Vlad Ionescu, and Fredrik Fallström reports the development of an Intranet-based global production management system in the context of newspaper production.

(3) "HyperSQL: Web-based Query Interfaces for Biological Databases" by Mark Newsome, Cherri Pancake, and Joe Hanus describes an interoperability layer for constructing browser-based query interfaces to remote Sybase databases.

(4) "Resource Discovery and Intelligent Image Retrieval in a Distributed Environment" by Sudha Ram, Stuart Marsh, and George Ball discusses the development of an intelligent software interface for remote sensing images in a heterogeneous distributed environment across the Internet.

(5) "Developing Internet Security Policy for Organizations" by Sharman Lichtenstein provides an overview of the potential Internet security issues facing and organization and details a model for developing organizational policies attacking these issues.

These papers identify a range of fruitful areas for research in IISH and present exciting results. We anticipate that in future HICSS conferences this minitrack will continue to present results in these areas and will identify new and promising topics for IISH research.