One of our objectives in coordinating this year's Group Support System (GSS) mini-track was to encourage a wide range of papers that touched on a variety of important issues. As in the past, we used a strong reviewing process - all papers were sent to at least three, sometimes four, reviewers. Our reviewers included scholars, practitioners, and developers, social psychologists, computer scientists, and MIS'ers. Integrating reviews from such a diverse set of reviewers can prove challenging, yet produce a group of papers that can speak to many different interests and issues. This year, we have six papers. The authors of these papers can summarize their conclusions far more eloquently than we can, so rather than repeating their words, we will provide a brief overview of both sessions.

The first group of papers (Quaddus, Tung, Foo, Poh and Soon; Murthy and Kerr; Hilmer and Dennis) focuses on a broad range of contemporary GSS topics. The paper by Quaddus, Tung, Foo, Poh, and Soon, "Group Conflict and Conflict Management in a Decision Conferencing Environment: A Singapore-Australia Comparison," focuses on the effects of Decision Conferencing on group conflict and conflict management in the Singapore versus Australia context. The paper by Murthy and Kerr, "Task/Technology Fit and the Effectiveness of Group Support Systems: Evidence in the Context of Tasks Requiring Domain Specific Knowledge," examines the task/technology fit hypothesis using groups with a shared history addressing either an idea generation or problem solving task. The third paper by Hilmer and Dennis, "Stimulating Thinking in Group Decision Making," explores the use of groupware processes that framed group information into categories and required categorization of information in order to improve decision quality. The study found that different groupware processes had different effects on attention to and integration of information.

The second group of papers (Abdat, Atkinson and Pervan; Duecker, Gutkauf and Thies; Robertson, Sorensen and Swan) again focuses on a broad range of contemporary GSS topics. The first paper by Abdat, Atkinson and Pervan, "Selective Broadcast during the Asynchronous Pre-meeting State of Strategy Formulation: A GSS Capability for the Indonesian Culture," examines the distribution of information to specified members of a communication group in respect to meetings, group memory, and culture. The second paper by Duecker, Gutkauf and Thies, "A Collaborative Development Environment for Design-Oriented Critiquing Systems," propose a collaborative development environment for supporting domain experts in building design-oriented critiquing systems -- i.e., an automated personal assistant to help the designer reflect on a particular design decision. The third paper by Robertson, Sorensen and Swan, "Knowledge Management with Groupware," reports the results of a case study focusing on the diffusion of groupware technologies -- Lotus Notes -- within a knowledge intensive firm. The study concludes that successful diffusion requires constant coordination and maintenance of ephemeral interdependencies.

Over the years, the GSS mini-track has included research from a broad range of perspectives. This year is no exception. HICSS has emerged as an important venue for the discussion, development, and refinement of research on the use of information technology to support group work. Many of the ideas and papers first presented and discussed here have found their way into major research journals, not to mention those projects first conceived in animated conversations outside the formal sessions.

We hope you enjoy the papers and the discussions they generate.