Introduction to the Minitrack on
Internet & Workflow Automation: Technical & Managerial Issues

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Workflow automation is emerging as a major application in industry because of the continued need to reduce costs, speed cycle times, and provide flexible service. The rapid deployment and application of Internet technologies facilitate the trend towards increased automation both internally and in electronic commerce applications. This mini-track explores a range of questions concerning the development and application of workflow technologies for inter-organizational workflow management systems. It is closely related to the minitrack on "Integrated Modeling of Distributed Software Systems and Workflow Applications", which is part of the Software Track. In fact, some papers have been switched between the two minitracks to provide more coherent themes in each minitrack.

The six papers in this minitrack present a broad spectrum of issues on the emerging area of interorganizational workflow. The paper, "A Framework for Classifying Interorganizational Workflow-Controlled Business Cases Focussing on Quality Management" by Philip Hartmann, Reimer Studt and Thorsten Wewers, provides an interesting taxonomy on interorganizational workflow, which serves as an overview of the field. The paper, "Continuous Audit Implications of Internet Technology: Triggering Agents Over the Web in the Domain of Debt Covenant Compliance," by Jon Woodroof and DeWayne Searcy, describes an innovative business application of web-based workflow technologies to replace time consuming periodic reviews of accounting information by continuously updated audits.

The remaining four papers in the minitrack have a technical flavor. "A Proposal for EAI-oriented Workflow Based on Multiple Type Business Processes," by Michiko Oba and Norihisa Komoda, presents an architecture for integrating business processes and legacy systems together with a case study. In "Formal Foundation and Conceptual Design of Dynamic Adaptations in a Workflow Management System," Mathias Weske proposes an approach to help make workflow systems more flexible and more adaptable to changing organizational needs. Kirsten Lenz and Andreas Oberweis attack the problem of modeling interorganizational EDI transactions using a combination of XML and Petri nets, which they call XML nets in their paper, "Modeling Interorganizational Workflows with XML Nets." Finally, the paper, "An Environment for Workflow Applications on Wide-Area Distributed Systems," by H.A. James, K.A. Hawick and P.D. Coddington, presents an approach for implementing high-performance, reliable, distributed workflow management systems.

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