Peer-to-peer (P2P) systems are widely used in today's Internet and produce a significant portion of its traffic. The increasing penetration of wireless technologies, the popularity of mobile and handheld devices, and the rapid growth of their user base call for innovative algorithms, protocols, and applications that benefit from infrastructure-less P2P technologies to support ever-increasing demand. By attracting more than half a billion users worldwide, online social networks (OSNs) are a new venue of innovation with many challenging and practical research problems. In particular, more and more P2P applications involve social information to enhance the user experience. Also, P2P-based solutions play an important role in preventing OSNs from privacy violations.

The Fifth International Workshop on Hot Topics in Peer-to-peer computing and Online Social Networking (HotPOST 2013) is organized with the objective of bringing together researchers working on the intersection of P2P and OSN to present and discuss their latest research results and ideas, thereby promoting the development and evolution of this area. We highly encourage novel and innovative previously unpublished work.

The workshop organizers would like to thank all the authors for their contribution to HotPOST 2013. This year we have received a number of high quality submissions, only nine among them are selected. The accepted papers cover several interesting issues, including OSN user behavior, OSN architecture, microblogging services, social applications, overlay networks, and P2P social networks. Moreover, we are very pleased to invite Prof. Jie Wu from Temple University to give a keynote talk for HotPOST’13.

The workshop organizers also want to express our appreciation to our TPC members and external reviewers. With their help, we ensure that every paper receives 4-6 detailed reviews. We also thank the organizing committee of ICDCS 2013 for providing a great venue for this workshop.

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