Welcome to the IEEE Fourth International Symposium on Multimedia Software Engineering (MSE 2002). MSE is an international forum for multimedia and software engineering researchers to exchange information regarding advancements in the state of the art and practice of multimedia software engineering, as well as to identify the emerging research topics and define the future of multimedia.

This year’s program features again a wide variety of papers focusing on cutting-edge topics. MSE has proven to be an excellent catalyst for further research and collaboration, and we fully expect that this year’s meeting will continue this trend. The program features a variety of papers, focusing on topics ranging from multimedia Web services, interactive TV systems, to E-commerce applications, software architectures and tools, multimedia streaming protocols, and signal processing algorithms. These topics are playing very important roles for creating next generation multimedia architectures and solutions in the areas of content creation, distribution, authentication and presentation.

Many people have worked very hard to make the symposium possible. We would like to thank all who have helped to make MSE 2002 a success. The Program Committee members deserve all the credit for the excellent final program that resulted from the diligent reviewing of the submissions. Special thanks go to Lurng-Kuo Liu (Special Track Chair), Martin Bichler and Jim-Min Lin (Publicity Chairs), Liang-Jie Zhang (Publication Chair and Special Track Chair), Donghua Deng and Haifei Li (Web Chairs), and Taehyung Wang (Local Arrangement Chair). Finally, we would like to thank the IEEE, Taichung Healthcare and Management University, and University of California at Irvine for their support of this symposium.

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