Foreword

The articles in this volume were presented at the 17th International Conference of the Chilean Computer Science Society held November 13-15, 1997 in Valparaiso, Chile. This event was locally organized by the Technical University Federico Santa Maria, together with the XXIII Latin-American Conference in Informatics.

We received 65 contributions from which 28 were selected. They came from 16 countries in South and North America, Europe, and the Middle East. The program was decided by an international program committee. The primary criteria for selection was quality but we also considered relevance, clarity and the potential benefit to the community. This volume also includes three contributions of invited speakers.

The conference is devoted to all areas of computer science. The papers included in this proceedings are in algorithms, software engineering and programming languages, distributed systems and computer networks, databases, and visual and collaborative systems, etc.

The Chilean CS Society (SCCC) seeks to facilitate the interchange of knowledge and experience among academics and professionals who work in the field of computing. This conference, being one of the oldest and highest quality computer science conference in Latin America, is helping to bring the work done in Latin America to the attention of computer scientists from around the world. It also helps to keep Latin American scientists and computer professionals up to date with major advances in the field.

I wish to thank the organizing committee, the program committee, and the other reviewers for their work and dedication. We acknowledge the support of our institutions and governmental and industrial sponsors. Finally, I would like to thank the help received from Francis Ormeno during the selection process and to IEEE CS Press for publishing the proceedings.

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