

MONET 2009 PC Co-chairs' Message

The research areas of mobile technologies, social networking and mobile services applications are receiving wide interest from private and public companies as well as from academic and research institutions.

The mobile and networking technologies, the new generation of wireless local area networks and ad hoc networks are devoted to playing an important role in many areas of social activities, predominantly in those areas where having the right data at the right time is a mission-critical issue.

Mobile and networking technologies for social applications serve groups of people “on the move,” sharing activities and/or interests; in particular these technologies involve geographically distributed groups who are collaborating on some task in a shared context or independently from their location.

By their real nature, mobile technologies can be considered multidisciplinary technologies involving social aspects; indeed, they often involve personal, group and ubiquitous issues, supporting inter-personal connections and involving human–technology interaction in different, and dispersed, contexts. Mobile technologies also play an essential role in personalizing working and interaction contexts, while supporting experimentation and innovation, and the advancement of the field is fundamental for developing social networking. Social networking technologies bring friends, family members, co-workers and other social communities together. These technologies are convergent, emerging from a variety of applications such as search engines and employee evaluation routines, while running on equally diverse platforms from server clusters to wireless phone networks. Social networking and its connection with the use of mobile devices represents one of the most relevant phenomena related to the networking technologies and their emerging problems of use, robustness, vulnerabilities to reliability and performance due to malicious attack.

The fourth international workshop on Mobile and Networking Technologies for social applications (MONET 2008) was held in November 2009 in Vilamoura (Portugal). The workshop allowed researchers, experts from academia and industry, and practitioners to discuss new mobile and networking technologies, social networking and mobile applications; this debate has represented a stimulus to identify challenging problems in the social applications of those technologies and to show results and experiences connected with social networking, business applications and, mobile applications and services. This year, after a rigorous review process, eight papers were accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings. The success of the MONET 2009 workshop would not have been possible without the contribution of the OTM 2009 workshops organizers, PC members and authors of papers, all of whom we would like to sincerely thank.

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