

General Co-Chairs' Message for OnTheMove 2013

The OnTheMove 2013 event, held 9–13 September in Graz, Austria, further consolidated the importance of the series of annual conferences that was started in 2002 in Irvine, California. It then moved to Catania, Sicily in 2003, to Cyprus in 2004 and 2005, Montpellier in 2006, Vilamoura in 2007 and 2009, in 2008 to Monterrey, Mexico, to Heraklion, Crete in 2010 and 2011, and to Rome in 2012. This prime event continues to attract a diverse and relevant selection of today's research worldwide on the scientific concepts underlying new computing paradigms, which, of necessity, must be distributed, heterogeneous, and supporting an environment of resources that are autonomous and yet must meaningfully cooperate. Indeed, as such large, complex, and networked intelligent information systems become the focus and norm for computing, there continues to be an acute and even increasing need to address the implied software, system, and enterprise issues and discuss them face to face in an integrated forum that covers methodological, semantic, theoretical, and application issues as well. As we all realize, email, the Internet, and even video conferences are not by themselves optimal nor even sufficient for effective and efficient scientific exchange.

The OnTheMove (OTM) Federated Conference series has been created precisely to cover the scientific exchange needs of the communities that work in the broad yet closely connected (and moving) fundamental technological spectrum of Web-based distributed computing. The OTM program every year covers data and Web semantics, distributed objects, Web services, databases, information systems, enterprise workflow and collaboration, ubiquity, interoperability, mobility, grid, and high-performance computing.

OnTheMove does not consider itself a so-called multi-conference event but instead is proud to give meaning to the “federated” aspect in its full title: it aspires to be a primary scientific meeting place where all aspects of research and development of internet- and intranet-based systems in organizations and for e-business are discussed in a scientifically motivated way, in a forum of loosely interconnected workshops and conferences. This year's event provided, for the 11th time, an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to understand, discuss, and publish these developments within the broader context of distributed and ubiquitous computing. To further promote synergy and coherence, the main conferences of OTM 2013 were conceived against a background of three interlocking global themes:

- Cloud Computing Infrastructures emphasizing Trust, Privacy, and Security
- Technology and Methodology for Data and Knowledge Resources on the (Semantic) Web
- Deployment of Collaborative and Social Computing for and in an Enterprise Context.

Originally the federative structure of OTM was formed by the co-location of three related, complementary, and successful main conference series: DOA (Distributed Objects and Applications, held since 1999), covering the relevant infrastructure-enabling technologies, ODBASE (Ontologies, DataBases, and Applications of SEmantics, since 2002) covering Web semantics, XML databases, and ontologies, and of course CoopIS (Cooperative Information Systems, held since 1993), which studies the application of these technologies in an enterprise context through, e.g., workflow systems and knowledge management systems. At the 2011 event, security issues, originally started as topics of the IS workshop in OTM 2006, became the focus of DOA as secure virtual infrastructures, further broadened to cover aspects of trust and privacy in so-called Cloud-based systems.

Each of the main conferences specifically seeks high-quality contributions and encourages researchers to treat their respective topics within a framework that simultaneously incorporates (a) theory, (b) conceptual design and development, (c) methodology and pragmatics, and (d) application in particular case studies and industrial solutions.

As in previous years we again solicited and selected quality workshop proposals to complement the more “archival” nature of the main conferences with research results in a number of selected and emergent areas related to the general area of Web-based distributed computing. This year this difficult and time-consuming job of selecting and coordinating the workshops was brought to a successful end by Yan Tang, and we were very glad to see that six of our earlier successful workshops (ORM, EI2N, META4eS, ISDE, SOMOCO, and SeDeS) re-appeared in 2013, in some cases for the fifth or even ninth time, and often in alliance with other older or newly emerging workshops. Two brand-new independent workshops could be selected from proposals and hosted: ACM and SMS. The Industry Track, started in 2011 under the auspicious leadership of Hervé Panetto and OMG’s Richard Mark Soley, further gained momentum and visibility.

The OTM registration format (“one workshop buys all”) actively intends to stimulate workshop audiences to productively mingle with each other and, optionally, with those of the main conferences. In particular EI2N continues to so create and exploit a visible synergy with CoopIS.

We were most happy to see that in 2013 the number of quality submissions for the OnTheMove Academy (OTMA) again increased. OTMA implements our unique interactive formula to bring PhD students together, and aims to carry our “vision for the future” in research in the areas covered by OTM. It is managed by a dedicated team of collaborators led by Peter Spyns and Anja Metzner, and of course by the OTMA Dean, Erich Neuhold. In the OTM Academy, PhD research proposals are submitted by students for peer review; selected submissions and their approaches are to be presented by the students in front of a wider audience at the conference, and are independently and extensively analysed and discussed in front of this audience by a panel of senior professors. One will readily appreciate the effort invested in this by the OTMA Faculty...

As the three main conferences and the associated workshops all share the distributed aspects of modern computing systems, they experience the application pull created by the Internet and by the so-called Semantic Web. For DOA-Trusted Cloud 2013, the primary emphasis remained on the distributed object infrastructure and its virtual and security aspects. For ODBASE 2013, the focus continued to be the knowledge bases and methods required for enabling the use of formal semantics in web-based databases and information systems. For CoopIS 2013, the focus as before was on the interaction of such technologies and methods with business process issues, such as occur in networked organizations and enterprises. These subject areas overlap in a scientifically natural fashion and many submissions in fact also treated an envisaged mutual impact among them. As with the earlier editions, the organizers wanted to stimulate this cross-pollination by a program of famous keynote speakers around the chosen themes and shared by all OTM component events. We were quite proud to announce this year

- Richard Mark Soley, OMG, USA;
- Manfred Hauswirth, DERI, Ireland;
- Herbert Zimmerman, Metasonic, Germany;
- Ainhoa Uriarte, European Commission.

And additionally, an inspiring dinner keynote by justly famous Prof. Dr. Em. Hermann Maurer, H.C. mult., allowed participants to put everything past, present, and future into a coherent context.

In spite of a general downturn in submissions observed this year for almost all conferences in computer science and IT, we were fortunate to receive a total of 137 submissions for the three main conferences and 131 submissions in total for the workshops. Not only may we indeed again claim success in attracting a representative volume of scientific papers, many from the USA and Asia, but these numbers of course allowed the Program Committees to compose a high-quality cross-section of current research in the areas covered by OTM. In fact, the Program Chairs of the CoopIS and ODBASE conferences decided to accept only approximately one full paper for each four submitted, not counting posters. For the workshops and DOA-Trusted Cloud 2013 the acceptance rate varied but the aim was to stay consistently at about one accepted paper for two to three submitted, this rate as always subordinated to proper peer assessment of scientific quality. As usual we have separated the proceedings into two volumes with their own titles, one for the main conferences and one for the workshops and posters, and we are again most grateful to the Springer LNCS team in Heidelberg for their professional support, suggestions, and meticulous collaboration in producing the files and indexes ready for downloading on the USB sticks. This year, a number of high-quality international journals will select best papers from the conferences and workshops to be extended and further submitted for a few special issues of their journal. This is also a great opportunity for some researchers to disseminate their results worldwide.

The reviewing process by the respective OTM Program Committees was as always performed to professional standards: each paper in the main conferences

was reviewed by at least three referees (four for most ODBASE papers), with arbitrated email discussions in the case of strongly diverging evaluations. It may be worth emphasizing once more that it is an explicit OnTheMove policy that all conference Program Committees and Chairs make their selections completely autonomously from the OTM organization itself. As in recent years, proceedings on paper are now only available to be ordered separately.

The General Chairs are once more especially grateful to the many people directly or indirectly involved in the setup of these federated conferences. Not everyone realizes the large number of persons that need to be involved, and the huge amount of work, commitment, and in the uncertain economic and funding climate of 2013 certainly also financial risk, that is entailed by the organization of an event like OTM. Apart from the persons in their roles mentioned above, we wish to thank in particular explicitly our nine main conference PC Co-Chairs:

- CoopIS 2013: Johann Eder, Zohra Bellahsene, Rania Y. Khalaf;
- ODBASE 2013: Pieter De Leenheer, Dejing Dou, Haixun Wang;
- DOA-Trusted Cloud 2013: Norbert Ritter, Makoto Takizawa, Volkmar Lotz.

And similarly we thank the 2013 OTMA and Workshops PC (Co-)Chairs (in order of appearance on the website): Irina Richkova, Ilia Bider, Keith Swenson, Alexis Aubry, Georg Weichhart, J. Cecil, Kasuhiko Terashima, Alok Mishra, Jürgen Münch, Deepti Mishra, Ioana Ciuciu, Anna Fensel, Rafael Valencia García, Mamoun Abu Helu, Stefano Bortoli, Terry Halpin, Herman Balsters, Avi Wasser, Jan Vanthienen, Dimitris Spiliotopoulos, Thomas Risse, Nina Tahmasebi, Fernando Ferri, Patrizia Grifoni, Arianna D'Ulizia, Maria Chiara Caschera, Irina Kondratova, Peter Spyns, Anja Metzner, Erich J. Neuhold, Alfred Holl, Maria Esther Vidal, and Omar Hussain.

All of them, together with their many PC members, performed a superb and professional job in managing the difficult yet existential process of peer review and selection of the best papers from the harvest of submissions. We all also owe a serious debt of gratitude to our supremely competent and experienced Conference Secretariat and technical support staff in Brussels and Guadalajara, respectively Jan Demey and Daniel Meersman.

The General Co-Chairs also thankfully acknowledge the academic freedom, logistic support, and facilities they enjoy from their respective institutions, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium, Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France and Latrobe University, Melbourne, Australia without which such a project quite simply would not be feasible. We do hope that the results of this federated scientific enterprise contribute to your research and your place in the scientific network... We look forward to seeing you at next year's event!

July 2013

Robert Meersman
Hervé Panetto
Tharam Dillon
Yan Tang