

Message from Track Chairs

Multimedia and Telecommunications Track

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Multimedia systems have been investigated for a number of years. Whereas in the early phases of multimedia research the effort concentrated on encoding and transmissions schemes in an IT environment, in recent times the focus has changed towards the use of multimedia as an integral part of different computer based systems. Many of the key-questions still remain but they are now placed into a more practical context. Further, there are also clear indications that the long predicted convergence between the media industry with its specific technology, and computer based information systems is to a certain extent happening. A sign for this is that multimedia technology is finally used for media production and distribution. Thus, the research community and the industry has also moved away from using the generic term multimedia towards more specific expressions naming areas where multimedia technology is now commonly deployed. The area of content management and delivery is one of the most important and relevant one in this context. Therefore this year's theme for the Multimedia and Telecommunication Track is **Content Management and Delivery**.

The management of multimedia content in media production and delivery has been identified as an area with a high research and commercial potential. Content in this context refers to the actual media (viz. video, audio, images and graphics) and metadata. Processes and tools classifying and handling content are part of a wider infrastructure dealing with the management and distribution of content. Within this area broadcast and computer technology converge. Further, alongside

technical and computing aspects user requirements and application characteristics have to be considered. Although the content industry has also been hit by the economic downturn change is imminent in this area. Multimedia technology deployed in this context will help to make media production more efficient while maintaining high quality standards. Further, new distribution and delivery channels (such as Digital Video Broadcast – DVB and the Web) are also resulting in new technical and economic impulses for the industry. The work presented in the Multimedia and Telecommunications Track at this year's Euromicro is highly relevant in this context.

Another trend that can be observed is that more and more multimedia applications are using the Web or are building on Web technology. Thus, it has been decided to subsume the papers dealing with the Web issues within the Multimedia and Telecommunications Track. Here they are placed in an own session entitled Web Computing.

The other sessions of the Track are dealing with Content Distribution and Internet Telephony, Video Processing, Content Delivery and Content Caching. From the submissions it can be seen that a central part of current research is actually concerned with content distribution. This is reflected in the programme that contains a substantial number on papers dealing with different aspects in this area.

We would like to thank all those who made this year's Multimedia and Telecommunications Track possible. First of all thank you to all the authors who submitted a

paper to this track. We would also like to thank the members of the Programme Committee who invested a lot of effort and time in reviewing the submitted papers thoroughly and quickly, and thus helped us to create the finale programme in time. Further, we would like to thank the organisers of the 29th Euromicro conference who made this year's event possible. Namely these are the General Programme Chair Gerhard Chroust and his deputy Christian Hofer, and the Local Organising Chair Onur Demirors.

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