

Introduction to the Emerging Technology Track

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The main objective of this track is to provide a forum for discussing the development, implementation, and application of new and emerging technologies. It is also the track for nurturing new topics. This year the track continues the development two topics: information technology and public administration in the form of four e-Government minitracks, and non-traditional support for designing user interfaces in the form of a minitrack on Symbiotic Interactions Between Users and Intelligent Systems.

The e-Government cluster includes the following four minitracks:

- e-Gov-Management: information systems that support the full range of management and administrative functions that are internal to government agencies
- e-Policy: access rights, privacy protection, public safety, security, and information dissemination in the context of government information systems
- e-Democracy: Electronic voting, virtual town meetings, public monitoring of elected officials, and new approaches to authenticating personal identity
- e-Gov-Services: information systems and services that have the capacity to meet the service needs and demands of citizens.

This conference also continues the minitrack on non-traditional human-computer interfaces. This year the focus is on the symbiotic interactions between users and intelligent systems. One session focuses on mobile computers in the form of robots. Another investigates how computers can augment the cognition of humans, continuing the theme of a workshop at the conference last year. Still another looks at collaboration between humans mediated by computers.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all the people who have worked so hard to make this part of the conference a success and this compendium of formal papers part of the literature. The minitrack chairs must exercise creativity, reliability, and dogged perseverance to bring all the loose ends together at the right time. What results from this process are papers that describe established research projects as well as new developments. On the following pages, the chairs of each minitrack provide a brief summary and overview of the papers in their introduction to the minitrack. We would like to extend our special thanks to the many reviewers who provided valuable insight and comments.