

Introduction to the Software Track

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It is my pleasure to chair the Software Track of the 37th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. My own involvement with the conference goes back almost 15 years and has included giving a tutorial, an invited plenary lecture, organizing a minitrack and serving on the Advisory Committee.

The Hawaii conference provides a unique forum, bringing together a diverse group of participants from academia and industry. It is the only major conference where people whose interests are in Software aspects of Computer Science can interact, for example, with those interested in Collaboration Systems, Decision Management, or E-Commerce.

The beauty of the islands and their relaxed atmosphere has fostered a cordial interaction which has proved ideal in incubating new areas of research. This year's program in Software Technology is no exception in reflecting this thrust of the conference. The Software sessions cover topics such as adaptive software, grid computing, mobile and wireless systems, and security. The program includes an open forum with leading researchers discussing trends in distributed computing. In addition, the keynote lecture by Ian Foster – a pioneer in Grid Computing – will be of interest to many.

Submitting to HICSS is a two step. First, minitrack chairs receive abstracts and give feedback on suitability and then full papers are refereed. This cuts down on out of scope submissions. This year there were a total of about 150 submissions of full papers and approximately half of these were accepted. Some minitracks in emerging areas had higher acceptance rates while a few had acceptance rates well below 30%. These acceptance rates are in line with the goal of the conference to be open to broader participation and emphasize newer rather than established areas of research.

The conference program represents the hardwork of a large number of volunteers. In particular, I would like to thank the minitrack chairs and all the referees for their hard work. The minitrack chairs publicized their subjects and handled the review process of virtually all submissions. I personally managed the review process of only those papers for which there was a conflict of interest. I would like to invite you to consider contributing by proposing new minitracks for the next Hawaii conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank two past chairs of the Software Track, Bruce Shriver and Hesham El-Rewini, for nurturing the Software Track over the years.