Introduction

The papers in this volume were presented at the Fourth Annual Workshop on Active Middleware Services. The AMS workshop was organized with support from the National Science Foundation, the University of Southern California, and the Center for Advanced TeleSysMatics (CAT) at the University of Arizona. The workshop was held in conjunction with the 11th IEEE International Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing (HPDC-11) in Edinburgh, Scotland on July 23, 2002.

Open network architectures and active network technologies offer new opportunities to provide better networking services. But the increasing complexity of networks that comes along with active technologies requires additional support for application developers and users. Middleware will play a crucial role in determining the degree to which active technologies achieve their full potential. This workshop brought together leading researchers in the field of middleware for active technologies, exposed them to the latest research results, and allowed them to discuss the difficult issues of designing middleware to support active networks.

Many people worked hard to make the workshop a success. I would particularly like to thank Dr. Frederica Darema and the NSF for their support of this workshop. The University of Southern California and the CAT center of the University of Arizona also deserve our thanks for their crucial support. We thank all the authors who submitted papers. I wish to personally thank Dr. Craig Lee, Dr. C.S. Raghavendra, and Dr. Salim Hariri for their key roles in organizing this workshop.

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