

Preface

EFIS 2000 is the third workshop in the International Workshop series on Engineering Federated Database Systems (EFIS). The first workshop (known as Engineering Federated Database Systems) was held in Barcelona in conjunction with CaiSE '97, and the second workshop was held in K uhlungsborn in Germany in May 1999. The reports of both workshops were published in ACM SIGMOD Record: in 26:4 (December 1997) and in 28:3 (September 1999). The goal of this third workshop was to continue to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in various issues in the development of Federated Information Systems (FIS)

Engineering of FIS is a research area which addresses the systematic development of interoperable solutions for autonomous, heterogeneous systems covering both database and non-database information sources. Examples of information systems in application areas such as business, finance, environmental science, and medicine, show that there is an increasing need to make information available via some kind of network (enterprise network or even the WWW), for both “global” *and* local applications using semantically related information.

Workshop topics include the research issues identified in the above-mentioned ACM SIGMOD Record reports, particularly:

- Analysis, design and implementation of FIS
- CASE tool support for the development of FIS
- Software architectures for FIS
- Metadata management in FIS
- Managing heterogeneous information sources including semi-structured data
- Experience with middleware platforms for building FIS
- Technological support for the integration of legacy systems
- Influence of the application domain on the Design of FIS
- Component-based engineering of FIS
- Evaluation of FIS approaches

The submitted papers were carefully reviewed for presentation and inclusion in the proceedings by the program committee.

This year, the first workshop day addresses research issues with paper sessions under three separate themes: *architectural and design issues*, *federated databases* and *files and user interfaces*. The academic session

is completed with an invited talk by Kazimerz Subieta on object-oriented view mechanisms and their role in federated database architectures. As it has become apparent that the software industry is providing effective middleware solutions for building FIS, it was decided to include an industrial session in EFIS this year. The second day of the workshop contains four industrial presentations and includes an invited talk by Sean Baker of Iona Technologies in Dublin.

The organisers would like to thank all those involved in making this an attractive event, with special thanks to the local organisers Robert Byrne and Kenny Tan.

Dublin, May 2000

Mark Roantree
Wilhelm Hasselbring
Stefan Conrad

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