

# Preface

The concept of mobile agents has attracted tremendous attention in the last few years. It offers unique opportunities for structuring and implementing distributed systems, and a wide range of applications has been identified for mobile agent technology, including electronic commerce, telecommunication services, network management, and collaborative work.

This book constitutes the formal proceedings of the 2nd International Workshop on Mobile Agents, held in Stuttgart (Germany), September 9-11, 1998. The goal of this workshop was to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of the latest research work in the field of mobile software agents. This workshop — following the successful MA'97 held in Berlin — was supported by Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI), IEEE ComSoc, Informationstechnische Gesellschaft (ITG), and International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP).

The call for papers for MA'98 attracted 45 submissions from 12 countries. Each submission was reviewed by three members of the program committee, and finally 21 papers were accepted for the workshop. There were 7 paper sessions complemented by 3 invited keynotes: “Present and future trends of mobile agent technology” by Danny Lange (General Magic, USA), “Mobile agent applicability” by Dag Johansen (University of Tromsø, Norway), and “Wide-area languages” by Luca Cardelli (Microsoft Research, UK).

Looking at the contributions to MA'98 one can recognize a strong emphasis on applications for mobile agent technology: one keynote speech and two paper sessions were exclusively dedicated to applications. Other topics covered by the workshop included

- agent migration
- communication concepts and protocols
- transactional agents and fault-tolerance
- tracking and termination mechanisms
- security issues
- agent languages, systems, and standards (OMG MASIF)

Many people have contributed to make this workshop a success. We would like to thank the program committee members for their timely and in-depth reviews, which contributed greatly to constituting a very solid workshop program. Our thanks also go to Michael Matthiesen for his involvement in organizing this event. We express our special thanks to Stephanie Klöpf and the members of the Distributed Systems Research Group for their great help in making all kinds of arrangements for this workshop.

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# Organizations

## Organized by:

University of Stuttgart

## Supported by:

Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI)

IEEE ComSoc

Informationstechnische Gesellschaft (ITG)

International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP)

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