

# Preface

USM 2000 is the third event in a series of international IFIP/GI conferences on Trends in Distributed Systems. Following the venues in Aachen, Germany (1996) and Hamburg, Germany (1998), this event in Munich considers the trend towards a Universal Service Market – USM 2000.

The trend towards a universal service market has many origins, e.g., the integration of telecom and data communications, the deregulation efforts with respect to telco markets, the globalization of information, the virtualization of companies, the requirement of a short time-to-market, the advances in network technologies, the increasing acceptance of e-commerce, and the increase in mobility. This leads to new business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-customer (B2C) environments that offer both challenges and opportunities to enterprises and end-users. There is the need for ubiquitous services, trading, brokering and information management, for service market and business models, and for flexible infrastructures for dynamic collaboration.

Researchers, service vendors, and users must cooperate to set up the appropriate requirements for a universal service market and to find solutions with respect to supporting platforms, middleware, distributed applications, and management. The basis for these solution is a common understanding of means for defining, creating, implementing, and deploying the service market. Then, service market makers, service aggregators, service auctioneers, ISP, ASP, BPO, and customers can freely interact in a dynamic, open, and universal market place.

Of course, this is still a vision and many of unsolved technical, organizational, and legal problems still need to be tackled. The goal of USM 2000 was to gain an insight into the state of the art in this area. The international call for papers resulted in the selection of the papers in these proceedings. This book is organized into a section for invited talks and a section of papers that corresponds with the sessions of the conference. Moreover, a third section consists of several papers accepted for a poster session. The regular sessions deal with electronic auctions and trading, internet-based service markets, quality-of-service, mobile and distributed services, middleware architectures, and service management. The poster sessions are dedicated to mobile agents and applications as well as to trends in data and telecommunications.

The selection of the papers followed a rigorous review process involving an international expert group. We express our gratitude to all members of the program committee for their valuable work. We also want to thank the members of the Munich Network Management Team who were responsible for the organization of the conference.

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