

Preface

Middleware is everywhere. Ever since the advent of sockets and other virtual-circuit abstractions, researchers have been looking for ways to incorporate higher-value concepts into distributed systems platforms. Most distributed applications, especially Internet applications, are now programmed using such middleware platforms.

Prior to 1998, there were several major conferences and workshops at which research into middleware was reported, including ICODP (International Conference on Open Distributed Processing), ICDP (International Conference on Distributed Platforms) and SDNE (Services in Distributed and Networked Environments). Middleware'98 was a synthesis of these three conferences.

Middleware 2000 continued the excellent tradition of Middleware'98. It provided a single venue for reporting state-of-the-art results in the provision of distributed systems platforms. The focus of Middleware 2000 was the design, implementation, deployment, and evaluation of distributed systems platforms and architectures for future networked environments.

Among the 70 initial submissions to Middleware 2000, 21 papers were selected for inclusion in the technical program of the conference. Every paper was reviewed by four members of the program committee. The papers were judged according to their originality, presentation quality, and relevance to the conference topics. The accepted papers cover various subjects such as caching, reflection, quality of service, and transactions.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the authors of the submitted papers and the program committee members for their diligence in reviewing the submissions. We would also like to thank IFIP and ACM for their technical sponsorship and financial support, respectively. Finally, we would like to thank the members of the steering committee and the other organizing committee members for their efforts towards making Middleware 2000 a successful conference.

April 2000

Joseph Sventek and Geoffrey Coulson

Organization

Middleware 2000 was organized under the auspices of IFIP TC6 WG6.1 (International Federation for Information Processing, Technical Committee 6 [Communications Systems], Working Group 6.1 [Architecture and Protocols for Computer Networks]).

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