

Preface

Embedded into IFIP World Computer Congress 2002, the conference "Human Choice and Computers" is the 6th of its kind. As its predecessors held in Vienna, Baden/Vienna, Stockholm, Dublin and Geneva/Lausanne, HCC-6 continues discussions on how the development of Information and Communication Technologies (IT, ICT) can be shaped to support choices for best human goals and achievements.

The scope of HCC-6 was layed out in the Call for Papers, which asked for submissions addressing the following major topics:

Determining "quality of life", including (among others):

- Critical Perspectives on the Information/Knowledge Society
- Life in The Global Village and Digital Ubiquity
- Quality of Information and Misinformation

Determining the "quality of working life", addressing issues such as:

- New E-Conomy - Rise and Fall?
- Consequences of Work Re-organization of Work in 3rd Sector

Social Accountability in the Information Society, with aspects such as:

- Preserving the Cultural Heritage in a Global Society
- Culture and Language on the Internet vs. 'Economistic' Ideas
- Equity & Accessibly vs. Social Inequalities
- The Quality of Life in the Information Home and Society

Ethics in the Information Society, addressing the following topics:

- Ethics and Hidden Interests
- 'Globalization and Unification' or 'Ethics and Equal Opportunities across Regions, Nations, Races, Genders, People'?
- Maximizing International Co-Operation Between National Research
- Centres Working on Ethics of Computing Issues
- Ethics, Self-regulation and Role of The State

Legitimacy, Legality, Power and Crime Power in the Information Society, and Roles of Developing Countries in a Global Society:

- Roles, Opportunities and Risks of Developing Countries in a Global Information Society
- Privacy or Surveillance?
- Can Cybercrime be prevented by Law?

Paper submission was evidently influenced by September 11 (2001) experiences, although these terrorist attacks used “traditional” technologies. The conception of “9/11” evidently changed the agenda: aspects of legality, legitimacy and ethics have been much more broadly addressed than in previous HCC conferences. Indeed, several papers (and a related panel session) discuss in some detail how governments attempt to increase surveillance by developing related information technologies, though deliberately at the expense of privacy and other citizen rights. Consequently, aspects related to ethics and accountability, legality, legitimacy and crime including preventive action form a major part of the program. On the other side, aspects such as e-Commerce have not made their entries into the program – this may also be related to the disillusionment following the breakdown of many ideas of Internet businesses.

But patterns of preceding HCC conferences are also included in HCC-6, with very good papers about aspects of Developing Countries, Education and Social Impact (in a joint activity with the Education-related conference), as well as History of Computing. Above all, two papers are contributed from well-known invited speakers: Rob Kling addresses in his critical analysis the implications of US IT-related policies on social life. And C.C. “Kelly” Gotlieb – an active contributor since the first HCC conferences and the founding chairman of IFIP TC-9 – discusses questions related to the usage of the Internet for democratic processes. Finally, the program has been enriched by a suggestion to discuss UNESCO positions and suggestions concerning IT, Culture, Multilingual aspects, and UNESCO’s “Information for All” proposals.

The structure of these Proceedings show the choices of today about major HCC problems. We shall surely reflect on it: Where are the major social and societal problems of today related to ICT? Who is deciding the agenda? What are the national, regional, and international policies? And who is leading them? What will be the Information Society of tomorrow? We hope that the diverse and rich program will stimulate discussions and also may add essential aspects to future discussions. HCC-6 opens HCC-7. In which fields? Let us decide now.

<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4020-7185-0>

Human Choice and Computers

Issues of Choice and Quality of Life in the Information
Society

Brunnstein, K.; Berleur, J. (Eds.)

2002, XVI, 336 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4020-7185-0