

Preface

The 5th *IFIP/IEEE International Conference on Management of Multimedia Networks and Services (MMNS)* was held in Santa Barbara, California. This was the fifth year that MMNS brought together researchers and developers to discuss the latest advances and explore future directions for managing multimedia in the Internet.

As in past years, MMNS continues to be a competitive conference, attracting excellent papers with some of the top new ideas. This year we received 76 papers, of which 27 were accepted for inclusion in the program. What was particularly impressive this year was the large percentage of very high quality papers. The submissions made the job of the program committee extremely difficult.

The span of topics this year ranged from network-layer traffic differentiation to application-layer consideration for multimedia traffic. At the network layer, a number of papers attempt to develop better solutions for differentiated services in the Internet. The issue of bandwidth sharing, particularly in wireless networks, is the focus of another set of papers. Next, by increasing the level of abstraction slightly, researchers are focusing on managing “services”. In particular, these services include one-to-many communication and video distribution architectures. Finally, from the user perspective there are two problems. What can applications do to help achieve better quality from the Internet? And, how can technology be applied to enterprise management systems? Taking the papers in the MMNS program together, they offer a range of solutions to key problems in managing multimedia traffic in the Internet.

The success of MMNS can largely be attributed to high caliber committee members who worked hard to make the conference the best it could be. Each paper submitted was typically sent to four reviewers. After all the reviews were collected, papers with conflicting reviews were extensively discussed by committee members in an attempt to reach a consensus and fully examine the contributions of the work. The result is a program consisting of numerous outstanding papers. As conference chairs, it was a delight to work with such a dedicated and conscientious program committee.

Finally, this year sees the continued support of IFIP and IEEE. Once again they handled many of the administrative tasks to make the conference run as smoothly as possible. In addition, we would like to thank Cisco Systems, Inc. for their financial support of MMNS.

For those of you who attended the conference we hope you found this year’s MMNS to be a truly valuable experience, making new friends, visiting with old colleagues, and developing new ideas for next year’s MMNS.

October 2002

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Management of Multimedia on the Internet
5th IFIP/IEEE International Conference on Management
of Multimedia Networks and Services, MMNS 2002,
Santa Barbara, CA, USA, October 6-9, 2002.
Proceedings
Almeroth, K.C.; Hasan, M.Z. (Eds.)
2002, XI, 356 p., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-540-44271-4