

## Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of the inaugural International Conference on Service-Oriented Computing (ICSOC 2003). This was the first of a series of events that will evolve over the coming years, and we were happy to hold the event in Trento, where the idea for this conference was born. Trento is a lovely city with many Renaissance buildings, testimony to its great medieval past, and has a bustling modern university ready to master the future.

The participants visited Trento at the beginning of the winter season, with excellent opportunities for skiing and hiking. The city offers many other tourist attractions, some of which, we hope, the participants took the opportunity to enjoy.

Service Oriented Computing (SOC) is the new emerging paradigm for distributed computing and e-business processing which has evolved from object-oriented and component computing to one that enables us to build agile networks of collaborating business applications distributed within and across organizational boundaries.

ICSOC aims to become the flagship conference in the area of service-oriented computing, which is attracting more and more researchers and practitioners from both academia and industry. The beginnings are extremely promising, beyond our most optimistic expectations. We were deluged by requests for further information from all parts of the world and by a very high number of submissions. In fact, the success of a conference depends on the quality of the papers and on the organizational efforts of the conference officers and secretariat.

On the research side, exciting new areas in service computing, including service modeling, composition, business transactions and collaborations, service development and management, P2P and Grid computing, mobile computing, and security, were reported in the conference, in conjunction with keynote addresses and informative tutorials offered by leaders in the field.

We received an impressive collection of 181 papers in response to the call for papers. This shows a growing community of researchers addressing this challenging field. The program committee members considered all the papers very carefully. Each paper was reviewed by at least three (and in many cases four) reviewers. The reviews concentrated primarily on originality, high quality and relevance to the theme of the conference. In the end, 38 outstanding papers (about 20 % of the submissions) were accepted for presentation. The reasons for choosing so few were not only to make sure that the papers presented were of the highest quality, but, just as important, we wanted to avoid parallel sessions and thus facilitate interaction and exchange of ideas among participants.

Our special thanks go to the authors for submitting their papers to the conference, to the program committee members, and to the numerous reviewers who did an excellent job in guaranteeing that the articles in this volume are of very high quality. We also would like to acknowledge the keynote speakers, panelists and tutorial speakers for their excellent contributions to the program of this vibrant conference.

On the organization side, we are indebted to all the conference officers and to the conference secretariat of the University of Trento for their generous, invaluable help and support in all aspects of the organization of this conference. In particular, the local arrangements team, led by Vincenzo D'Andrea and Marco Aiello, did an outstanding job under great time pressure. Fabrizio Sannicoló also did an excellent job programming and maintaining the automated conference system.

If you attended the conference we are sure that you will remember it and the excellent social program that was arranged. Special thanks are also due to all of our kind sponsors: IBM, Springer-Verlag, and the University of Trento.

September 2003

Fabio Casati  
Bernd Krämer  
Maria Orlowska  
Mike Papazoglou  
Sanjiva Weerawarana

# ICSOC 2003 Conference Organization

ICSOC 2003 was organized by the Department of Computer Science, University of Trento.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-540-20681-1>

Service-Oriented Computing -- ICSOC 2003

First International Conference, Trento, Italy, December  
15-18, 2003, Proceedings

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Yang, J. (Eds.)

2003, XII, 580 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-540-20681-1