

# Preface

Welcome to MMNS 2003.

Multimedia services over IP networks are proliferating at an enormous speed. There is also increasing demand for solutions that provide assured levels of service quality. All of these require novel paradigms, models, and architectures for realizing integrated end-to-end service management rather than managing network elements in isolation. Providing scalable Quality of Service (QoS) while maintaining fairness, along with secure and optimal network resource management, are key challenges for the future Internet. These challenges apply to both fixed and wireless networks.

This book contains all of the papers presented at the 6th IFIP/IEEE International Conference on Management of Multimedia Networks and Services (MMNS 2003) hosted by The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, September 7–10, 2003. MMNS 2003 follows the successful conferences held in Santa Barbara (2002), Chicago (2001), Fortaleza, Brazil (2000), Paris (1998), and Montreal (1997). MMNS uses single-track presentations, which provide an intimate setting for discussion and debate. The conference is known for its high quality papers from various research communities. In just six years, MMNS has established itself as one of the premier conferences focusing on the management of multimedia networks and services. The conference objective is to bring together researchers working in all facets of network and service management as applied to broadband networks and multimedia services. MMNS deals with all aspects of designing, developing, and deploying networked multimedia systems, and it serves as a forum for the dissemination of state-of-the-art research and development results. MMNS also includes panel sessions in which experts offer their observations and opinions about current hot topics.

This year MMNS was augmented by a workshop on End-to-End Monitoring Techniques and Services (E2EMON). This one-day workshop offered a unique opportunity for researchers in this area to exchange ideas and experience that foster the development of generic and custom monitoring for next-generation Internet services. Many thanks are due to Professor Ehab Al-Shaer for his sterling efforts in organizing this.

The success of MMNS ultimately depends on the committee members and on the quality of the submissions. As in previous years, we were fortunate to have a large number of enthusiastic members who worked tirelessly to ensure that we had a high quality conference. We thank all the authors who submitted papers, and also the members of the program committee and the additional reviewers who carefully reviewed the submissions. Each paper submitted was reviewed by at least three reviewers, and conflicting reviews were extensively discussed by the program committee. This procedure has once again resulted in a varied and high quality program completed by the excellent tutorials and keynotes presentations,

thanks to John Strassner, Petre Dini, and George N. Aggélou for the tutorials and Ian F. Akyildiz and Derek McAuley for the keynotes.

As conference chairs, it was a pleasure to work with such a dedicated and conscientious program committee.

This year once again saw the continued support of IFIP and IEEE. In addition we would like to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by Invest Northern Ireland, which sponsored the conference banquet. We also acknowledge the cooperation of Alfred Hofmann of Springer-Verlag, which has now been the official publisher for the last three conferences. We would like to acknowledge the valuable support and guidance provided by the steering committee: Ehab Al-Shaer, Giovanni Pacifici, Guy Pujolle, and Raouf Boutaba, and to thank the previous conference chairs for the benefit of their experience. Also, thanks to Massum Hassen for his help in organizing the tutorials, and Ahmed Mehaoua, John Vicente, and Tham Chen Kong for helping to advertise the conference and make it a successful event. Finally, we thank all the staff who assisted both at Queen's University Belfast, UK, and at Evry University, France. Particular thanks are due to Qiang Gu, Danielo Gomes, Emi Garcia, Mauro Fonseca, and not least to Paula Matthews. The application of her considerable experience, coupled with her unbounded enthusiasm and professionalism, assured a much more efficient conference than would otherwise have been possible.

For those of you who attended the conference we hope you found this year's MMNS a valuable experience, and were able to savour the technical presentations, renew old friendships, and hopefully make new ones. We hope everyone enjoyed their stay in Belfast.

September 2003

Alan Marshall, Nazim Agoulmine

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