

Preface

This book contains the proceedings of the 6th International Conference on e-Democracy (e-Democracy 2015), held in Athens, Greece, December 10–11, 2015. The conference continued from previous events that have always been held in Athens, the cradle of democracy, every two years, starting in 2005.

Information and communication technologies move fast; faster than society, faster than governments, faster than the law. Connectivity is already impressive, but the near future brings about the interconnection of everything, via the Internet of Things. It also brings fundamental changes to our computing paradigm, with cloud computing gaining momentum and being expected to become the prevalent computing paradigm in the years to come. Increasingly more data are being collected, about almost everything one can imagine; and they remain there, in cyberspace, forever, sometimes even resisting efforts to delete them. These data are so attractive that a new field, going by the name of “big data” has already emerged. All these developments constitute in most cases an improvement in our everyday lives, but sometimes infringe on our rights as citizens. The challenge, therefore, is to safeguard citizen rights in the face of a new era, landmarked by new computing paradigms.

This was the theme of the sixth occasion of the International Conference on e-Democracy. The conference was organized by the Scientific Council for the Information Society, in co-operation with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority and a number of European and Greek universities and academia. It was intended, similarly to previous occasions, to provide a forum for presenting and debating the latest developments in the field, from a technical, political, and legal point of view. e-Democracy 2015 brought together academic researchers, industry developers, and policy makers. We thank the attendees for coming to Athens to participate and debate the new emerging advances in the area of e-democracy.

The conference program included five technical papers sessions that covered a broad range of topics, from privacy in e-voting, e-polls, and e-surveys to legal issues of e-democracy, to e-government and e-participation. Furthermore, the program included three sessions of invited short papers briefly describing progress within European research and development projects. The relevant topics ranged from security and privacy in the cloud to secure architectures and applications to enabling citizen-to-government communication. The conference attracted many high-quality submissions, each of which was assigned to four referees for review, and the final acceptance rate was 39 %.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who assisted us in organizing the event and formulating the program. We are very grateful to the Program Committee members for their timely and rigorous reviews of the papers. Thanks are also due to the Organizing Committee for the event. Last but by no means least, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work to the conference and contributed to an interesting set of conference proceedings.

E-Democracy: Citizen Rights in the World of the New
Computing Paradigms

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