

EDITORIAL

TOWARDS BROADENING THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN COMPUTING DISCIPLINES

The first issue for 2007 of The International Journal on Computers, Systems, and Signals brings an updated mission of the journal. The purpose was to incorporate better the journal's interdisciplinary nature serving the intention to broaden the understanding between the existing disciplines of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Control Systems, Information Systems and Software Engineering. We believe that this can be promoted better by focusing, where possible, on a systems approach. This new mission evolved gradually as we have pursued almost a similar policy since 2003.

The issue consists of two parts. The first part comprises three diverse articles from different disciplines. The second one consists of two selected papers, presented initially in the Information Technology Management track of the First Conference of the International Academy of Business and Technology which took place in June 2006 in Mystic, Connecticut. Those papers were significantly improved from their original conference versions.

E-commerce is coming of age and one of the signs for that is the continuous work on providing customization features of web sites and better customer support. The first article, Collaborative Multi-Agent-based e-Commerce Framework by T. Helmy from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia provides a very interesting framework based on intelligent agents. It is currently implemented in a prototype. The paper demonstrates attention to relevant design detail.

The second paper is in the field of computer engineering and namely in circuit design. Its title is Synthesis of Read-Once Digital Hardware with Reduced Energy Delay Product is by P. Balasubramanian, currently at the University of Manchester and S. Theja. It proposes a low power driven synthesis framework for a class of non-regenerative Boolean Read-Once Functions (BROF).

The third paper is in the area of Neural Networks. It is titled Artificial Neural Network Type Learning with Single Multiplicative Spiking Neuron, authored by D. Mishra, A. Yadav, S. Ray and P. Kalra from India. The authors propose a learning algorithm for a single multiplicative spiking neuron (MSN). The paper provides the results of testing the approach for various applications where a multilayer perceptron (MLP) neural network is conventionally used.

The fourth paper titled Trust in Electronic Markets – Customers' Perspective is by S. Sharma, D. Singh and D.P. Agrawal, also from India. They propose a systematic methodology to develop trust through orientation of electronic customers. This comprehensive study provides interesting perspectives on an important topic in e-commerce. It has a value also for the fact that the data come from an Indian environment and hence the findings are of value also for comparisons with results obtained elsewhere.

The last paper, concluding this issue and the special section from the IABT conference is Ethics of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Technologies: a Conceptual Orientation, by Christopher B. Davison presents a discussion and analysis of the ethical considerations involved with business continuity and disaster recovery planning. The idea of considering the ethical dimension of this important IT problem is very relevant. Building upon several foundations, the author provides a synthesis of the theoretical framework and arguments for data privacy and security.

We are very grateful again to the reviewers for their selfless and very dedicated work on improving the papers in this issue and in selecting relevant and quality work for publication.

Sincerely,

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