

Preface

Over the last years most business processes changed on various dimensions (e.g. flexibility, interconnectivity, coordination style, autonomy) due to market conditions, organizational models, and usage scenarios of information systems. Frequently, information is relocated within this geographically distributed system according to rules that are only seldom defined as a well-codified business process. This creates a need for a software infrastructure that enable ubiquitous mobile and collaboration systems (UMICS).

The anywhere/any time/any device paradigm is becoming the challenge in conceiving, designing, and releasing next generation information systems. New technologies, like Wi-fi networks and 3rd generation mobile phones, are offering the infrastructure to conceive information systems as ubiquitous information systems, that is, systems that are accessible from anywhere, at any time, and with any device. Ubiquity is not yet another buzzword pushed by emerging technologies, but is mainly a means to support new business models and encourage new ways of work. This new wave of UMICS will exploit the knowledge developed and deployed for conventional information systems, but will also need new concepts, models, methodologies, and supporting technologies to fully exploit the potentials of the enabling infrastructure and be ready for the challenge.

The approaches and technologies for supporting these new ways of work are still the subject of research. Nevertheless, they are likely to "borrow" concepts and technologies from a variety of fields, such as workflow systems, groupware and CSCW, event-based systems, software architecture, distributed database systems, mobile computing, ubiquitous information systems, and so on. A particularly interesting line of research is exploring a peer-to-peer paradigm enriched with sharing abstractions in which each network node is both a potential user and provided of information for the rest of the community.

UMICS 2003 intends to bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss the key issues, approaches, open problems, innovative applications, and trends in this research area.

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