Editorial

Information Systems in Distributed Environment

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Information Systems in Distributed Environment (ISDE) is becoming a prominent standard in this globalization era due to advancement in information and communication technologies. The advent of the Internet has supported Distributed Software Development (DSD) by introducing new concepts and opportunities, resulting in benefits such as scalability, flexibility, interdependence, reduced cost, resource pools, and usage tracking. The distributed development of information systems as well as their deployment and operation in distributed environments impose new challenges for software organizations and can lead to business advantages. In distributed environments, business units collaborate across time zones, organizational boundaries, work cultures and geographical distances, something that ultimately has led to an increasing diversification and growing complexity of cooperation among units. The real-world practice of developing, deployment and operation of information systems in globally distributed projects has been viewed from various perspectives, though technical and engineering in conjunction with managerial and organizational viewpoints have dominated the researcher's attention so far. Successful participation in distributed environments, however, is ultimately a matter of the participants understanding and exploiting the particularities of their respective local contexts at specific points in time and exploring practical solutions through the local resources available.

This Special Issue of the Computer Standards & Interfaces journal therefore includes papers received from the public call for papers and extended and improved versions of those papers that were selected from the best of the International Workshop on Information Systems in Distributed Environment (ISDE 2014). It aims to serve as a forum to bring together academics, researchers, practitioners and students in the field of distributed information system, by presenting novel developments and lesson learned from real world cases, and to promote the exchange of ideas, discussion and advancement in these areas.

This special issue includes following papers of interest within the wide spectrum of research into the area of Distributed Information System.

Agustin Yague, Juan Garbajosa, Jessica Diaz, and Eloy Gonzalez in their paper entitled "An Exploratory Study in Communication in Agile Global Software Development" reports an exploratory study of the effects of tools supporting communication in AGSD (Agile Global Software Development). Further, this paper analyses the perception of team members about communication infrastructures in AGSD.

Software architecture management, especially in component-based web user interfaces is important to enhance their run-time accessibility, dynamics and management. The cloud offers some excellent mechanisms for this kind of systems, since software can be managed remotely, easy availability of the resources is ensured and mass storage is possible. Next paper entitled "A Cloud Service for COTS component-based Architectures" by Jesus Vallecillos, Javier Criado, Nicolas Padilla, Luis Iribarne presents an infrastructure solution, based on the use of web services and cloud computing, for managing COTS-based architectures.

The next contribution "Capitalization of Remote Collaborative Brainstorming Activities" by Claude Moulin, Yuki Kaeri; Kenji Sugawara; and Marie Hélène Abel developed a system for supporting remote collaboration. The paper describes the design of two main parts of this system. First it presents the resource channel i.e. the way the teams can exchange, display and synchronize data on large multi-touch devices. Then it presents the video channel i.e. the way people can be aware of the other team. The paper concludes with some observations about the current version of this system allotted to the capitalization of collaborative team activities

In paper "A Service-based System for Malnutrition Prevention and Self-Management" by Adel Taweel, Lina Barakat, Simon Miles, Tudor Cioara, Ionut Anghel, Abd R Tawil, Ioan Salomie, introduce the design of a distributed system that enables homecare management in the context of self-feeding and malnutrition prevention through balanced nutritional intake. The design employs a service-based system that incorporates a number of services including monitoring of activities, nutritional reasoning for assessing feeding habits, diet recommending for food planning, and marketplace invocation for automating food shopping to meet dietary requirements.

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