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Preface

Service oriented computing (SOC) has rapidly transformed from a vision, in the beginning of the century, to realisation in paradigms such as Web services, Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and cloud services. While this has provided the industry and practitioners with the opportunities for a new generation of products and services, it has brought forward a tremendous amount of challenges and open issues for researchers. The International Conferences on Service Oriented Computing (ICSOC) is a pioneering event for researchers, practitioners and industry leaders to discuss and share the success and achievements in this area.

The ICSOC PhD Symposium, as part of the ICSOC conference, is an international forum for PhD students working in the broad areas of service computing, web services and service engineering to present and discuss emerging research problems and ideas on how to tackle these issues. The forum is intended to bring together PhD students and give them the opportunity to present and discuss their research in a constructively critical atmosphere. The symposium operates in a workshop format, giving PhD students an opportunity to showcase their research and providing them with feedback from senior international researchers and peer PhD students. The goals of the ICSOC PhD Symposium event are

- To provide fruitful feedback and advice to the selected Ph.D. students on their research thesis.
- To provide the opportunity to meet experts from different backgrounds working on topics related to service oriented computing field.
- To interact with other PhD students and stimulate an exchange of ideas and suggestions among participants.

The ICSOC PhD Symposium 2008 is attended by prominent researchers in the field of service oriented computing who will actively participate in and contribute to the reviews and discussions. The symposium in Sydney is the 4th PhD Symposium of a series held in conjunction with the ICSOC conferences in Vienna, Austria (2007), Chicago, USA (2006), Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2005). This year we have received 24 submissions from 9 countries and 3 continents: 14 from Australia-Pacific, 8 from Europe, 1 from Asia and 1 from Africa. Each paper has been reviewed by three members of program committee. The submissions were evaluated based on five criteria: originality (novelty), problem significance, technical/scientific quality, and presentation/style. Each reviewer also provided a detailed review intended for improving the research work of the students. Finally, the program chairs selected 12 papers for the presentation in the symposium based on the recommendations of the program committee members. The selected papers cover a wide range of topics in SOC from service engineering, quality of service, security and trust to service modeling and composition.

We would like to express our appreciation to the authors for their submissions and the program committee members for their hard work. We would also like to thank IBM Research, USA that has supported the symposium by generously covering part of the registration,

travel and accomodation expenses of a number of students attending the symposium. We specifically thank Nirmal Mukhi from IBM Research for helping to streamline the this process.

November 2008

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Contents

Advice to Service-Oriented Computing Research Students (Invited Talk) <i>Marlon Dumas</i>	9
Distributed and Scalable QoS Optimization for Dynamic Web Service Composition <i>Mohammad Alrifai</i>	11
Quality-driven Design and Management of Service-oriented Software Systems <i>Tan Phan</i>	17
Supporting Documentation and Evolution of Crosscutting Concerns in Business Processes <i>Chiara Di Francescomarino</i>	23
Pervasive Services Engineering for SOAs <i>Dhaminda Abeywickrama</i>	29
Towards Adaptive Service Development <i>Aries Tao</i>	35
An Architecture Approach to Dependable Trust-based Service Systems <i>Suronapee Phoomvuthisarn</i>	41
Authorization Control in Business Collaboration <i>Daisy Daiqin He</i>	47
TPIM: Transparent Privacy-Enhanced Identity Management of Web Services <i>Yong Yang</i>	53
Measuring similarity of service interfaces <i>Ali AĀt-Bachir</i>	59
Realizing the Internet of Things in Service-Centric Environments <i>Yanbo Wu</i>	65
External Behavior Modeling Enrichment of Web Services by Transactional Constraints <i>ALI KHEBIZI</i>	71
A graph b-coloring based scheme for Composition-Oriented Web Services Abstraction: COWSA	

CONTENTS

Lyes DEKAR

77

