



PRO-VE 2007 SPECIAL SESSION

Adaptive Collaborative Frameworks

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Aim

Collaboration is a process where several dispersed agents or entities who have interests in a common issue, agree to act together to fulfil a stated objective. A collaborative process implies communication and negotiation efforts among the involved entities in seeking out a decision for a particular situation or an answer for a given problem. In such a process each member brings his knowledge, expertise and individual skills, while sharing a collective conscience about group knowledge and experience in accomplishing the settled goal. The combination of experiences, the group members' personalities and behaviours determine how the collaboration proceeds, and whether or not the group will effectively cope together establishing a shared understanding, and constructing new knowledge.

Collaborative tools are developed to support work being undertaken by dispersed entities allowing the sharing of final results and also the process of obtaining them. This involve a range of activities such as information exchanging, knowledge sharing, argumentation, problem solving strategies, role playing, group mediation, individual training and conflict resolution, among other.

When humans are involved in a collaborative process, there are individual and social issues which have to be taken into account such as cognitive and conceptual skills, abilities, practical expertise and factual knowledge. The adaptation ability in this kind of tools, based on users' profile is a key feature to provide real usefulness and effectiveness of collaborative approaches.

Adaptive behaviour focuses on each particular member profile, providing him with appropriate information presented in the most suitable manner. This can limit information requirements and exchanging, and also the number and duration of interactions with the framework, therefore, reduce interaction time and improve transactions' quality and efficiency, enhancing individual members' contribution to the process. This, of course, leads to a significant gain of the collaboration process. In fact adaptation/personalization is becoming one of the main requirements of any system in different application areas, such as manufacturing, education and services.

The main purpose of Adaptive Systems is to adequate its relation with the user (content presentation, navigation, interface, etc.) according to a predefined but updatable model reflecting user objectives, preferences, knowledge and competences.

Several research studies and some already deployed systems, using adaptation in collaborative framework, provided good results. However, more development, experimentation and implementation are still necessary to conclude about the most relevant features and effectiveness of these systems.

The aim of this special event is to present and discuss new implementation/case studies/results related to Adaptive and Collaborative Systems applied in different contexts.

Topics

- Adaptive and Collaborative Systems:
 - Collaborative environment;
 - Group Decision Support Systems (GDSS);
 - Training and education;
 - Application areas - manufacturing, power systems, tourism, services, education



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Potential Contribution

The application of different adaptive technologies in an integrated way for the development of Collaborative Frameworks will be not only an important alternative, but also a new solution/innovation to support process making on any environment.

This event also aims achieving the main features definition of new methodologies and architectures to support Adaptive Collaborative Frameworks.

Structure

Half noon event with three or four contributions.

Organizers

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Submission procedure:

The special session will be part of the main PROVE'2007 program. As a consequence, papers shall be submitted through the same channel like the regular papers and within the same deadlines.

Deadlines:

- Full paper submission: 28 Feb 07
- Acceptance notice: 30 Apr 07
- Camera ready submission: 12 May 07