



PRO-VE 2007
8th IFIP Working Conference on **VIRTUAL ENTERPRISES**
Guimarães, PORTUGAL – 10-12 . September . 2007

SPECIAL SESSION

e-Contracting in Collaborative Networks Scenarios

(co-located with the 8th IFIP Working Conference on VIRTUAL ENTERPRISES (PRO-VE'07))

www.pro-ve.org

www.di.uminho.pt/prove2007

Aims, scope and topics

Collaborative Networks, Virtual Organizations, e-Commerce scenarios are changing the ways people get involved in contracting. And the key to the success for e-Commerce is clarity of the legal framework governing the relationship between seller and buyer, supplier and customer.

Despite the rapid evolution of e-Commerce and the increasing complexity of legal constraints, there is nonetheless a legal framework applicable to transactions made over the Internet. Valuable parallels useful for the solution of e-Contract difficulties may be drawn from the current legal framework as it applies to paper contracts and to e-Commerce. However, the new issues raised by B2B and B2C e-relationships demand new and more appropriate solutions. Positive application of such a framework would provide business with the kind of confidence essential to inspire customers to turn to electronic media for transactions.

The e-Contract session seeks to provide a forum for real debate fed by expert presentations from lawyers, computer science professionals, and legal experts from academic institutions.

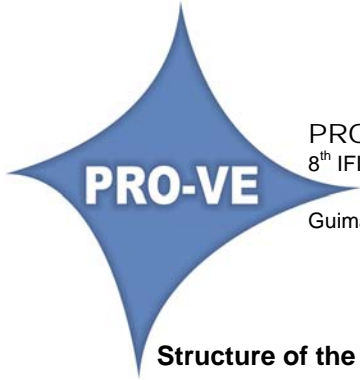
The session will address issues such as the different ways of e-Contracting and its different legal implications, the use of electronic signatures, the need for services provided by trusted third parties, the implications of electronic notaries services, the threats and opportunities related to the need of assuring reliable and long time accessible electronic archive services, the roles of software agents and virtual organizations, the privacy issues, particularly concerning personal data transfers, and unsolicited commercial communications focussing on opt-in and opt-out solutions. These will be examined in the light of the European Commission Directives, namely the ones related to e-Commerce and Information Society services. Other vital issues to be addressed include the evidence issues, having in mind both electronic documents and electronic evidence, the new approaches to civil procedures, the adaptation of commercial rules, the necessity of practical means to secure payment over the Internet, the question of certainty of jurisdiction for e-transactions, and the availability of mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution, with an obvious attention to on-line dispute resolution methods.

The e-Contract session is designed to make a significant and valuable contribution towards building confidence in procedural frameworks, both legal and otherwise, as applied to the new and uncharted territory of e-Commerce.

Deadlines:

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

Acceptance of papers is based on the full paper (up to 8 pages),



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Structure of the Event

The core of the event will be the presentation of recent advances in research and applications and debates around different topics of interest.

All papers accepted will be published on the proceedings of the conference, published by Springer.

Paper Submission

Submit your paper electronically following the instructions reported at PRO-VE Web Site:

<http://www.pro-ve.org>

www.di.uminho.pt/prove2007

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