Preface

IICS 2004, the fourth workshop on Innovative Internet Community Systems, successfully dealt with several timely topics of distributed systems, the Internet and virtual communities. The workshop series commenced with IICS 2001 held at the Technical University of Ilmenau. After two more workshops, in Kühlungsborn and Leipzig, this year was the first time that the workshop was held abroad (Guadalajara, Mexico). Due to a broader international environment, the workshop this year was organized by the IEEE in cooperation with the Universidad de Guadalajara.

The papers from the conference were mainly focused on three aspects: system-oriented problems, text processing, and theoretical foundation of distributed and Internet systems. The organizers tried to cover the main issues appearing today with the steady growth of the Internet and the Internet communities. Consequently, the speed and quality-of-service problems of today's Internet protocols, aspects of cooperation and collaboration in Internet systems, as well as agent- and textprocessing-based methods used to compute the large amounts of information in the Internet more or less automatically were all emphasized in most papers and discussions during the conference.

There were two mini-workshops in the workshop because some topics may influence communities and the Internet, and the other way around. Armin Mikler from the University of North Texas at Denton organized the workshop on Computational Epidemiology, considering several aspects of this brand new research area which requires fast exchanges of information from large areas. Helena Unger organized a mini-workshop on the Optimization of Urban Traffic Systems (OUTS), showing the strong connection between social communities and technical systems, and many requirements to use distributed systems and the Net to collect and process current information in the right manner.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the workshop: all the authors who submitted their papers which demonstrated their excellent research work, and the Program Committee for its selection of the invited talks and the regular papers. In addition, Tomas Herrera and his Department of Information Systems from the CUCEA campus of the Universidad de Guadalajara deserve special gratitude for their great efforts and perfect work concerning all administrative and organizational matters of the workshop.

Finally, we hope all participants enjoyed this workshop, made a lot of contacts, had fruitful discussions which helped to solve their research problems, and had a pleasant stay with our friendly Mexican hosts.

Last but not least, we look forward to meeting you and many new participants at the 5th IICS conference to be held in the attractive city of Paris in France.

April 2005

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Thomas Böhme
Victor Larios-Rosillo (Local Chair)
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