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# Middleware 2008

**ACM/IFIP/USENIX 9th International Middleware Conference Leuven, Belgium, December 1-5, 2008 Proceedings**

This volume contains the proceedings of the International Middleware Conference, held in Leuven, Belgium during December 1–4, 2008. This year marked the ninth rendition of this annual conference in its current format initially - opted in 1998, aspiring to serve as the premier venue focusing exclusively on important middleware results. A lot has happened over the intervening 10-year span. Middleware has become pervasive in an increasingly interconnected world, with its concepts now securely embedded in the notional architectures driving forward the information age. The conference continues to be a focal point for important new initiatives and results for new generations of middleware. With each succeeding year, it has become an even more competitive publishing venue, further extending its selectivity this year as well. Of the 117 submissions, only 21 were able to receive acceptance invitations, for an acceptance rate of less than 18%. Competitive indeed. Additionally, these submissions continue to come from all over the globe, spanning authors from 23 countries. A truly world-wide endeavor. But other things have also changed as we turn the corner on the first decade of this conference. In many ways, middleware has achieved significant success where it really counts: in terms of technical innovations, advanced capabilities, successful ideas, and fielded systems which permeate society, industry, government, and academia. With this success comes maturity.

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