AWeSOMe 2008 PC Co-chairs' Message

The Fourth International Workshop on Agents and Web Services Merging in Distributed Environments (AWeSOMe 2008) was held in conjunction with the OnTheMove Federated Conferences (OTM 2008) in Monterrey, Mexico, in November 2008. AWeSOMe is an interdisciplinary workshop focusing on research and applications combining Web services, ontologies and agents, leading to the development of an intelligent service Web.

Web services are a rapidly expanding approach to building distributed software systems across networks such as the Internet. A Web service is an operation typically addressed via a URI, declaratively described using widely accepted standards, and accessed via platform-independent XML-based messages.

Agents and multi-agent systems, on the other hand, provide an efficient way to develop large-scale systems that take advantage of distributed problem solving to provide a solution to complex problems.

Both agents and Web services can greatly benefit from their combination, since they both try to solve the same kind of problem from different perspectives and at different levels of abstraction. While agents provide the mechanisms to organize large systems and solve complex problems, Web services provide a way to find and compose services to solve new problems using existing pieces.

In addition, the increasing development of Service Oriented Architectures (SOA) and Grid Computing provides the increasing development a means to facilitate the combination of agents and Web services as a tool to create large-scale distributed systems from heterogeneous sources.

The Program Committee members did an excellent job in selecting high-quality papers. All submitted papers underwent a thorough review process with each paper having at least two reviewers providing feedback to the authors.

We would like to thank the members of the Program Committee who gave their time and energy to ensure the high quality of the technical program. We are grateful to the OTM 2008 organizers for their support and encouragement. Especially, we would like to thank the OTM 2008 Chairs, Robert Meersman and Zahir Tari.

We acknowledge the efforts of the authors of selected papers for their contributions to the new and exciting interdisciplinary area covered by the workshop. We also thank the authors of invited papers, whose excellent work has helped to keep the scientific quality of the workshop at a very high level.

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