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Masood Masoodian Steve Jones
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Volume Editors

Masood Masoodian

Steve Jones

Bill Rogers

University of Waikato, Department of Computer Science

Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand

E-mail: {M.Masoodian,stevej,coms0108}@cs.waikato.ac.nz

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Preface

APCHI 2004 was the sixth Asia-Pacific Conference on Computer-Human Interaction, and was the first APCHI to be held in New Zealand. This conference series provides opportunities for HCI researchers and practitioners in the Asia-Pacific and beyond to gather to explore ideas, exchange and share experiences, and further build the HCI network in this region. APCHI 2004 was a truly international event, with presenters representing 17 countries. This year APCHI also incorporated the fifth SIGCHI New Zealand Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction.

A total of 69 papers were accepted for inclusion in the proceedings – 56 long papers and 13 short papers. Submissions were subject to a strict, double-blind peer-review process. The research topics cover the spectrum of HCI, including human factors and ergonomics, user interface tools and technologies, mobile and ubiquitous computing, visualization, augmented reality, collaborative systems, internationalization and cultural issues, and more. APCHI also included a doctoral consortium, allowing 10 doctoral students from across the globe to meet and discuss their work in an interdisciplinary workshop with leading researchers and fellow students. Additionally, five tutorials were offered in association with the conference.

The conference was also privileged to have two distinguished keynote speakers: Don Norman (www.jnd.com) and Susan Dray (www.dray.com). Don Norman's invited talk focussed on 'emotional design': the application of recent research on human affect and emotion to the design of products that are easier to use because they are also interesting and beautiful. Susan Dray's research combines expertise in interface evaluation and usability with a cross-cultural and organizational perspective.

The quality of this year's APCHI was the joint achievement of many people. We would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make APCHI a success: the referees for their time and effort generously donated to the reviewing process; the program committee for organizing the reviewing process, the presentations, and of course this volume of proceedings; the steering committee for their support of the APCHI series; and the local organizing committee for their excellent work in bringing the conference to fruition. Finally, we thank the authors and presenters as well as the APCHI 2004 attendees, whose contribution and participation were the crucial ingredients of an exciting and productive conference.

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