

Preface

CAiSE 2008 was the 20th in the series of International Conferences on Advanced Information System Engineering. This edition continues the success of previous conferences, a success largely due to that fact that, since its first edition, this series has been evolved in parallel with the evolution of the importance of information systems in economic development. CAiSE has been able to follow, and often to anticipate, important changes that have occurred since 1978 when the first CAiSE conference was organised by Arne Sølvsberg and Janis Bubenko. In all these years, modern businesses and IT systems have been facing an ever more complex environment characterized by openness, variety and change. Furthermore, enterprises are experiencing ever more variety in their business in many dimensions. In the same way, the explosion of information technologies is overwhelming with a multitude of languages, platforms, devices, standards and products. Thus enterprises need to manage an environment to monitor the interplay of changes in the business processes, in information technologies, and at the ontological level, in order to achieve a sustainable development of their information systems. Enterprises must enter the era of Sustainable Information Systems to face the important developmental challenges. During all these years, CAiSE researchers have been challenged by all these changes, and the CAiSE conferences provide a forum for presenting and debating important scientific results. In fact, CAiSE is positioned at the core of these tumultuous processes, hosting new emerging ideas, fostering innovative processes of design and evaluation, developing new information technologies adapted to information systems, creating new kinds of models, but always being subject to rigorous scientific selection. And so, the previous CAiSE conferences have largely contributed to develop a sustainable conceptual platform for information systems engineering, well suited to the era of Sustainable Information Systems. This is the main theme of this conference.

The CAiSE Forum 2008 proceedings represent a collection of 22 excellent short research papers and five demos which were presented at four poster sessions during the conference. The selection of Forum papers was very stringent, due to the very high standard of the submitted papers. Several high-quality papers initially submitted to the CAiSE conference were selected for the CAiSE Forum to stimulate open discussions of high-quality on-going research.

As editors of this volume, we would like to express our gratitude to the program board, the program committee and external reviewers for their efforts in providing very thorough evaluations of the submitted CAiSE papers. We also would like to thank Richard van de Stadt for his very effective support during the paper evaluation and proceedings preparation. Finally, many thanks to Google, Microsoft, ERCIM, UM2 and CNRS, Languedoc-Roussillon Region and The City Hall of Montpellier for their sponsorship.

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