

**Proceedings of
the 9th Panhellenic Conference
in Informatics**

Organizers

Greek Computer Society

Aristotle University

University of Macedonia

Technological Institution of Thessaloniki

Editors

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PREFACE

The Panhellenic Conference on Informatics (PCI) is a major scientific event for the community of IT professionals from academia, research institutions, industry and secondary education. It has been established by the Greek Computer Society (EPY), the first event taking place at Athens (1984). Since then the conference has travelled to various places in Greece establishing itself as a biannual event of major importance for the Greek computer scientists in Greece and abroad. For instance, PCI has been also hosted in Thessaloniki (1988), Athens (1991), Patras (1993), Athens (1995), Athens (1997), Ioannina (1999), and lately, exceptionally in Nicosia/Cyprus (2001) in co-operation with the Cyprus Computer Society (CCS).

The present 9th PCI takes place at Thessaloniki during 21-23 of November 2003, 15 years after its previous organization in the same place. The main local institutional organizers are the Aristotle University, the University of Macedonia and the Technological Educational Institution of Thessaloniki. This event would not be possible to be accomplished without the financial help of the above institutions plus a number of other public bodies and private companies. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Altec, Delta-Singular, Intracom, Microsoft, PC Systems, ECDL, EUCIP, MLS, City College, and most important the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization and the Ministry of Education. Thus, warm thanks are due to our generous sponsors for their support and contribution.

This volume contains 59 papers that have been selected after a thorough review from 115 submitted papers, where each paper has been reviewed on the average by 2 members of the Program Committee or by experts from a list of External Reviewers. In addition, we have three plenary sessions: one keynote speech by Ioannis Tsoukalas, Professor with the Aristotle University, and two panels on the topics “University Education in Informatics” and “Public Project Implementation towards the Information Society” moderated by Socratis Katsikas, Professor with the University of the Aegean and Paul Spirakis, Professor with the University of Patras, respectively.

This year, the 9th PCI is collocated with the 1st Balkan Conference in Informatics (BCI). The Greek Computer Society decided to accept the proposal of the three local institutional organizations and support the organization of this new type event. This way, Greek scientists will have the opportunity to meet and communicate with colleagues from the greater area, discuss and share ideas and thus establish foundations for future collaborations. This cross-fertilization will be of benefit to all participants of the two conferences. Thus, the PCI program is multiplexed with the BCI program resulting in a total of 29 technical sessions. We anticipate that this way, we continue the successful tradition of having an interesting program with presentations of high quality papers from the Greek academia and industry as well as from Cyprus and the Greek Diaspora.

As a final word: it would not be possible to have this event organized without the help of the members of the Steering Committee, the Program Committee and the Or-

ganizing Committee. Thus, we would like to cordially thank them for their efforts for a successful 9th Panhellenic Conference in Informatics. We trust that all conference participants will appreciate these efforts and enjoy the conference.

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CONTENTS

Advanced Systems and Applications

Certificate Policy Tool for Automated Cross-certification <i>Bourka A. (NTU of Athens), Polemi D. (ExpertNet), Koutsouris D. (NTU of Athens)</i>	1
A User Friendly Platform for the Automatic Production of HTML Multimedia Title Series <i>Garofalakis J., Markellou P., Moumtzidis J. (U of Patras)</i>	12
Security Considerations of the SchedSP Scheduling Application Service Provider <i>Goulas G., Barkayannis V., Housos E. (U of Patras)</i>	24
A Novel Universal Language for Configuring Dialogue Systems <i>Kovasznai G., Kotropoulos C., Pitas I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki)</i>	36
On the Design and Implementation of a Web-based Negotiation System <i>Makedon F., Ye S., Zhao Y. (Dartmouth College)</i>	46
e-Government: Applications Levels <i>Markellou P., Panayiotaki A., Tsakalidis A. (U of Patras)</i>	58
Greek vs. International e-Commerce Systems: an Evaluation based on User-centered Characteristics <i>Stefani A., Xenos M. (Hellenic Open U)</i>	70
AI & Intelligent Systems	
Embedding Defeasible Logic into Logic Programming <i>Antoniou G. (U of Crete)</i>	80
A Neural Networks Approach to the Estimation of the Retransmission Timer (RTT) <i>Develekos G., Michail O., Douligeris C. (U of Piraeus)</i>	90
HybES: a Hybrid Expert System <i>Filis I., Yialouris C., Sabrakos M., Sideridis A. (Agricultural U of Athens)</i>	104
MUSA: a Decision Support System for Evaluating and Analysing Customer Satisfaction <i>Grigoroudis E. (Tech U of Crete), Siskos Y. (U of Piraeus)</i>	113
Implementing an Agent-based Decision Support System for Task Allocation: a Multi-criteria Approach <i>Matsatsinis N., Dellias P. (Tech U of Crete)</i>	128
Using Fuzzy Cognitive Maps for e-Commerce Strategic Planning <i>Tsadiras A. (U of Macedonia)</i>	142

An Experimental Comparison of Recommender Systems <i>Vozalis E., Margaritis K. (U of Macedonia)</i>	152
ViTAPlan: a Visual Tool for Adaptive Planning <i>Vrakas D., Vlahavas I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki)</i>	167
Architecture, Networks and Performance	
Efficient Scheduling of Tiled Iteration Spaces onto a Fixed Size Parallel Architecture <i>Athanasaki M., Koukis E., Kozyris N. (NTU of Athens)</i>	178
Blocked Array Layouts for Multilevel Memory Hierarchies <i>Athanasaki E., Kozyris N. (NTU of Athens)</i>	193
Top-down Integrated Security Architecture for Heterogeneous IP Networks <i>Balis G., Bouras E., Diakonikolaou G., Samara G. (OTE), Kaglis D. (NTU of Athens)</i>	208
Customer Dynamic Service Subscription Architecture for Peer-to-Peer Services <i>Kaglis D., Giannakopoulos D., Charalampous C., Tsakiris C., Liampotis N. (NTU of Athens), Balis G. (OTE), Sykas E. (NTU of Athens)</i>	220
A Peer-to-Peer Architecture for Synchronous Collaboration Over Low-bandwidth Networks <i>Margaritis M., Fidas C., Avouris N., Komis V. (U of Patras)</i>	231
A Comparative Evaluation of Models and Specification Languages for Embedded System Design <i>Panagopoulos I., Papakonstantinou G. (NTU of Athens), Alexandirdis N. (George Washington U)</i>	243
Optimizing the Performance of Mobile Communications Systems using a Queue-per-Transceiver Handover Priority Technique <i>Panoutsopoulos I., Kotsopoulos S., Ioannou K., Louvros S. (U of Patras)</i>	256
Design and Implementation of a Secure Mobile IP Architecture <i>Siozos K, Efraimidis P., Karakos A. (Democritus U of Thrace)</i>	269
A Simulation Study of Shadowed Disks <i>Vakali A., Malamatos T. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki)</i>	280
Case Studies	
TELEcommunication and inforMATICS Technologies Serving the Greek Freeways` Users <i>Evangelidis K., Papaioannou P., Kaskalis T. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki)</i>	295
Occupation Areas, Specialization Sectors and Professions in ICT: an Overall Analysis and Selection Methodology <i>Kostoglou V. (TEI of Thessaloniki), Paparrizos K. (U of Macedonia)</i>	310
Searching the Greek WWW <i>Veglis A. Pomportsis A. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki)</i>	322

Databases, Data Mining and Web Information Systems

- A Knowledge-based Framework for Building Web Service Domains
Bassiliades N., Vlahavas I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 331
- GenMiner: a Data Mining Tool for Protein Analysis
Hatzidamianos G., Diplaris S., Athanasiadis I., Mitkas P. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 346
- Cross-lingual Information Management from Web Pages
Karkaletsis V., Spyropoulos C. (NCSR Demokritos) 361
- Mining Maximum-Length Repeating Patterns in Music Databases
Karydis I., Nanopoulos A., Manolopoulos Y. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 375
- Ergasiognomon: - a Model System of Advanced Digital Services Designed and Developed to Support the Job Marketplace
Milis G., Symeonidis A., Mitkas P. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 388
- Generating Query Forms and Reports for Semistructured Data: the QURSED Editor
Papakonstantinou Y., Petropoulos M. (U of California at San Diego), Vassalos V. (New York U) 402
- Utilizing Gene Functional Classification in Microarray Data Analysis: a Hybrid Clustering Approach
Potamias G. (U of Crete) 417
- Management of Continuous Spatial Changes
Rios-Viqueira J. (U of A Corunia), Lorentzos N. (Agricultural U of Athens), Brisaboa N. (U of A Corunia) 431
- Automatically Ranking Scientific Conferences using Digital Libraries
Sidiropoulos A., Manolopoulos Y. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 446

Education

- WIPE (Web Integrated Programming Environment): Design Principles and Architecture
Efopoulos V., Evangelidis G., Dagdilelis V. (U of Macedonia) 461
- Using Metacognition to Enhance Web-based Collaboration: a Case Study in Engineering Education
Hadjileontiadou S. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 470
- Developing the New Web-based Training Environments: Towards an Instructional-based Learning Object Strategy
Karamanis V., Zaharias P., Polymenakou A. (Athens U of Economics & Business) 480
- An Introduction to e-Learning Communities
Liotso K., Dimitriadis S., Tsoukalas I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 490
- The Role of Multimedia in Interfaces for On-line Learning: a Two Group Study
Rigas D., Hopwood D., Yu H. (U of Bradford) 503

Adaptive Hypermedia and Cognitive Styles: Can Performance Be Influenced?
Triantafyllou E., Demetriadis S., Pomportsis A. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 510

Image and Speech Processing

Face 3D Pose Estimation Using a Generic 3D Face Model and Facial Features
xtraction
Barmpoutis A., Nikolaidis N., Pitas I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 519

Recognition of Facial Expressions in Presence of Partial Occlusion
Buciu I., Kotsia I., Pitas I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 527

Emotionally-rich Virtual Environments
Karpouzis K., Raouzaïou A., Kollias A. (NTU of Athens) 535

Building Statistical Appearance Models Using Residual Information
Lanitis A. (Cyprus College) 547

A Review on Emotional Speech Databases
Ververidis D., Kotropoulos K. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 560

Watermarking of 3D Mesh Models Robust to Basic Geometric Transformations
*Zafeiriou S., Kalyvas A., Tefas A., Nikolaidis N., Pitas I. (Aristotle U
of Thessaloniki)* 575

Software and Languages

Dynamical Simulation Models for the Development Process of Open Source
Software Projects
Antoniades I., Stamelos I., Angelis L., Bleris G. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 586

Writing Use Cases in XML
Dranidis D., Tigka K. (CITY College) 600

Using WordNet Lexical Database and Internet to Disambiguate Word Senses
Fragos K., Maistros Y. (NTU of Athens), Skourlas C. (TEI of Athens) 612

Developing Tools for Formal Methods
Kefalas P., Eleftherakis G., Sotiriadou A. (CITY College) 625

Exploring the Quality of Free/Open Source Software: a Case Study on an
ERP/CRM System
Samoladas I., Bibi S., Stamelos I., Bleris G. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 640

Multinomial Logistic Regression Applied on Software Productivity Prediction
Sentas P., Angelis L., Stamelos I. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 649

Enhancing Design Pattern Flexibility with Reflection: Reflective Design Patterns
Theotokis D., Sotiropoulou A., Gyftodimos G. (U of Athens) 661

Theory: Data Structures and Algorithms

Range Trees in the SDDS Model
Bozanis P. (U of Thessaly) 674

The Pde-tree: an Access Method for Efficient Indexing of Points
Manousaka A. (Aristotle U of Thessaloniki) 685

Collatz Conjecture: Properties and Algorithms <i>Tzanis E. (NTU of Athens)</i>	700
Normalizing S-terms can be Generated by a Context-free Grammar <i>Zachos S. (NTU of Athens), Ramirez J. (State U of New York), Hilaris P. (NTU of Athens)</i>	714