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Next Generation
Information Technologies
and Systems

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Preface

Information technology is a rapidly changing field in which researchers and developers must continuously set their vision on the next generation of technologies and the systems that they enable. Suitably, Next-Generation Information Technologies and Systems (NGITS) is an ongoing series of workshops that provides a forum for presenting and discussing the latest advances in information technology. NGITS took are international events held in Israel; previous workshops took place in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2002.

The call for papers for the 2006 workshop was answered by 138 papers on a very diverse range of subjects, thus presenting a considerable challenge to the Program Committee. Each of these papers received professional reviewing from at least three experts, and eventually 32 papers (less than 25%) were selected for presentation at the workshop and inclusion in these proceedings. Of these, 28 are full-length papers and 4 are short papers. In addition, several research works were selected to display “poster” presentations, and a number of research projects exhibited demonstrations. Finally, the workshop featured three keynote lectures by notable experts. The selected papers may be classified roughly in ten broad areas:

− Information systems development
− Distributed systems
− Semi-structured data
− Data mining and agent-oriented computing
− User-oriented design
− Frameworks, models and taxonomies
− Simulation and incremental computing
− Information integration
− Security and privacy
− Next-generation applications

This event is the culmination of efforts by many talented and dedicated individuals. We are pleased to extend our thanks to the authors of all submitted papers, the members of the Steering Committee, the members of the Program Committee, and the external reviewers. Special thanks are due to Dan Berry, for his discrete handling of papers that presented conflicts of interest. Many thanks are also due to Nilly Schnapp for local organization and logistics, and to Lior Shmueli for managing the website and all other things technical. Finally, we are pleased to acknowledge the support of our institutional sponsors: The Faculty of Social Sciences and the MIS Department at the University of Haifa, and the IBM Research Lab in Haifa.

July 2006

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