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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of FORTE 2003, the 23rd IFIP TC 6/ WG 6.1 International Conference on Formal Techniques for Networked and Distributed Systems, held in Berlin, Germany, September 29 – October 2, 2003. FORTE denotes a series of international working conferences on formal description techniques (FDTs) applied to computer networks and distributed systems. The conference series started in 1981 under the name PSTV. In 1988 a second series under the name FORTE was set up. Both series were united to FORTE/PSTV in 1996. Two years ago the conference name was changed to its current form. The last five meetings of this long conference series were held in Paris, France (1998), Beijing, China (1999), Pisa, Italy (2000), Cheju Island, Korea (2001), and Houston, USA (2002).

The 23rd FORTE conference was especially dedicated to the application of formal description techniques to practice, especially in the Internet and communication domain. The scope of the papers presented at FORTE 2003 covered the application of formal techniques, timed automata, FDT-based design, verification and testing of communication systems and distributed systems, and the verification of security protocols. In addition, work-in-progress papers were presented which have been published in a separate volume.

The FORTE 2003 program consisted of 9 sessions, 2 work-in-progress sessions, and a working session on the practicability of formal description techniques. Three invited talks and a keynote speech gave an overview on actual results and experience in the application of formal description techniques in the Internet and communication domain. The conference was preceded by 3 half-day tutorials. The proceedings contain the 24 regular papers accepted and presented at the conference. They were selected from 55 submitted papers in a careful selection procedure based on the assessment of three referees for each paper. The proceedings also include the text of the invited talks of Manfred Broy, Jonathan Billington, and Jean-Pierre Courtiat.

FORTE 2003 was organized under the auspices of IFIP TC 6 by BTU Cottbus, the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, and by TU Berlin, the Technical University of Berlin. It was supported by a number of partners including Microsoft, Telelogic, Bosch AG, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), and the Berlin Marketing und Tourismus GmbH.

We would like to express our gratitude to the numerous people who contributed to the success of FORTE 2003. The reviewing process was one of the major efforts during the preparation of the conference. It was completed by experts from around the world. The reviewers are listed in these proceedings. Finally, we would like to thank the local organizers for the excellent running of the conference, especially Katrin Willhöft, Christian Noack, Sarina Gwiszcz, Joachim Paschke, Irene Ostertag, and Ronny Richter.

Our special thanks goes to Katrin Willhöft, Christian Noack, and Mario Zühlke from the BTU Cottbus for their hard work in organizing and preparing these proceedings.

September 2003

Hartmut König
Monika Heiner
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