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Advisory Board: W. Brauer D. Gries J. Stoer

Otto Spaniol Claudia Linnhoff-Popien  
Bernd Meyer (Eds.)

# Trends in Distributed Systems CORBA and Beyond

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Series Editors

Gerhard Goos, Karlsruhe University, Germany

Juris Hartmanis, Cornell University, NY, USA

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Volume Editors

Otto Spaniol

Claudia Linnhoff-Popien

Bernd Meyer

RWTH Aachen, Institute for Computer Science IV

Ahornstr. 55, D-52056 Aachen, Germany

E-mail: spaniol@informatik.rwth-aachen.de

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# Preface

Distributed Systems are becoming more and more important. The increasing complexity of modern information systems enforces software reuse supported by object-oriented techniques. Existing computer systems from different computer vendors are integrated through middleware, bridging heterogeneity within large computer networks. This approach has several advantages. On the one hand users can retain their familiar environment, on the other hand the functionality of the information system is enhanced as more services can be made available.

The Object Management Group have devoted considerable resources to the development of object-oriented standard interfaces. In particular, this consortium considers aspects like reusability of software components, interoperability, portability, and the integration of proprietary software. As a result of these efforts the Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) has been developed, and has been integrated into numerous products from different companies, including amongst others Orbix by IONA, SUN Network Enabled Objects (NEO), IBM Distributed System Object Model (DSOM), DCE Object Broker, HP Distributed Smaltalk, and HP ORB+. These CORBA implementations are of increasing importance and form the central point of our workshop.

TreDS'96 has been organized to bring together researchers from industry and universities as well as users who are developing additional facilities for distributed system products, new methodologies, tools, and concepts. Beyond CORBA, the workshop focuses on interoperability problems, formal methods, CORBA Services, and related approaches and their applications.

A total of 51 papers were submitted for TreDS'96, from which 20 papers have been selected for publication in the proceedings. In addition, some more papers have been selected for presentation in two industrial and two short paper sessions. The overall quality of the submissions was impressive, not least demonstrating the prominence of Distributed Systems. The programme committee did an excellent job; each paper was reviewed by up to five referees, leaving each member with about 10 papers, to be reviewed to a very tight schedule.

The workshop is supported by the Aachen University of Technology, the European Commission, DG III/F, the German Association of Computer Science (Gesellschaft für Informatik), and by several industrial organisations, to whom we are especially grateful.

**Aachen, August 1996**

**Otto Spaniol  
Claudia Linnhoff-Popien  
Bernd Meyer**

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