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Preface

The 2008 International Symposium on Rule Interchange and Applications (RuleML 2008), collocated in Orlando, Florida, with the 11th International Business Rules Forum, was the premier place to meet and to exchange ideas from all fields of rules technologies. The aim of RuleML 2008 was both to present new and interesting research results and to show successfully deployed rule-based applications. This annual symposium is the flagship event of the Rule Markup and Modeling Initiative (RuleML).

The RuleML Initiative (www.ruleml.org) is a non-profit umbrella organization of several technical groups organized by representatives from academia, industry and government working on rule technologies and applications. Its aim is to promote the study, research and application of rules in heterogeneous distributed environments such as the Web. RuleML maintains effective links with other major international societies and acts as intermediary between various ‘specialized’ rule vendors, applications, industrial and academic research groups, as well as standardization efforts from, for example, W3C, OMG, and OASIS.

After a series of successful international RuleML workshops and then conferences, the RuleML Symposium, held since 2007, constitutes a new kind of event where the web rules and logic community joins the established, practically oriented business rules forum community (www.businessrulesforum.com) to help to cross-fertilize between web and business logic technology. The symposium supports the idea that there is a successful path from high-quality research results to applied applications. It brings together rule system providers, representatives of, and participants in, rule standardization efforts and open source rule communities, practitioners and technical experts, developers, users, and researchers, to exchange new ideas, practical developments and experiences on issues pertinent to the interchange and application of rules.

The technical program of RuleML 2008 showed a carefully selected presentation of current rule research and development in ten full papers, ten short papers, two demo papers, and four keynote talks (abstracts of three of them included) detailed in this book. Accepted papers covered several aspects of rules, such as rule engineering, rule representation languages, natural-language and graphical rule representation and processing, reasoning engines, rule-based methodologies in distributed and heterogeneous environments, rule-based applications for policies, electronic contracts and security. The papers were selected from 35 submissions received from 17 countries. RuleML 2008, as its predecessors, offered a high quality technical and applications program, which was the result of the joint effort of the members of the RuleML 2008 program committee.

The real success of rule technology will be measured by the applications that use the technology rather than the technology itself. To place emphasis on the practical use of rule technologies in distributed Web-based environments, the RuleML 2008 Challenge was a major International showcase of beneficial solutions for industry and commerce based on Web rules technologies. The applications covered a wide range of areas from industrial systems / rule engines and rule technologies, interoperation, and
interchange. They illustrated not only the range of technologies being used in applications, but also the wide range of areas in which rules can produce real benefits. The challenge offered participants the opportunity to demonstrate their commercial and open source tools, use cases, and applications. It was the ideal forum for those wanting to understand how rules technology can produce benefits, both technically and commercially.

The RuleML 2008 organizers wish to thank the excellent program committee for their hard work in reviewing the submitted papers. Their criticism and very useful comments and suggestions were instrumental to achieving a high-quality publication. We also thank the authors for submitting good papers, responding to the reviewers’ comments, and abiding by our production schedule. We further wish to thank the keynote speakers for their interesting talks. We are very grateful to the Business Rules Forum organizers for enabling this fruitful collocation of the 11th Business Rules Forum and RuleML 2008. Especially, we thank Gladys Lam and Valentina Tang for their support.

The RuleML 2008 Symposium was financially supported by industrial companies and research institutes and was technically supported by several professional societies. We wish to thank our sponsors, whose financial support helped us to organize this event, and whose technical support allowed us to attract many high-quality submissions.

August 2008

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