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# Collaboration and Technology

18th International Conference, CRIWG 2012  
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Proceedings



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# Preface

This volume constitutes the proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Collaboration Technology (CRIWG 2012). Founded in 1995 in an Ibero-American context, CRIWG has become a significant international and inter-disciplinary forum for researchers and professionals in the area of collaboration technology and related fields such as CSCW, CSCL, and Social Media. CRIWG gathers contributions on groupware from a wide variety of academic perspectives, ranging from theory building and engineering approaches to innovative design and evaluation methods. The CRIWG conference series is supported by the Collaboration Researchers International Working Group ([www.criwg.org](http://www.criwg.org)), an open community of researchers.

CRIWG is held annually in culturally interesting places alternating between the Americas and Europe. It is organized in such a way as to foster lively exchange, critical discussions, and collaboration. The location of CRIWG 2012 is the Renaissance castle of Raesfeld in the Lower Rhine region of Germany with the University of Duisburg-Essen and Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences as local organizers. The previous five CRIWG conferences were held in Bariloche, Argentina (2007); Omaha, USA (2008); Peso da Régua, Portugal (2009); Maastricht, The Netherlands (2010); and Paraty, Brazil (2011).

This year's conference program comprised 9 full papers, representing consolidated research work, and 12 short papers reporting on work in progress. The review process was particularly intensive and careful, ensuring that each submission received at least four reviews. The spectrum of accepted papers gives an interesting account of the ever changing field of collaboration technologies: Eight papers deal with designing, facilitating, and analyzing technology-enhanced collaborative learning, three of these involving mobile support and two using gaming approaches. Three papers cover the new topic of social media analytics related to networked communities. Conceptual and design models of general groupware systems and technology mediated social interaction are the focus of four papers, whereas another four deal with formal modeling and technical approaches to describing and analyzing collaborative interactions, synchronization and concurrency control, and defining principles of group formation. Two papers are related to the specific application field of collaboration support in emergency scenarios. The international distribution of contributions is reflected in the following figures based on the affiliations of corresponding authors: Brazil (3), Canada (2), Chile (1), Germany (6), Greece (1), Israel (1), The Netherlands (2), Portugal (1), Spain (2), and Sweden (2).

The CRIWG 2012 program also featured two invited speakers who addressed different aspects of computational analysis of interactions in electronic communities. Whereas Ralf Klamma (RWTH Aachen, Germany) addressed general aspects of "community analytics" including experience from ongoing EU projects,

Dan Suthers (University of Hawaii, USA) focused on a theoretical framework and an interpretation scheme for collaborative learning data.

CRIWG 2012 was supported by a large number of collaborators. Particularly, we want to express our gratitude to all program committee members and reviewers, to the CRIWG steering committee, to our sponsors (see conference website), to our invited speakers, and to Anne-Marie Hussein and Adam Gienza for their organizational and technical support. Finally we thank all authors and participants for making CRIWG 2012 a valuable and memorable experience.

July 2012

Valeria Herskovic  
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Jürgen Ziegler

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