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Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of UNISCON 2008! UNISCON 2008 was an experiment – additionally to a number of peer-reviewed conference papers two keynote presentations and a substantial number of invited presentations were offered at the conference and are included in these proceedings. Making this experiment was a consequence of our desire to honor with UNISCON 2008 our teacher, colleague, boss, and friend Heinrich C. Mayr on occasion of his 60th birthday. A large number of well-known researchers agreed that Heinrich’s birthday was a very welcome occasion for meeting and working together. All of them came to Klagenfurt to celebrate Heinrich’s birthday in the way we know he likes best: meeting, talking to each other and extending and perfecting one’s knowledge. Heinrich in fact is a very rare individual, at least in the European information systems community. As very few others he has contributed to informatics in industry (as CEO of a successful software vendor), research (as co-author of more than 150 papers), research politics, organization, and administration (as twice elected president of the GI, co-founder of EMISA, vice chancellor of his university, dean of his school, head of his department, and organizer of important conferences such as the Entity-Relationship conference). He has provided visions for the development of the Alpen-Adria-Universität and its scientific environment, and established ties between that university and local as well as international industry. Any recollection of his credits in this preface will be incomplete.

UNISCON 2008 was also a repetition of a bundling of events, the organization of which Heinrich previously as organizer and co-founder was involved in, i.e., the ECOMO workshop series and the ISTA conference series. We obtained a sensible paper acceptance rate of about 30%. In addition to full papers we had some short paper submissions, which our Program Committees found worthy of being published. These are included in this volume and are not specifically marked.

We thank each of the many friends, colleagues, and collaborators who helped in preparing, organizing, and running UNISCON 2008. In particular we thank the office staff and our colleagues (Marko Anzelak, Wolfgang Ebner, Stefan Ellersdorfer, Doris Gälle, Jörg Kerschbaumer, Gert Morak, Klothilde Puschl, Christine Seger, Maria Semmelrock-Picej, Volodymyr Sokol, Kateryna Sokol, Anita Toschkov, Jürgen Vöhringer, Martin Waiguny, Karl Wiggisser), students who helped us throughout the conference, the authors of the papers in these proceedings, and of course the colleagues from “Springer” who made it possible to have this volume ready for distribution at the beginning of the conference. We also thank the sponsors of UNISCON 2008.

Most of all we thank Heinrich for inspiring us, for the role model he has provided, and for the counsel he has given when he was asked to do so. We hope that he is going to be with us for a long time to come.
Finally, we thank every UNISCON 2008 attendee, and everyone else for purchasing this volume, for reading papers in it, and for sharing their views with us.

April 2008

Roland Kaschek
Christian Kop
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