The original version of the book frontmatter was revised: The copyright line was incorrect. The Erratum to the book frontmatter is available at DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-10445-9_22
Preface

This edition marks the tenth Middleware conference. The first conference was held in the Lake District of England in 1998, and its genesis reflected a growing realization that middleware systems were a unique breed of distributed system requiring their own rigorous research and evaluation. Distributed systems had been around for decades, and the Middleware conference itself resulted from the combination of three previous conferences. But the attempt to build common platforms for many different applications required a unique combination of high-level abstraction and low-level optimization, and presented challenges different from building a monolithic distributed system.

Since that first conference, the notion of what constitutes “middleware” has changed somewhat, and the focus of research papers has changed with it. The first edition focused heavily on distributed objects as a metaphor for building systems, including six papers with “CORBA” or “ORB” in the title. In following years, the conference broadened to cover publish/subscribe messaging, peer-to-peer systems, distributed databases, Web services, and automated management, among other topics. Innovative techniques and architectures surfaced in workshops, and expanded to become themes of the main conference, while changes in the industry and advances in other research areas helped to shape research agendas. This tenth edition includes papers on next-generation platforms (such as stream systems, pervasive systems and cloud systems), managing enterprise data centers, and platforms for building other platforms, among others. However, a common theme runs through all this diversity: the need to build reliable, scalable, secure platforms to serve as the key ingredient for distributed applications.

Again, this year, the program reflected a very strong set of contributions. In the research track, 21 papers were selected from 110 submissions. The conference’s industrial track reflected the ongoing need for researchers and practitioners to work together to realize middleware systems in practice. In addition, the conference included a diverse workshop program, including a symposium for doctoral students.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the conference this year. The Program Committee worked hard to provide high-quality reviews, and the rest of the Organizing Committee put a great deal of effort into planning and holding the conference. The Steering Committee, and Chairs of previous conferences, provided valuable advice and a needed continuity from previous years. Finally, we would like to thank the authors who made the effort to write up and share their research results with the community.

September 2009

Brian Cooper
Jean Bacon
Organization

Middleware 2009 was organized under the joint sponsorship of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) and USENIX.

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