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Announcements

9–12 SEPTEMBER 1991

Canterbury, Kent, United Kingdom, IFIP Joint WG8.3/WG8.4 Working Conference on Support Functionality in the Office Environment, organised by IFIP working groups 8.3 and 8.4 in co-operation with the British Computer Society

Second Call for Papers

Gradual shifts in emphasis are noticeable within the fields of Decision Support Systems (DSS) and Office Information Systems (OIS). DSS apply information systems technology to increase the effectiveness of decision makers, focusing on the enhancement of human judgements. OIS are concerned with the support, and communication in connection with, human activities aimed at achieving office goals. Both are concerned with supporting organisational activity. Both have made great strides as a result of the increase in computational capability. They differ as to the aspects of organisational activity that they support, but are similar in that using such systems leads to the realisation that the systems need to be integrated.

Today DSS and OIS are blending into their organisational environments and an integrated capability is emerging. Organisations are processing their own information, within the office environment, to support their decision making. This makes it necessary to integrate DSS tools within OIS structures. The tools and infrastructure needed to permit this integrated operation can be classified under the title 'support functionality'.

If one concludes that we are moving towards the integration of DSS and OIS into a single system which is capable of providing effective support to information workers in the office, on the shop floor, on the road or wherever, then a joint conference of two TC8 Working Groups is a natural approach to a further understanding of the many problems that remain.

Topics

The working conference will address a number of theoretical, as well as practical issues.

Original contributions are called for that deal with any one, or a combination of, the following issues:

- approaches to designing and developing 'office support systems';
- analysis of the functionality of existing systems and requirements for future systems;
- the components (tools and structures) available or conceivable for incorporation into such systems;
- the architectures, based on such components, that satisfy the functionality requirements for decision processes in the office environment;
- the issue of designing and realising such architectures.

The conference structure will permit meetings of task groups, the presentation of technical papers, posters and videos, the running of tutorials and the demonstration of working systems.

Contributions might range over all levels of abstraction, and either concentrate on integration issues or on a closer consideration of more specific aspects of DSS operating within OIS.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Technical papers and posters:

Submit five copies of a double-spaced paper (twenty pages maximum), or electronic submission (MS-DOS document) of equivalent length to:

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CRITICAL DATES

Receipt of papers:	15 January 1991
Notification of acceptance:	25 March 1991
Final paper due:	1 May 1991
Conference:	9 September 1991

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the conference (BUT NOT ABOUT THE SUBMISSION OF PAPERS) contact:

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