

# UBICOMM 2021

## Forward

The Fifteenth International Conference on Mobile Ubiquitous Computing, Systems, Services and Technologies (UBICOMM 2021) continued a series of events on the fundamentals of ubiquitous systems and the new applications related to them. The conference provided a forum where researchers were able to present recent research results and new research problems and directions in all aspects of ubiquitous techniques.

The rapid advances in ubiquitous technologies are based on more than 35 years of research in distributed computing systems, and more than two decades of mobile computing. The ubiquity vision is becoming a reality. Hardware and software components evolved to deliver functionality under failure-prone environments with limited resources. The advent of web services and the progress on wearable devices, ambient components, user-generated content, mobile communications, and new business models generated new applications and services. The conference makes a bridge between issues with software and hardware challenges through mobile communications.

Advances in web services technologies along with their integration into mobility, online and new business models provide a technical infrastructure that enables the progress of mobile services and applications. These include dynamic and on-demand service, context-aware services, and mobile web services. While driving new business models and new online services, particular techniques must be developed for web service composition, web service-driven system design methodology, creation of web services, and on-demand web services.

As mobile and ubiquitous computing becomes a reality, more formal and informal learning will take place out of the confines of the traditional classroom. Two trends converge to make this possible: increasingly powerful cell phones and PDAs, and improved access to wireless broadband. At the same time, due to the increasing complexity, modern learners will need tools that operate in an intuitive manner and are flexibly integrated in the surrounding learning environment.

Educational services are becoming more customized and personalized, and more frequently subjected to changes. Learning and teaching are now becoming less tied to physical locations, co-located members of a group, and co-presence in time. Learning and teaching increasingly take place in fluid combinations of virtual and "real" contexts, and fluid combinations of presence in time, space and participation in community. To the learner full access and abundance in communicative opportunities and information retrieval represents new challenges and affordances. Consequently, the educational challenges are numerous in the intersection of technology development, curriculum development, content development and educational infrastructure.

We take here the opportunity to warmly thank all the members of the UBICOMM 2021 technical program committee, as well as all the reviewers. The creation of such a high-quality conference program would not have been possible without their involvement. We also kindly thank all the authors who dedicated much of their time and effort to contribute to UBICOMM 2021. We truly believe that, thanks

to all these efforts, the final conference program consisted of top-quality contributions. We also thank the members of the UBICOMM 2021 organizing committee for their help in handling the logistics of this event.

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