Journal of Computers

Special Issue on Software Agent

FOREWORD

In recent years, software agent technology has been an important trend in software design paradigm. There are more and more agent-based software systems developed on the service of real applications. In Taiwan, a lot of researchers paid their attention to software agent related researches. The objective of this special issue is therefore to review and survey research status in the field of agent-based software engineering and applications in Taiwan.

We have 8 high quality papers included in this special issue. These papers are selected from many outstanding submissions after a careful reviewing process by the editorial committee of this special issue. The scope of papers covers various of agent-based applications. The first paper, by Prof. Jong-Yi Kuo from National Taipei University of Technology, examines the argumentation negotiation of agent as a mechanism for solving the course-scheduling problem. The second paper introduces the software architecture for building multi-agent Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) software integration systems, by Prof. Jim-Min Lin from Feng Chia University. Prof. Yueh-Min Huang, from National Cheng Kung University, presents their work in establishing an intelligent document agent with document classification techniques in the third paper. Prof. Jane Yung-Jen Hsu from National Taiwan University and Prof. Lisung Liu from Nation Chung Cheng University will then contribute their valuable experiences of applying software agents in ubiquitous computing and information appliances in the fourth and fifth paper respectively. The design and implementation of a multi-agent based service discovery architecture for mobile environment is also proposed in the sixth paper by Prof. Feng-Chao Yang from Da Yeh University. Two interesting agent-based applications regarding the care of older adults and image impulse noise removal are finally reported in the seventh and the eighth papers by Prof. Cheng-Min Lin from Nan Kai Institute of Technology and Prof. Chang-Shing Lee from Nation University of Tainan, respectively. We wish this special issue could provide the readers who have interests to enter this active research field with good starting references.

On behalf of the editorial committee, I would like to appreciate all the authors and reviewers for their great efforts and contributions to this special issue. I am also grateful to the editorial committee members for their excellent contributions.

Thank you very much for your interests on this special issue.

Jim-Min Lin, Guest Editor

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