

Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing

122

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Enterprise Interoperability

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Preface

Several developments are expected to change the nature and affect the operation of enterprises in the near future. These developments are not new, and their influence when considered in isolation may not be decisive, but combined they represent important challenges as well as opportunities. Globalization, as one of the most important drivers of modern times, continues to influence enterprises and makes the boundaries for enterprise operation increasingly disappear. Constant and rapid change in technological capabilities, consumer demands, and legal/regulatory constraints push enterprises to become more agile and adaptive. The ability to create and offer value-added services by anyone to anyone has blurred the roles of consumer and producer, and of employee and employer. One conclusion to be drawn from these developments is that the success of an enterprise more and more depends on its ability to interoperate with other enterprises, of any size and in any place. Enterprises have to function in dynamic networks, with value being created in both directions in order to stay competitive and achieve their business goals.

Collaboration, interoperability, and services are essential for the networked enterprises of the future. A better understanding of these concepts and their relationships will help to face the challenges and exploit the opportunities ahead. In addition, it will foster appropriate architectural frameworks and IT solutions. For example, the technical development of the Future Internet should not only be driven by problems of the current Internet but also be guided and evaluated from the enterprise perspective regarding collaboration, interoperability, and services. This will ensure that the Future Internet really aims at empowering enterprises to create business value in competition and cooperation with other enterprises, based on relevant knowledge about each other and the market. Several enterprise-relevant aspects should be grounded in the Future Internet, meaning that collaboration is supported by IT services (to find information) for connecting partners and binding resources according to enterprise-defined performance indicators on top of a general interoperability infrastructure. Such IT services may require integration of physical sensing, business intelligence, and knowledge sharing

IWEI is an International IFIP Working Conference covering all aspects of enterprise interoperability with the purpose of achieving flexible cross-organizational collaboration through integrated support at business and technical levels. It provides a forum for discussing ideas and results among both researchers and practitioners. Contributions to the following areas are highlighted: scientific foundations for specifying, analyzing, and validating interoperability solutions; architectural frameworks for addressing interoperability challenges from different viewpoints

and at different levels of abstraction; maturity models to evaluate and rank interoperability solutions with respect to distinguished quality criteria; and practical solutions and tools that can be applied to interoperability problems to date.

This year's IWEI – IWEI 2012 – was held during September 6–7, 2012, in Harbin, China, following previous events in Stockholm, Sweden (2011), Valencia, Spain (2009), and Munich, Germany (2008). The theme of IWEI 2012 was “Collaboration, Interoperability and Services for Networked Enterprises,” thus especially soliciting submissions and discussions related to the three previously mentioned interrelated areas for enterprise interoperability.

IWEI 2012 was organized by the IFIP Working Group 5.8 on Enterprise Interoperability in co-operation with InterOP-VLab. The objective of IFIP WG5.8 is to advance and disseminate research and development results in the area of enterprise interoperability. IWEI provides an excellent platform to discuss the ideas that have emerged from IFIP WG5.8 meetings, or, reversely, to transfer issues identified at the workshop to the IFIP community for further contemplation and investigation.

The proceedings of IWEI 2012 are contained in this volume. In total 14 full papers and three short papers were selected for oral presentation and publication. The selection was based on a thorough review process, in which each paper was reviewed by at least three experts in the field. The papers are representative of the current research activities in the area of enterprise interoperability. The papers cover a wide spectrum of enterprise interoperability issues, ranging from foundational theories, frameworks, architectures, methods and guidelines to applications and case studies.

The proceedings also include the abstracts of the invited talks of our two renowned keynote speakers: Sergio Gusmeroli (Director of TXT Labs Corporate Research Unit) and Lei Qin (Executive of Cloud Labs and Smarter Commerce Service Delivery, IBM China Development Laboratory).

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to the IWEI 2012 working conference. We thank the authors for submitting content, which resulted in valuable information exchange and stimulating discussions; we thank the reviewers for providing useful feedback to the submitted content, which undoubtedly helped the authors to improve their work; and we thank the attendants for expressing interest in the content and initiating relevant discussions. We are indebted to IFIP TC5 as well as InterOP-VLab for recognizing the importance of enterprise interoperability as a research area with high economic impact, and acting accordingly with the establishment of WG5.8. Finally, we are grateful to HIT, the Harbin Institute of Technology, for hosting the working conference.

Organization

IWEI 2011 was organized by IFIP Working Group 5.8 on Enterprise Interoperability, in cooperation with InterOP VLab.

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Table of Contents

Keynotes

From Enterprise Interoperability to Service Innovation: European Research Activities in Future Internet Enterprise Systems	1
<i>Sergio Gusmeroli</i>	
Building a New Eco-System to Transform a Smarter Logistics Industry with Smarter Logistics Cloud	3
<i>Lei Qin</i>	

Full Papers

Session 1: Requirements Engineering and Enterprise Integration

Innovation Management Needs an Interoperable Requirements Management	5
<i>Katja Landgraf and Roland Jochem</i>	
A Goal Decomposition Approach for Automatic Mashup Development	20
<i>Lin Bai, Dan Ye, and Jun Wei</i>	
Benefits of Enterprise Integration: Review, Classification, and Suggestions for Future Research	34
<i>Ariyan Fazlollahi, Ulrik Franke, and Johan Ullberg</i>	

Session 2: Manufacturing Applications and Enterprise Planning

A Resource Virtualization Mechanism for Cloud Manufacturing Systems	46
<i>Ning Liu and Xiaoping Li</i>	
Manufacturing Software Interoperability Services Which ISO 16100 Brings about	60
<i>Michiko Matsuda</i>	

A Confidentiality-Guarantee Mechanism for SaaS 71
Guozhen Ren, Qingzhong Li, Yuliang Shi, and Lizhen Cui

Session 3: Model Manipulation and Ontology Building

A QoS-Aware Hyper-graph Based Method of Semantic Service Composition 81
Cui Lizhen and Xu Meng

Towards Information Customization and Interoperability in Food Chains 92
Kai Mertins, Frank-Walter Jaekel, and Quan Deng

A Value-Oriented Iterative Service Modeling Process 104
Xiaofei Xu, Chao Ma, and Zhongjie Wang

Session 4: Model-Driven Service Engineering in Enterprise Ecosystems

Principles of Servitization and Definition of an Architecture for Model Driven Service System Engineering 117
Yves Ducq, David Chen, and Thècle Alix

Control-Flow Pattern Based Transformation from UML Activity Diagram to YAWL 129
Zhaogang Han, Li Zhang, Jiming Ling, and Shihong Huang

MDA-Based Interoperability Establishment Using Language Independent Information Models 146
Carlos Agostinho, Jaroslav Černý, and Ricardo Jardim-Goncalves

An Approach for Validating Semantic Consistency of Model Transformation Based on Pattern 161
Jin Li, Dechen Zhan, Lanshun Nie, and Xiaofei Xu

Negotiations Framework for Monitoring the Sustainability of Interoperability Solutions 172
Carlos Coutinho, Adina Cretan, and Ricardo Jardim-Goncalves

Short Papers

A Hypergraph Partition Based Approach to Dynamic Deployment for Service-Oriented Multi-tenant SaaS Applications 185
Ying Pan, Lei Wu, Shijun Liu, and Xiangxu Meng

Service-Oriented Digital Identity-Related Privacy Interoperability:
 Implementation Framework of Privacy-as-a-Set-of-Services (PaaS) 193
Ghazi Ben Ayed and Solange Gheraouti-Hélie

Research on Semantic Interoperability for Business Collaboration 201
Zhan Jiang, Lanfen Lin, and Fei Xie

Author Index 209