EDITORIAL

This is the second issue of volume 7 of the Australian Journal of Information Systems. As editor I am pleased to report the ongoing interest in the journal both in Australia as well as overseas.

Our first paper – Efficient Mobile Client Caching Supporting Transaction Semantics is presented by Il Young Chung & Chong Sun Hwang, Department of computer Science and Engineering, Korea University. This paper argues that in mobile client-server database systems, caching of frequently accessed data is an important technique that reduces the contention on narrow bandwidth channels. The paper proposes a caching policy to maintain cache consistency for mobile computers. The proposed protocol adopts asynchronous (non-periodic) broadcasting as the cache invalidation scheme, and supports transaction semantics in mobile environments.

Peter Clutterbuck, Faculty of Business, University of the Sunshine Coast, provides our next paper – Increased Availability for Networked Software Services. The availability of networked software services is an increasingly important quality of service issue. This paper develops – from a user perspective – a quality of service framework for the availability of networked software services. The paper utilises this quality of service framework to suggest the functional characteristics of a new transport layer software specification that would facilitate the increased availability of networked software services.

Our third paper is – Tribes of Users and Systems Developers – Sharon Dingley, School of Computing, University of Central England, Hanifa Shah, School of Computing, Staffordshire University & Paul Golder, Department of Computer Science and Applied mathematics, Aston University. This paper introduces the concepts of 'culture' and 'tribe' into the discussion of the relationship between business users and information systems developers. Previous research has focused on identifying specific barriers to user-systems developer communication and on ways of eliminating these barriers. In contrast, this paper suggests that much can be learnt through the recognition of cultural differences inherent to the differing roles of user and systems developer.

Bruce Lo, School of Multimedia & Information Technology, Southern Cross University & Gede Sri Darma, Pendidikan National University, provide our next paper – Employee perception of the Impact of Information Technology Investment in Organizations: A survey of the Hotel Industry. This paper examines how employees view the impact and value of IT, specifically from the perspectives of IT usage, satisfaction, changes in performance of employees and changes in organizational performance.

Our fifth paper – Arguing for PhD Coursework is provided by Mike Metcalfe, Information Systems Doctoral School, University of South Australia & Margaret Kiley, Advisory Centre for University Education, Adelaide University. This paper argues for the establishment of semi-structured programs for PhD students, but importantly, one that has an appreciation that research is an argumentative process, trying to develop knowledgeable audiences, and thus is a social activity.

Our sixth paper – Testing Hammer and Stanton's Reengineering–Success Diagnostic is provided by Felicity Murphy, Peter Seddon, Department of Information Systems, University of Melbourne & Sandy Staples Queens University, Kingston Ontario. This paper looks at the following: (1) investigating the organisational context prior to the embarkation on projects of major change in Australia, (2) testing the validity of a diagnostic proposed by Hammer and Stanton (1995) to be used when assessing the ability of organisations to succeed at reengineering, and (3) examining the impact of the organisational environment prior to change on the outcome of reengineering projects.

Gregory Shailer, Department of Commerce, Australian National University, Kenneth Stevens, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management, University of new South Wales & Hargo Utomo, Department of Commerce, Australian National University provide our next paper – EFTPOS Impacts on Branch Banking: An Extraorganisational Analysis. This paper examines the impact of EFTPOS on branch banking activities using internal and extraorganisational criteria. Impacts are identified in terms of Efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness.

Leoni Warne, Joint Systems Branch, Defence Science and Technology Organisation provides our next paper – Understanding Organisational Learning in Military Headquarters: Findings from a Pilot Study. This paper reports on the findings of a Pilot Study for a longer term research project investigating organisational learning in command and control organisations in the Australian Defence Force. The aim of the Pilot Study was to determine the feasibility of observing and documenting social learning processes and to trial the use of ethnographic techniques for this purpose.

Our last group of papers are the best papers from the recent OZCHI 99 conference.

Our next paper – The Ethics/Skills Interface in Image Manipulation – Jenny Webber, School of Communication and Information Studies, University of South Australia – looks at image manipulation and its use in advertising, electronic media etc. The paper examines the question of ethics and copyright of such images.

Our next paper – The Integrated Decision Model in Emergency Dispatch Management and its Implications for Design – William Wong, Department of Information Science, University of Otago, examines a number of decision making models and integrates these into a single model which is validated in emergency dispatch management situations.

Saul Greenberg, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary, Geraldine Fitzpatrick, CRC for Distributed Systems Technology, University of Queensland, Carl Gutwin, Department of Computer Science,

University of Saskatchewan & Simon Kaplan, Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering provide our next paper – Adapting the Locales Framework for Heuristic Evaluation of Groupware. This paper extends the single user heuristic evaluation by taking Locales Frameworks and restating them as heuristics capable of evaluating groupware.

Our next paper is – Ecological Interface Design for Anaesthesia Monitoring – Marcus Watson, Swinburne Computer-Human Interaction Laboratory, John Russell, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Royal Adelaide Hospital & Penelope Sanderson Swinburne Computer-Human Interaction Laboratory. This paper looks at the requirements for an information environment for anaesthetists.

James Phillips & Thomas Triggs, Psychology Department, Monash University provide our next paper entitled Cursor Control Device Characteristics. This paper looks at improvement in cursor control by addressing the efficiency devices such as the Mouse, Trackball etc.

Our final paper – Issues of Page Representation and Organisation in Web Browser's Revisitation Tools – Andy Cockburn, Department of Computer Science, University of Canterbury, New Zealand & Saul Greenberg, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary looks at graphical revisitation tools that let users return to previously seen pages. A number of alternative designs are discussed.

Once again I would like to pass my thanks on to the authors and consulting editors for the high quality of material in theis issue. I would like to thank Lily Soh for her continued assistance with the journal and Diniz Da Rocha for the maintenance of the home page.

Rob MacGregor
Editor

http://www.uow.edu.au/ajis/ajis.html