CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE OF 'COMPUTER NETWORKS'
ON FEATURE INTERACTIONS
IN EMERGING APPLICATION DOMAINS

Introduction

Feature interaction occurs when one feature modifies or subverts the operation of another one. This phenomenon is not unique to the domain of telecommunications systems: it can occur in any software system that is subject to changes (not to mention areas of medicine, engineering, and law that are not directly covered in the Feature Interaction Workshop, but which may be taken into consideration in order to exploit useful analogies).

Although interactions among classical telephony features are now fairly well understood, the feature interaction problem presents new challenges in emerging types of systems based on policies, dynamic (Web) services, mobility, or new architectures such as Parlay, 3G, .NET, or GRID and active networks. The proliferation of players and software/service engineering techniques coupled with the constant pressure for the rapid introduction of new services and applications lead to undesirable interactions that jeopardize the quality of the products delivered as well as the satisfaction of the users. Detecting, solving, preventing, and managing such interactions at different stages of the development process are more than ever important problems that need to be addressed with cost-effective techniques and tools. Techniques successfully applied to conventional telecommunications systems are still useful in many cases, yet they may no longer be able to cope with the complexity of emerging systems.

Revised versions of papers already presented at conferences (such as the Feature Interaction Workshop) are welcome; however the referees will have to be satisfied that the new paper is sufficiently different from the conference paper to warrant publication.

Papers should be submitted in standard electronic format (PDF, PostScript, MS Word) to one of the editors below. Suggested length is of about 20-25 pages.

Target dates

September 1, 2003	Deadline for paper submissions
November 15, 2003	Notification of acceptance/rejection
December 7, 2003	Submission of Camera-Ready Paper
Early 2004	Publication of special issue

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