Agent-directed Simulation Symposium (ADSS'08)

PREFACE

As the organizing committee of the 2008 Agent-directed Simulation Symposium (ADSS), we are delighted to welcome you to Ottawa, ON, Canada where ADSS is taking place within the 2008 Spring Simulation Multiconference (SpringSim'08), during April 14-17, 2008. SpringSim is organized by the Society for Modeling and Simulation International in collaboration with ACM/SIGSIM. As it was last year, this year ADSS is co-sponsored by the McLeod Modeling and Simulation Network of SCS. M&SNet is a consortium of cooperating independent organizations active in professionalism, research, education, and knowledge dissemination in the modeling and simulation domain.

Software agents are, for some time, part of the mainstream computational paradigm and offer tremendous opportunities for practice and advancement of pervasive, cognitive and affective computing. Simulation, on the other hand, is a discipline essential (1) for all kinds of decision support where experimentation with models of dynamic systems –existing or being engineered–are desirable; (2) for three types of training to develop/enhance motor skills, decision making skills, or operational skills through gaining experience by using a representation (a model) of reality; and (3) for providing experience for fun through the use of a representation of an existent or mostly an inexistent system.

Currently, there exist many agent symposia, as well as agent-based social simulation conferences. However, there are not many simulation conferences where all three aspects of the synergy of agents and simulation are considered. Hence, the ADS symposium fills a gap in the agent community as well as the simulation community. Through the theme of agent-directed simulation (with emphases to agent simulation as well as agent-based and agent-supported simulations), the symposium offers a platform for agent technologies, tools, toolkits, platforms, languages, methodologies, and applications in a pragmatic manner. In this symposium, established researchers, educators, and students are encouraged to come together and discuss the benefits of the synergy of agent technology and modeling and simulation.

Many people contributed to making ADS 2008 a success. The efforts of the International Program Committee were instrumental in shaping the program by facilitating the peer-review process as well as in supporting the organization of the symposium. We extend our sincere thanks to them as well as to the authors of ADS 2008. Given the quality of the papers submitted to this year's symposium, we are hopeful that future ADS symposia will continue to be the platform for agent simulation as well as agent-based and agent-supported simulations.

On behalf of the conference organizers and the Scientific Program Committee, we hope everyone benefits and enjoys this year's outstanding program.
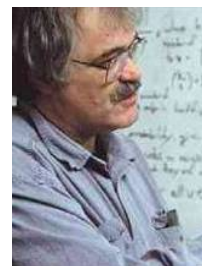
Sincerely,

Dr. Tuncer Ören
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Co-chair

Dr. Maarten Sierhuis
Co-chair

Dr. Gregory R. Madey
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Dr. Andreas Tolk
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