



IFIP TC12 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

IFIP Technical Committee 12 Artificial Intelligence

<http://www.ifiptc12.org>

Chair's Report for TC12 Meeting: Wednesday August 23rd 2006

Reporting Period: August 2005 – August 2006

Max Bramer, Chair IFIP TC12

1. Changes to TC Membership

There have been several changes since my last report.

(a) Gintautas Dzemyda (Institute of Mathematics and Informatics), Nikola Bogunovic (University of Zagreb) and Helder Coelho (University of Lisbon) have joined the committee as the representatives for Lithuania, Croatia and Portugal, respectively.

(b) Rose Dieng (INRIA, France), the new Chair of WG12.6, has replaced Eric Tsui as an ex officio member of TC12.

(c) Enrique Gonzalez has joined TC12 as the new representative for CLEI.

(d) In March 2006 we received the sad news of the death of Professor Zdzislaw Bubnicki, the Polish representative on TC12.

The membership of the Committee as at August 14th 2006 is as follows.

Analia	Amandi	AR	Argentina	Full Member Rep.	
Werner	Horn	AT	Austria	Full Member Rep.	
John	Debenham	AU	Australia	Full Member Rep.	Secretary TC12
Tharam	Dillon	AU	Australia	Ex Officio	Chair WG12.4 ex officio
Pierre-Yves	Schobbens	BE	Belgium	Full Member Rep.	
Vassil	Sgurev	BG	Bulgaria	Full Member Rep.	
Mauricio	Solar	CL	Chile	Full Member Rep.	
Enrique	Gonzalez	CLEI **		Corresponding Member Rep.	
Zhongzhi	Shi	CN	China	Full Member Rep.	Also Chair WG12.2
Vladan	Devedzic	CS	Serbia	Bylaw 4.3.2(c)	
Olga	Stepankova	CZ	Czech Republic	Full Member Rep.	
Bernd	Neumann	DE	Germany	Full Member Rep.	Vice-Chair TC12
Brian	Mayoh	DK	Denmark	Full Member Rep.	
Ramon	Lopez de	ES	Spain	Full Member Rep.	

	Mantaras				
Timo	Honkela	FI	Finland	Full Member Rep.	Also Chair WG12.1
Jean-Paul	Haton	FR	France	Full Member Rep.	
Eunika	Mercier-Laurent	FR	France	Bylaw 4.3.2(c)	
Rose	Dieng	FR	France	Ex Officio	Chair WG12.6 ex officio
Constantine	Spyropoulos	GR	Greece	Full Member Rep.	
Nikola	Bogunovic	HR	Croatia	Full Member Rep.	
Peter	Szeredi	HU	Hungary	Full Member Rep.	
Petra	Perner	IAPR *	Germany	Affiliate Rep. & ex officio	Also Chair WG12.7
Ramasamy	Uthurusamy	IJCAII *	USA	Affiliate Rep.	
M	Sasikumar	IN	India	Full Member Rep.	
Luigia	Carlucci-Aiello	IT	Italy	Full Member Rep.	
Shuji	Doshita	JP	Japan	Full Member Rep.	
Gintautas	Dzemyda	LT	Lithuania	Full Member Rep.	
Joost	Kok	NL	Netherlands	Full Member Rep.	
Agnar	Aamodt	NO	Norway	Full Member Rep.	
Nik	Kasabov	NZ **	New Zealand	Corresponding Member Rep.	
Helder	Coelho	PT	Portugal	Full Member Rep.	
Eric	Sandewall	SE	Sweden	Full Member Rep.	
Matjaz	Gams	SI	Slovenia	Full Member Rep.	
Pavol	Navrat	SK	Slovakia	Full Member Rep.	
Max	Bramer	UK	United Kingdom	Full Member Rep.	Chair TC12, Chair WG12.5
Wiebe	van der Hoek	UK	United Kingdom	Ex Officio	Chair WG12.3 ex officio
Dan	O'Leary	IEEE CS	USA	Full Member Rep.	
Andrea	Omicini	IEEE/A CM	USA	Full Member Rep.	

* Affiliate Members

** Corresponding Members

2. Working Groups

Since the General Assembly in September 2005 Dr. Rose Dieng (INRIA, France) has replaced Dr. Eric Tsui as Chair of WG12.6 (Knowledge Management) with effect from January 2006.

The current structure of Working Groups is given below, together with the names of the main officers.

Working Group 12.1 - Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Chair: Prof. Timo Honkela, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland

Working Group 12.2 - Machine Learning and Data Mining

Chair: Prof. Zhongzhi Shi, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
Vice-Chair: Prof. Agnar Aamodt, NUST, Trondheim, Norway
Secretary: Dr. Nicolas Bredeche, Université Paris-Sud, France

Working Group 12.3 - Intelligent Agents

Chair: Prof. Wiebe van der Hoek, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
Vice-Chair: Prof. John Debenham, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Working Group 12.4/2.12 - SemanticWeb [Joint Working Group with TC2]

Chair: Prof. Tharam Dillon, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
Vice-Chair: Prof. Elizabeth Chang, Curtin University of Technology, Australia
Vice-Chair: Prof. Ernesto Damiani, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Working Group 12.5 - Artificial Intelligence Applications

Chair: Prof. Max Bramer, University of Portsmouth, UK
Secretary: Prof. John Debenham, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

Working Group 12.6 - Knowledge Management

Chair: Dr. Rose Dieng, INRIA, France

Working Group 12.7 - Computer Vision

Chair: Dr. Petra Perner, Institute of Computer Vision and Applied Computer Sciences, Germany
Vice-Chair: Dr. Alex Holt, University of Otago, New Zealand
Secretary: Mrs. Christiane Schatte, Institute of Computer Vision and Applied Computer Sciences, Germany

3. Working Group Reports

Working Group 12.1 - Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Chair: Professor Timo Honkela, Finland

Report Not Available

Working Group 12.2 - Machine Learning and Data Mining

Chair: Prof. Zhongzhi Shi, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

1. AIM

To explore computer methodology and algorithms that improve automatically through experience. Applications range from data mining programs that discover general rules in large data sets, to information filtering systems that automatically learn users' interests.
--

2. SCOPE

Concept Learning and Inductive learning
Association Rules
Case-based Learning
Artificial Neural Networks
Bayesian Learning
Uncertainty Learning
Reinforcement Learning

Evolutionary Learning
Perceptual Learning
Computational Learning Theory
Population-Based Learning
Data Mining
Application case study

3. The list of the present members of the WG

Membership

Z. Shi (CN) (Chair)
A. Aamodt (NO) (Vice-Chair)
N. Bredeche (FR) (Secretary)
R. Agrawal (US)
B. Back (FI)
J. Bullinaria (UK)
F. Coenen (UK)
H. Dai (AU)
A. Galushkin (RU)
Q. He (CN)
D. Leake (US)
S. Matwin (CA)
H. Motoda (JP)
Skowron (PL)
M. Stumptner (AU)
G. Wang (CN)
X. Yao (UK)
C. Zhang (AU)
Z. Zhou (CN)
J. Zucker (FR)

4. Activities.

(1) The Second IFIP Conference on Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations (AIAI-2005) was held in Beijing, China, September 7-9, 2005. It was sponsored by IFIP TC12 and WG12.5; and organized by China Agricultural University and Information Committee, Chinese Society of Agricultural Engineering. WG12.2 supported the conference. Prof. Zhongzhi Shi was PC Co-Chair

(4) WG12.2 organized the ICIP2006 conference held in Adelaide, Australia, from 20 to 23 September 2006.

(5) WG12.2 is organising the PRIMA2006 Workshop in Guilin, China. PRIMA is a series of workshops on autonomous agents and multi-agent systems, integrating the activities in Asia and Pacific Rim countries.

Working Group 12.3 - Intelligent Agents

Chair: Prof. Wiebe van der Hoek, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

Report Not Available

Working Group 2.12/12.4 - Semantic Web

[This is a joint Working Group with TC2, Software: Theory and Practice]

Chair: Prof. Tharam Dillon, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.4 Report

Report Date: 28-July-2006

Chair: *Prof Tharam S. Dillon*

Vice Chairs: *Prof Elizabeth Chang, Prof Ernesto Damiani*

Events (2005/06):

- Past events
 - o Nov 1-2, 2005: Inaugural event The 1st IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS '05) was held in Agia Napa, Cyprus, as part of the OTM 2005 federated conferences
 - o Nov 1, 2005: AGM of WG 2.12 / 12. 4
 - o TC2 IFIP Academy, Brazil
- Upcoming events
 - o IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 book series titled "Advances in Web Semantics" with the first volume planned to be published by end of 2006, titled "*Volume 1: Advances in Web Semantics, A State-of-the Art Semantic Web*", (Eds) Elizabeth Chang, Tharam S. Dillon, Robert Meersman , Katia Sycara
 - o Oct 29 – Nov 3, 2006: The 2nd IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS '06) to be held in France, as part of the OTM 2006.
 - o WG 2.12 / 12.4 website now located at : <http://www.ifipsemanticweb.curtin.edu.au/>

Actions/Comments (2005/06):

- Membership
- Officers
 - o Chair: Prof Tharam S. Dillon
 - o Vice-Chairs:
 - Prof Elizabeth Chang
 - Prof Ernesto Damiani
 - o Secretary: Prof Elizabeth Chang
 - ****Acting Secretary: Rajugan Rajagopalapillai**
- New members (pending approval by TC)
 - o Prof Pilar Herrero
 - pherrero@fi.upm.es
 - Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
 - o Rajugan Rajagopalapillai (acting secretary to Prof Elizabeth Chang)
 - rajugan@it.uts.edu.au
 - University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). Australia
- Working group *meeting* scheduled to be held in Montpellier, France during one of the OTM 2006 (Oct 29- Nov 3, 2006) conference days to coincide with IFIP SWWS '06.
- A book is being edited by a group of members (to appear in early 2007) as part of a book series to highlight the state-of-the art and the advances in Semantic Web and the related technologies.

Working Group 12.5 - Artificial Intelligence Applications

Chair: Prof. Max Bramer, University of Portsmouth, UK

WG12.5 currently has 28 members. It has organised or is organising the following events since September 2005, including IFIP AI 2006 in Santiago.

Second IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations" (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5) [IFIP Event No. 1798]

Beijing, China, September 7th-9th, 2005

Third IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations" AIAI 2006 (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5) [IFIP Event No. 1805]
Athens, Greece, June 7th-9th 2006

IFIP AI 2006 (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5)
August 20th-25th, Santiago, Chile. A co-located conference at the IFIP World Computer Congress WCC2006

Fourth IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations" AIAI 2007 (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5) Athens, Greece, June 2007. [Details to be confirmed.]

Working Group 12.6 - Knowledge Management

Chair: Dr. Rose Dieng, INRIA, France

Members solicited:

Jessica Chen-Burger (University of Edinburgh, UK)
Olivier Gerbe (HEC Montreal, Canada)
Knut Hinkelmann (University of Applied Sciences Solothurn, Switzerland)
Ann Macintosh (Napier University, UK)
Nada Matta (Universitat de Technologie de Troyes, France)
Ulrich Reimer (Business Operations Systems, Switzerland)
Florence Sellini (Airbus, UK)
Carla Simone (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy)

Planned events in 2006:

ECAI'2006 Workshop on Knowledge Management and Organizational Memories
Riva del Garda, Italy, August 28 or 29, 2006

EKA'2006 Workshop on Knowledge Management and Semantic Web,
Podebrady (near Prague), Czech Republic, 2 - 6 October 2006

Planned events in 2007:

IJCAI'2007 Workshop on Knowledge Management and Organizational Memories,
Hyderabad, India, January 6-12, 2007

KCAP'2007 Workshop on Knowledge Management and Semantic Web, October or
November 2007

+ A new IFIP Working Conference or Summer School on Next Generation of
Knowledge Management, to be held on May or June 2007

Working Group 12.7 - Computer Vision

Chair: Dr. Petra Perner, Institute of Computer Vision and Applied Computer Sciences,
Germany

In the last period we have extended the number of members for the working group by five new members. We have installed an E-Team on Case-Based Reasoning for Signals and Images. The aim of the team is to develop new methods and techniques for signal and image

interpretation.

Recently we are dealing with catalogue-based classification for different kind of applications. Different kinds of CBR-based methods for feature subset selection and feature weighting as well as prototype enrichment are under work at the moment. Members of the working group are involved in the preparation of the Industrial Conference on Data Mining ICDM-Leipzig 2006 as well as the Intern. Workshop on Mass Data Analysis of Signals and Images for Medicine, Biotechnology, and Chemistry (both are on www.data-mining-forum.de). We are currently in the process to rework our webpage on www.ibai-institut.de/ifipwg in order to be able to advertise our activities.

4. Recent Events

First International IFIP Workshop on Industrial Applications of Semantic Web [IFIP Event No. 1811]
University of Jyväskylä, Finland, August 25-27, 2005

Conference organiser Helena Kaykova writes:

According to the feedback we received from all the participants, keynote speakers, our industrial partners and our sponsors the First International IFIP WG 12.5 Working Conference on Industrial Applications of Semantic Web (IASW-2005) was a success!

The Conference Web-site was updated recently so now there are links from the 'Conference programme' to all presentations. You can also read there comments from some of the participants. From 'Media gallery' you can see conference photos in original/small size or you can download zipped versions.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all of you: to the reviewers – for your excellent reviews in such a tight timetable; to our industrial partners - for the initial idea of the conference and active participation; to the sponsors – for your financial support and to participants - for your high quality presentations and valuable comments. The success of the Conference is your success, and we are sincerely grateful to you.

Our special thanks to Max Bramer, IFIP WG 12.5 and Springer Publisher for supporting us and making it possible to have the Proceedings in time for the Conference; a lot of thanks to the MIT Department for hosting the event.

I hope to see all of you next year for the Second International IFIP Conference IASW–2006!

Second IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations"
(sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5) [IFIP Event No. 1798]
Beijing, China, September 7th-9th, 2005

Brazil Agents School 2005 (co-sponsored by TC12 and WG12.3) [IFIP Event No. 1816]
September 21st-30th, 2005

First IFIP WG 2.12 & WG 12.4 International Workshop on Web Semantics (SWWS'05)
(sponsored by WG12.4)
Agia Napa, Cyprus, November 1st-2nd 2005

Report on 1st IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS '05)

<http://www.cs.rmit.edu.au/fedconf/2005/swws2005cfp.html>

PC-chair: Ling Feng

Vice-Chairs: Mustafa Jarrar, Aldo Gangemi, Joost Breuker, Jos Lehmann, André Valente

The 1st IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS '05) was held in Agia Napa, Cyprus, as part of the OTM 2005 federated conferences. This is the inaugural event for the newly formed WG 2.12 / 12.4 in 2005. The workshop was held over two days between the 1st Nov – 2nd of Nov 2005. The workshop also include two special sessions namely;

1. Special session on Regulatory ontologies (formally known as WORM): This special session on Regulatory Ontologies has been organized to allow researcher of different backgrounds (such as Law, Business, Ontologies, artificial intelligence, philosophy, and lexical semantics) to meet and exchange ideas.
2. Special session on Security & Trust as an invited paper session

This first year, a total of 35 papers were submitted to SWWS 2005. Each submission was reviewed by at least two experts. The papers were judged according to their originality, validity, significance to theory and practice, readability and organization, and relevancy to the workshop topics and beyond. This resulted in the selection of 18 papers for presentation at the workshop and publication in this OTM 2005 workshop proceedings, in both print and online versions (<http://www.informatik.uni-trier.de/~ley/db/conf/otm/otm2005-1c.html>). The proceedings of the conference book reflects the quality of the workshop, the issues raised and presented during the SWWS workshop which proves to be an interdisciplinary forum for subject matters involving the theory and practice of web semantics. We feel that these proceedings will inspire further research and create an intense following. The Program Committee comprised of all the IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.4 members. Another, the 2nd IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics is planned for 2006 (SWWS '06) as part of the same forum (OTM 2006).

Third IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations" AIAI 2006 (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5) [IFIP Event No. 1805]

Athens, Greece, June 7th-9th 2006

The third IFIP Conference on Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations (AIAI) was held in Athens, Greece from June 7th to June 9th, 2006. The conference was co-organized by the Department of Information and Communications Systems Engineering of the University of the Aegean and the Athens Information Technology (AIT) Institute.

The response to the 'Call for Papers' was overwhelming, attracting submissions from many countries. The task of the Technical Program Committee was very challenging. The organisers put together a program containing 92 high quality contributions.

Expanded versions of the best papers from the conference will be published as a Special Issue of the international journal *Applied Intelligence*.

IFIP AI 2006 (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5)

August 20th-25th, Santiago, Chile. A co-located conference at the IFIP World Computer Congress WCC2006

IFIP AI 2006 at WCC 2006

112 papers were received. All papers were fully refereed by a panel of 65 reviewers. A web based system for paper submission and reviewing written by the TC chair (in a private capacity) was been made available for the TC to use for this conference and has proved very successful.

Following the reviewing process it was decided that two streams of papers would be presented at the conference: the main technical stream (IFIP AI 2006) and the Symposium on Professional Practice in AI.

These two events combined are likely to provide one of the largest TC contributions to delegate numbers at the World Congress.

5. Forthcoming Events

IFIP International Conference on Intelligent Information Processing - ICIIP2006 (sponsored by TC12)

September 20-23 2006, Adelaide, Australia

<http://www.intsci.ac.cn/iip/iip2006/>

Second IFIP WG2.12 & WG12.4 International Workshop on Web Semantics (sponsored by WG12.4) To be held in Montpellier, France, October 31st-November 4th 2006

Progress Report on 2nd IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS '06)

PC-Chairs: Katia Sycara, Elizabeth Chang

Workshop Vice-Chairs: Ernesto Damiani, Mustafa Jarrar

IFIP WG 2.12/2.14 Chair: Tharam S. Dillon

Special Track Chairs: Elizabeth Chang, Ernesto Damiani, Mustafa Jarrar

Publicity Chair: Rajugan Rajagopalapillai

Program Committee Members: All IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.4 Members

<http://www.cs.rmit.edu.au/fedconf/index.html?page=swws2006cfp>

The 2nd IFIP WG 2.12 / 12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS '06) is going to be held in Montpellier, France, as part of the OTM 2006 federated conferences. This is turning out to be one of the important annual events for the newly formed WG 2.12 / 12.4 in 2005. All preliminary arrangements have been made to (CFP, website, paper submission system, etc.) make SWWS a successful event in 2006. This year the workshop includes three special sessions namely;

- Semantic Web and Web Semantics
- Security, Trust and Reputation Systems
- Providing Semantics for the Web using Fuzzy Methods

With many subtopics related to these themes including special tracks on Fuzzy Sets, Security and Trust and Regulatory Ontologies.

Fourth IFIP Conference on "Artificial Intelligence Applications and Innovations" AIAI 2007 (sponsored by TC12 and WG12.5) Athens, Greece, June 2007.

[Details to be confirmed.]

6. TC12 Conferences

TC12 now has four regular series of conferences as well as other events.

The annual TC12/WG12.5 Applications and Innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AIAI) series, which started in Toulouse in 2004, reached its third conference this year. It is expected that the fourth in the series will be held in Athens, Greece in 2007.

The biennial TC12 and WG12.2 IFIP International Conference on Intelligent Information Processing (ICIIP) began at the World Congress in Beijing in 2000. It has now reached the fourth in the series with ICIIP-2006 in Adelaide, Australia in September 2006.

There is a regular TC12 technical conference (now named IFIP AI 20xx) at the biennial IFIP World Computer Congresses. Linked with this there is a Symposium on Professional Practice in AI, which will run for the second time at WCC 2006.

The WG 2.12/12.2 International Workshop in Semantic Web and Web Semantics (SWWS) also looks as if it will become a regular annual series.

7. AI Summer School

An offer has been received from the organisers of AIAI-2006 in Athens, who will also be organising AIAI-2007 in the same venue to follow the conference by a one or two week Artificial Intelligence summer school. This offer is being actively pursued.

8. TC12 Task Force on Worldwide AI

At the TC12 meeting on August 2nd 2005 there was a discussion on methods of facilitating the development of AI in countries that are currently relatively less successful in the field, whether by technology transfer from more successful countries or otherwise. It was decided to establish a TC12 Task Force on 'Worldwide AI' to discuss possibilities and make recommendations to the main TC12 committee. It was considered important for the Task Force to include members from both 'major' and 'minor' countries (measured by their current level of success in AI). It was also agreed to include representatives of those countries that would most benefit from this initiative, whether or not they were members of TC12 or their countries were national members of IFIP.

The initial membership of the Task Force has subsequently been expanded. It now comprises representatives of Italy, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, France, Slovakia, Germany, the United States, India and Denmark.

An initial outcome from this initiative is the doctoral thesis competition described in the next section.

9. Doctoral Thesis Competition

A new initiative launched by TC12 this year is the IFIP TC12 Award for the best doctoral thesis on an AI topic awarded by a University in a specified country in the period October 2004-September 2005.

This is aimed at countries that are currently 'minor' as far as their involvement in AI is concerned, but major countries may also enter. The soliciting and reviewing of entries is co-ordinated by the national representatives on TC12.

It is intended that this competition will start in a small number of countries on a pilot basis in 2006. At the time of writing it appears that it will go ahead in India and Serbia and possibly also in Slovenia, Denmark and Finland.

10. IFIP Strategy Meeting: December 2005

TC12 made three inputs to this meeting: one from TC12 as a whole, one from WG12.1 and one by myself on the role and status of technical committee chairs. Copies of these are appended to this report.

Technical Committee 12 Inputs to IFIP Strategy Meeting: December 2005

Paper 1

IFIP STRATEGY MEETING DECEMBER 2005

INPUT FROM TC12

Preamble

“IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organisation which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of Information Technology for the benefit of all people.” This is a fine mission statement. It is perfect.

Right now IFIP does quite a good job at running conferences primarily for the benefit of those countries that are (and can afford to be) members of IFIP. One could say that “IFIP is in a conference rut”. This is unfair but there is a grain of truth. For ideas of what IFIP could, or perhaps should, be doing we only need read the mission statement. In particular, we should ask ourselves whether running our conferences as we do genuinely “encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of Information Technology for the benefit of all people”.

IFIP's foundation is: (a) in its formation under the auspices of UNESCO, and (b) the member societies that make up IFIP. These on the one hand constrain, but on the other inspire, what we could be doing.

Question: How international is IFIP?

What we do is not “for the benefit of all people”. A reasonable defence here is “how could we possibly afford to work for the benefit of all people? We are doing a good job with the resources that we have for the countries that are members”. This is a fair point and it is good for WCC to be going to Santiago. I hope that we will not overlook Zambia, for example, as one IFIP member country in which IFIP could make a big difference. I note that WCC has not yet been held on the African continent.

Suggestion: IFIP opens its doors to all National IT Societies to the extent of welcoming non-voting members from them throughout the IFIP organisation. Only then will we be able to understand how IFIP can help those Societies to grow into prosperous organisations to the benefit of their country. Only then will we know how to help, and so too how IFIP itself can grow. But perhaps we could go further. What about countries that do not yet have a professional society? What about Kenya for example? Things are clearly moving there: <http://www.isk.ac.ke/it.shtml>.

How can IFIP help to shape the IT profession there? What about Indonesia? They have a Directorate of Information Technology: see <http://www.dgip.go.id/article/author/view/2>

IBM is there: <http://www.ibm.com/ibm/id/> but not IFIP.

Vision: IFIP as the international body for the IT profession.

This sounds reasonable enough but it immediately raises possibilities that go way beyond the existing conference circuit. Here are some possibilities:

- Professional Certification

Why not assemble the machinery to enable a professional in Indonesia, for example, to become an IFIP certified IT professional? This would be done in a way that respected the country of origin [a certificate that said “qualified IFIP IT professional Indonesia” and was of course written in Indonesian], and could then encourage the formation of an IT professional body in Indonesia who may subsequently choose to join IFIP.

- Course Accreditation

Following from the above, an efficient way for IFIP to provide professional certification is by accrediting courses so that graduates from them automatically achieve an IFIP certified status. The first step here is to approach governments of countries in which there are no established IT societies and to offer our assistance and international endorsement.

- Knowledge Distribution

Following from the above, international summer schools for both professionals and teachers is one way that IFIP could help novice countries to establish the skill base to mount appropriately professional courseware. A problem here is how to pay for the summer schools - see below “Vision: IFIP as an international body of IT professional wisdom.”

- Professional Certification - Part 2.

IT is becoming increasingly global. Why not introduce IFIP membership and fellowship as an internationally recognised professional certification? The idea is that a member of, say, the Norwegian Computer Society of four year’s standing, and with supporting professional experience, could apply to IFIP to become a member, for a fee of course. This would manifest itself in a certificate written in a sufficient number of languages to be readable in most countries on the planet. Rather like an international driving licence if you like. If we followed ideas such as those above, that would not be the end of the matter. Initiatives along those lines would generate further needs and so on.

Vision: IFIP as the international body of IT professional wisdom

IFIP’s main current strength is that within its TCs and WGs it comprises a group of IT researchers and professionals in quantity and quality that are second to none in the world. If we develop a strategy for the international dissemination of knowledge through summer schools, conferences with bilingual proceedings, and so on, then

surely we are in a strong position to approach UNESCO and ask for “big money” to support such a worthy cause. As a poor man’s version, we could approach individual IFIP member societies and ask them to “adopt a country”. A suggestion was made to the Australian computer society to act in this way with respect to Indonesia. They choose not to hear the suggestion, but if it had come from IFIP and not from an individual the outcome may have been different.

Ways of restructuring IFIP?

This is a good question to ask. But it is probably better to leave things as they are until we know where we are going (see discussion above). We should then consider whether the structure of IFIP is appropriate to its aims, plans and goals. IFIP will in all probability need restructuring, but let us do it for a purpose and not for the sake of doing it.

Max Bramer

On behalf of Technical Committee 12 (Artificial Intelligence)

Paper 2

IFIP STRATEGY MEETING DECEMBER 2005

INPUT FROM IFIP WORKING GROUP 12.1

I suggest the following items:

- Establishing IFIP Prize for recognizing successful IT innovations, projects or research that has lead to important contributions to the international community.

- Establishing activities related to open source development and application especially in developing countries and in public sector; suggesting a role in open source development community.

- Establishing a forum for internationalization and localisation in collaboration with existing bodies to support IT development that appreciates local languages and cultures beyond the commercial interests.

- Widening the scope of active people in IFIP activities through the use of web-based shared collaboration environments.

- Using document content analysis techniques in helping to organize IFIP events, especially the World Computer Congress (this could be WG 12.1's specific contribution).

For additional funding, I would suggest that IFIP could raise its profile among governments and international funding agencies related to its traditional mission areas and some possibilities such as listed above.

Timo Honkela

Chair IFIP WG12.1 (Knowledge Representation and Reasoning)

ROLE AND STATUS OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

As a relative newcomer I am surprised and disappointed by the low status that seems to be given to Technical Committee chairs in the IFIP structure. Each TC chair has been elected by an international committee of experts in his/her field. He or she oversees and is responsible for the actions of a set of working groups, again with an international membership of subject experts. Together the TCs and their working groups are the main centres of activity in the Federation and the source of much of its external visibility, as a glance at the Calendar of Events on the website will confirm. TCs are major income generators and individual TC chairs take an important part in IFIP committees. However as a group the TC chairs are poorly treated by the current arrangements. The following is based on the text of the statutes on the IFIP website.

Council. Statute 4.2.1 states *“The Council shall be composed of the Executive Board and Trustees ...”*. TC Chairs seem to have no formal status or voting rights but are expected to attend Council meetings and present reports. They form a high proportion of all those that attend Council (as we saw in Korea) but are merely ‘in attendance’.

General Assembly. Statute 4.1.1 states *“The General Assembly shall be composed of one representative from each Full Member, Associate Member and Affiliate Member, of Individual Members and Honorary Members. In addition all Technical Committee and permanent Specialist Group Chairmen will serve as Ex-officio members for the duration of their terms of office.”* Ex officio members have almost (but not quite) full voting rights but may not nominate proxies. Much more importantly ex officio members are not eligible to stand for election as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Trustee, all of whom are elected by the GA from its full and individual but not ex officio members. This in turn means that TC chairs cannot become members of the Executive Board.

Most of those eligible to stand for these posts, i.e. the national representatives, seem to take little or no part in IFIP affairs from one year to the next. (There are honourable exceptions of course.) The TC chairs are closely involved on a month-by-month and often day-by-day basis and carry significant responsibilities but are ineligible to stand for election.

TC Chairs who are also national representatives etc. are of course in a different position, but those of us who are not are clearly given second-class status by the current statutes. It is against the Federation’s best interests to make it impossible for some of its most active people to stand for election as Officers or Trustees or to have voting rights at Council.

I propose that the Statutes be revised to make TC Chairs full members of Council and to give them the status of Individual Members of the General Assembly.

Max Bramer
Chair, IFIP TC12