

Conference Proposal - IFIP Working Group 8.2 (Working Draft)

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

December 13-14, 2012

Theme: Shaping the Future of ICT Research: Methods and Approaches

Since the founding of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) in 1960 as a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing information processing throughout the world, the research and practice of information and communication technologies (ICT) has experienced seismic changes. Organizational computing architectures have shifted from mainframe computing to client-server to distributed to cloud computing, information technology has spawned new business models based on electronic commerce and service-oriented architecture, communities and nations are relying on ICT to leapfrog into the future, and as the recent events in the Middle-East demonstrate, online social media has provided a new voice to a worldwide movement toward democracy. Researchers are continuously challenged to find innovative approaches to perform relevant and rigorous ICT studies.

In the context of this changing world of ICT, what are the key research problems that we, as ICT researchers, should be studying, and how should we be studying such problems? This international conference issues a call to present research designs and programs that have the potential to shape the future of ICT research. We welcome research papers that explore new directions in the design, use, and impacts of ICT in our organizational and social lives, papers that explore new or integrated methods for studying issues relevant to ICT research, and papers that can provoke a healthy debate on the conduct of future ICT research. In particular, we welcome ICT research proposals that transcend boundaries between theories, methods, approaches, and disciplines.

This conference continues the tradition of spirited ICT research inquiry that characterized previous IFIP 8.2 conferences in Manchester (1984), Copenhagen (1990), Philadelphia (1997), and Manchester (2004). Thought leaders in the ICT community are encouraged to participate and help in forming a vision and agenda for the future of relevant and rigorous ICT research methods and approaches for the next decade. Our goal is to broaden this discussion beyond the Information Systems community to include researchers from the many ICT-related disciplines.

Examples of suggested research questions for discussion include, but are not limited to:

- How can we design better ICT artifacts for the future? What is the role of design science in ICT research?
- How will we use or appropriate ICT in the future in our personal, social, or organizational lives? How will ICT impact our personal, social, or professional lives in the future?
- How should IS researchers study non-organizational uses of ICT? How should we study phenomena which stretch traditional IS boundaries, such as Wikipedia, FLOSS?
- How can we design mixed-method research projects that adequately address the issues of concerns for future ICT research? How do we best integrate positivist, interpretative, and design research methods?

- How can we build better theories of ICT design, use, or effects, and how do we judge the utility of such theories?
- What goals or metrics can we employ to judge ICT success in the future?
- How can ICT inform or influence social or national debates toward anti-corruption or democracy? What social and political constraints restrict the potential benefits of ICT, and how can we overcome such constraints?
- How can ICT inform or influence issues of sustainability for organizations and society? What is the future of GreenIT and Energy Informatics initiatives?
- What are prospective new directions for future ICT research and/or practice?
- How does ICT research accommodate the shift to 'digital native' consumers?
- Exemplar research projects that demonstrate promising new approaches for ICT research.

Important Dates

Deadline for Paper Submission:	1 July 2012
Notification of Acceptance/Rejection Decisions:	1 September 2012
Final Papers and Proceedings Materials:	1 October 2012
Date of conference:	13-14 December, 2012

Tampa IFIP WG 8.2 Conference Committees

General Chair:	Alan Hevner and Michael Myers
Program Chairs:	Anol Bhattacharjee and Brian Fitzgerald
Organizing Chairs:	Rosann Webb Collins and Joni Jones

Conference Location and Logistics

The plan is to host the conference on the University of South Florida campus which has easy access to a number of quality hotels at a range of room rates. Meeting rooms and reception/eating areas are available in several locations on campus at minimal rates. The organizing chairs are developing several proposals. The goal is to confirm conference facilities by 1 December 2011.

An off-site conference activity is planned for the evening of Thursday, 13 December 2012. Our goal is to make this activity more informal to allow the participants to mingle and share ideas in an interesting location. For example, a possible location is the Lowry Park Zoo which has one of the few manatee exhibits in the world.

A conference budget is being developed for three scenarios:

- 40 to 60 attendees
- 60 to 80 attendees
- 80 to 100 attendees

We hope to keep the registration fee in a reasonable range of \$500 to \$600. The proposed budgets are being developed. Due to the economic environment, we hope to minimize the need for supporting funds from industry and university sponsors.