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International Federation for Information Processing  
**Working Group 8.2**  
Information Systems and Organizations

## Welcome from the IFIP WG 8.2. Chair Nancy Russo

I attended my first IFIP Working Group 8.2 conference in 1990 in Copenhagen, and have rarely missed a gathering since! I found that first meeting exciting, and a little bit scary (Lynda Davies and Heinz Klein were particularly memorable for their strongly worded opinions!), but I felt socially and intellectually at home. I've enjoyed these past twenty years in the Working Group, and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to interact with some of the best in our field through the group. Two experiences in particular have helped me to gain a better understanding of the position that Working Group 8.2 holds in the broader Information Systems community: attending meetings of the larger body to which we belong, IFIP Technical Committee 8, and creating an overview of the research published in our working conference Proceedings since 1990. IFIP Technical Committee 8 (Information Systems), one of thirteen TCs, was founded in 1976. Technical Committees are made up of not only the more academically-focused Working Groups, but also National Representatives of IFIP-member countries.



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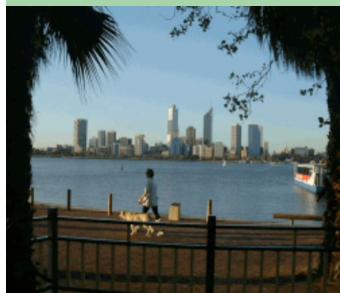
## IFIP Working Group 8.2 + 8.6 Conference 2010 – Perth, Australia

The 2010 IFIP 8.2 and 8.6 Joint International Working Conference on "Human Benefit through the Diffusion of IS Design Science Research" was held in Perth, Western Australia 30 March-1 April 2010. More than 40 research papers were submitted and the final program included 20 papers (with authors from 11 countries), 3 three panels, and the 2 working group business meetings, all in a single track. The conference was held on the main campus of Curtin University of Technology and hosted by the Curtin University School of Information Systems. The social program began with pre-conference drinks at sunset at "The Lucky Shag", on a dock over the broad and beautiful Swan River. Following a wine tasting cruise from the Perth city centre to the Swan Valley wine region, just northeast of Perth, the conference dinner was held at Waters Edge Winery in the Swan Valley.

A few things were different about this conference. First, the conference was a 'green' conference in that all participants were provided with Transperth SmartRider cards for travel on public transportation between the city hotels and the conference venues, conference bags were not provided (since they are often just thrown away), and proceedings were available either electronically on a thumb drive or on paper in a book at the discretion of the conference attendee.

The conference also held special, hour-long, single-paper sessions for the three papers nominated for best paper – "Incommensurability and Multi-paradigm Grounding in Design Science Research: Implications for Creating Knowledge" by Dirk Hovorka, "The Design and Engineering of Mobile Data Services: Developing an Ontology based on Business Model Thinking" by Mutaz Al-

(Continued on page 2)



*Perth Landscape*

## IFIP WG 8.2 Organizations and Society in Information Systems (OASIS) 2010 Pre-ICIS Workshop

ICIS Conference Hotel- Hyatt Regency St. Louis  
Saint Louis, Missouri  
United States  
9 AM - 4 PM Sunday 12, December 2010

The IFIP Working Group 8.2 is preparing for another exciting Organizations and Society in Information Systems (OASIS) pre-ICIS research workshop. We invite all IFIP 8.2 members and friends to join us in sharing their research in the area of organizations, information systems, and society. In the spirit of IFIP WG 8.2, the workshop is designed to provide a unique and collegial atmosphere that ensures constructive, helpful and high-quality feedback. This is a great opportunity for you to share your research, meet IFIP WG 8.2 members and learn about and their research in a relaxed and supportive setting.

For more information about the Working Group, see <http://ifipwg82.org/>. To present your work please submit a 500-word abstract of your work by October 1 2010. Details of submission guidelines can be found on the IFIP WG 8.2 website <http://ifipwg82.org/>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the workshop chairs Hala Annabi at [annabi@ohio.edu](mailto:annabi@ohio.edu) or Sean McGann at [mcgann@ohio.edu](mailto:mcgann@ohio.edu).



St. Louis, Missouri

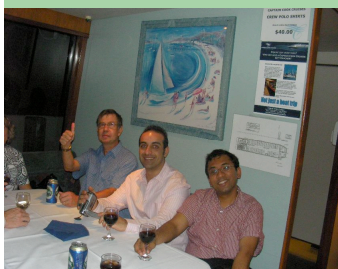
## IFIP WG 8.2 Conference Perth (continued)

Debei and Guy Fitzgerald, and "The Role of Social Networks in Early Adoption of Mobile Devices" by Heidi Tscherning and Lars Mathiassen. (See photo on right of best paper nominees). Each of the three sessions included a formal discussant and plenty of time for discussion. On the final day, conference participants voted on the best paper, with the paper by Tscherning and Mathiassen being selected. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all of the participants and organisers!

Extra copies of the IFIP 8.2/8.6 Perth 2010 proceedings, either in book or in thumb drive format, are available for sale for AUD \$100 (about USD\$90 or about 70 Euro right now) from the conference organisers. This is below our cost. Please contact John Venable at [j.venable@curtin.edu.au](mailto:j.venable@curtin.edu.au).



Best Paper Nominees: Pictured L to R: Dirk Hovorka, Heidi Tscherning and Mutaz Al-Debei

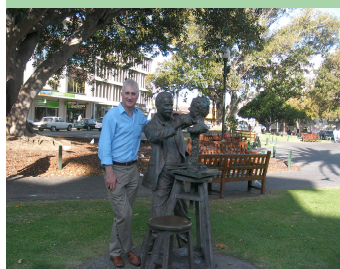


Delegates enjoying the wine tasting cruise at IFIP 8.2/8.6, Perth

## Chair's message (continued from page 1)



*Chatting in the sunshine at IFIP 8.2/8.6, Perth*



*IFIP WG 8.2 Vice-Chair, Brian Fitzgerald enjoying an evening in Freemantle, Perth*

These National Representatives are typically selected by the primary IS/IT-related professional society of the country. (The US has two representatives, one from ACM and one from IEEE.) All members, however, have a shared interest in improving the field and supporting research. At these TC8 meetings it became clear that WG 8.2 is viewed as the model to follow. We have the largest membership, well-established processes for electing officers, regularly-scheduled events, and a rich website. Isabel Ramos has more to say about TC8 in her article later in this newsletter. For the joint IFIP 8.2/8.6 working conference in Perth I put together, along with immediate past chair Michael Myers, a summary and discussion of the research conducted by WG 8.2 over the past twenty years. (A paper examining the research done by our co-sponsor WG 8.6 motivated us to do a similar analysis for WG 8.2.). For those of you who were not able to join us in picturesque Perth, the slides are posted on the website ([ifipwg82.org](http://ifipwg82.org)). Please share your comments. There certainly could be things we've missed, or mis-interpreted! To summarize the highlights, between 1990 and 2009, WG 8.2 held 19 working conferences, four in conjunction with other Working Groups (8.1, 8.6, 9.4 and 9.5). Nine of those were in North America (we finally made it to Canada in 2008) and the rest in Europe. Nearly 450 presentations were made. Our most prolific authors in the past twenty years have been Richard Baskerville (15), Steve Sawyer, (12), Eileen Trauth (12), and Duane Truex (12). Whereas we all have our 'favorite' 8.2 papers – the ones that impacted our own work or challenged us to take a new perspective – the papers that have been cited the most (as recorded by Google's citation analysis engine) are Geoff Walsham's 1997 paper on Actor-Network Theory and IS Research and the 2002 paper by Bonnie Kaplan, Lynette Kvasny, Steve Sawyer, and Eileen Trauth on Challenging Conventional Discourse about Domain and Theory in IS Research. Examining the themes of our working conferences, it is clear that we have a particular interest in research methods and approaches, and a special place in our hearts for information systems development, as well as a willingness to take on a variety of new technologies and issues-of-the-day such as ubiquitous computing and the service economy. One other enduring theme for the Working Group: our love-hate relationship with "the book". The book is our hard-cover Proceedings, bright orange as of late. Expensive, time-consuming, limiting ... but also held in very high esteem by a large number of our members. Kevin Crowston wrote a position paper, discussed in Perth and posted on our website for your comments. The discussion continues ...

Michael and I would like to expand this analysis of the research of the Working Group to cover its entire history. To do that we need to find the Proceedings from the first years of WG 8.2. According to the information I could find, there were seven working conferences prior to 1990. These were in: Bonn (1979), Minneapolis (1983), Manchester (1984), Aarhus (1985), Noordwijkerhout (1986), Atlanta (1987), and Ithaca (1989). We do have access to the 1984 Proceedings, but if you have any of the others and would be willing to share, please contact me! With this rebirth of the newsletter we hope to connect with our members and friends, and we encourage you to engage with the group – in person and electronically. Share your memories and your stories (and your photos!) with us. Post them directly, or contact myself or Brian Fitzgerald to get them in the next newsletter. This group has such a rich history to share – let's capture it before all those who know it are off enjoying their retirement! In closing, some questions for us to consider: Where do we go from here? How do we make sure we continue to have an impact on research and practice? Do we need to build our "brand"? Do we get enough visibility from IFIP ... or should we become a special interest group in AIS instead? How can we get more participation from researchers in Africa, Asia, and Central/South America? And two fairly urgent questions:

Who will organize the OASIS workshop in Shanghai in 2011?

When and where will we have our next working conferences in 2012 and beyond?

Please contact me ([nrusso@niu.edu](mailto:nrusso@niu.edu)) if you have any interest or questions about what would be involved in either of these events.

## IFIP WG 8.2 Conference 2011 - Turku, Finland

*Researching the future* (<http://www.wg82.abo.fi/>) is the theme of next year's WG 8.2 working conference in Turku, Finland. Held in conjunction (June 6-8) with ECIS 2011, we anticipate a well-attended conference, addressing IS challenges and opportunities of the future. The nature of this theme should encourage both authors and attendees of this conference to experiment and assess the value of novel approaches to researching and thinking about the futures of ICT-based research.

As researchers within a discipline focused on the design, adoption, utilization and effects of ICT, we are well-positioned to contribute to the future shaping of ICT-based practices. It is now

time to explore, develop and substantiate the new directions through which our field can shape and influence the future of ICT-based practices. If anticipating and influencing the future is something qualitatively different than immediate research relevance, we must then ask whether and how our approaches to inquiry can affect our ability to do so. Such reflection would be valuable in shaping a discipline that is progressive and confident about its role in dealing with questions about the future. We are looking forward to having the upcoming conference as a venue for such reflection.

*Mike Chiasson*  
*Ola Henfridsson*  
Program Chairs



*Ola Henfridsson*



*Mike Chiasson*



*Kevin Crowston*

## The IFIP Working Group 8.2 Website

The IFIP Working Group 8.2 Website (<http://ifipwg82.org/>) has migrated to Drupal (<http://drupal.org/>), a popular open source content management system that facilitates publishing diverse kinds of information. Using Drupal allows the website to support a much richer range of interactions, but we need your help to achieve its potential. The current website includes:

1. Pages of information about the working group, such as the mission descriptions of the mailing list, award winners and so on.
2. Articles with news about the group, such as new calls for papers and other announcements.
3. Events such as working conferences and workshops that should appear in the calendar. Events can include minutes, e.g., of the business meeting.
4. A bibliography of references to journal and conference articles, which can include file attachments. Proceedings of the most recent conferences have been posted and contributions of earlier

conferences would be welcomed.  
5. Comments on the above.

All of these documents are referenced on the home page for the working group, which includes a menu of pages, short summaries of recent articles, a list of upcoming events, recently posted publications and recent comments. A tag cloud provides another means of access to the information. You can also subscribe to a feed to be informed when new materials are posted.

A key feature of the new site is that all friends and members have accounts. If you don't know your password, you can request that it be emailed; if your email address is not correct in the database, please contact me to request an update. Once you're logged in you can update your information (the member and friends lists are searchable) and most importantly, post your own documents.

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## The IFIP Working Group 8.2 Website (continued)

A number of members have posted their recent publications as one way of publicizing their work to the community. Attendees at recent conferences and workshop have posted their notes on the sessions, providing insight into the proceedings, particularly for those who weren't able to attend. More contributions are certainly welcomed! Our current site uses only a small fraction of what Drupal

provides, so please let us know of any ideas for further applications.

Kevin Crowston  
Secretary IFIP WG8.2  
Syracuse University, US  
<http://crowston.syr.edu/>

## Outstanding Service Award for IFIP 8.2's Isabel Ramos

I am Secretary of the IFIP TC8 (Information Systems) since January 2006 and also the Portuguese representative since September 2009. I met Dewald Roode, then the TC8 Chair, in 2003 at the WG8.2+WG9.4 working conference "IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization", in Athens, Greece. That meeting opened doors to become more engaged in the activities of TC8 and WG 8.2.

I had been in previous events of the WG 8.2 and in Athens I offered to organize the OASIS workshop in 2004. In 2004, I became member of WG 8.2. Meanwhile, my ideas about information systems, both as a scientific field and as a profession, were similar to those of Dewald Roode and he invited me to become the TC8 secretary. It was a great learning experience to work with him and a wonderful opportunity to meet many of the renowned academics in the field.

In 2007, the University of Minho applied to organize the 2009 working conference at Guimarães (Portugal) and I became the organizing Chair. Despite the fact that we were already deep in the financial crisis, that still has impact in the available funds to travel to conferences, the "The role of IS in leveraging the intelligence and creativity of SME's -



CreativeSME-" gathered 58 participants from 14 countries and 35 universities.

By the end of 2009, I was honored by the IFIP Outstanding Service Award. This award inspires me to continue giving my very best in all the IFIP activities I am involved with. I am looking forward to collaborating with the many brilliant colleagues that I met since I joined TC8 and WG 8.2. I surely encourage young researchers to get actively involved in the activities of TC8 and its working groups (please see <http://ifiptc8.dsi.uminho.pt/>) as a way to learn from very experienced academics in the information systems field and to build a strong worldwide professional network.

