IFIP
Working Group 8.2

OASIS

Organizations and Society in Information Systems

Special points of interest:

- Aalborg Conference Update

- Important Deadlines for Boise 2001

- Welcome from the New WG 8.2 Chair

- Charlotte Workshop Stories and Photos

Welcome from the Incoming Chair

This is my first article for Oasis as chair of IFIP 8.2. But this also marks another change in my life: I am leaving Southampton University to take up a post at ESSEC Business School near Paris, France in the autumn. I am excited about my new challenge and working closely with an excellent group of researchers there. I took my sabbatical at ESSEC in 1998-9 and it was a superb year for me. Many people might think I am going to France just for the climate, food, wine, scenery, etc. Nonsense! Wipe that thought from your minds immediately! The only climate I am going for is the intellectual one.

One tends to look back at these times. I was the first professor of information systems at Southampton. In English universities we have a tradition whereby new professors introduce themselves to the university and town. I entitled my inaugural lecture 'What is IS?' (playing on 'What is IT?', which was a common theme at the time). I thought many people would be interested in this new discipline and the audience would be large. Surely the world would be excited about a new discipline that would help society and organisations deal with IT in their midst in a way that was humane and helped organisations and society as a whole. Well the audience wasn't that large as it had been raining, but I enjoyed the occasion and I am sure that the man who came in late carrying three plastic bags (the contents of which will always remain a mystery) was enthralled by what I had to say.

David Avison, Chair IFIP WG 8.2

Charlotte Workshop a Success

A research workshop entitled, *IS Research at the Beginning of the Millennium: Searching for Artifacts, Metaphors, and Methodologies*, brought together over 45 information systems researchers including IFIP WG8.2 members, friends and many other participants from around the world who were interested in original, cutting edge IS research on Sunday, December 12, 1999 in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.

The workshop was designed for IS researchers to present their latest research ideas before

Welcome

I have enjoyed my nine years at Southampton and knowing many people there, two of whom will be well known to you – Philip Powell, now Professor of Information Systems at Bath University, and Joe Nandhakumar, who is to take up a senior post also at Bath. In truth, the IS academic staff at Southampton has been fairly small. The need for variety in teaching skills, in particular in departments of management, leads to diverse interests. So the Southampton experience is not unusual. But it is also not universal. One enlightened dean to my knowledge stated publicly that IS is at the centre of the whole school.

The new Officers of IFIP WG 8.2 appear to be happy as they begin their 3-year terms. From left to right: Secretary Michael Myers (NZ), Chair Davis Avison (GB), and Vice-Chair Julie Kendall (US).

This is where IFIP8.2 comes in. It is a centre of gravity for excellence in this area. People in small as well as large IS groups can use IFIP8.2 as an important 'visible' college with a role to play as a venue for circulating knowledge and raising issues and also as a venue for nurturing, coaching and mentoring IS colleagues. I see it important that inexperienced people feel as welcome to the group as more experienced people.

> "The fact I went to the Manchester conference was serendipitous."

What has always surprised me about this group (and I joined at the conference in Manchester in 1984) is the combination of high-level intellectual debate and the feeling of being 'at home' in a very friendly atmosphere with others with similar interests. At that working conference in Manchester I was also amazed at the breadth of discussion as well as the depth. I had not realised that our domain should reflect on work that embodies political, ethical and philosophical thinking to name but three. But I had also not realised that those presenting papers in these areas during the morning would be willing to discuss their work with a naive researcher in the afternoon. Even more surprising, was their willingness to make total fools of themselves in the evening 'singing' songs or presenting their skits.

The fact I went to the Manchester conference was serendipitous. A friend mentioned to me that this group was interesting and that the weather in Manchester was always nice. One correct out of two wasn't bad for him. Previous to that I had gone to more technical conferences. I can honestly say the Manchester conference changed my working life. I have been hooked on IFIP8.2 ever since.

If I can continue the effective contribution of Enid Mumford at that meeting in Manchester and that of my more recent predecessors as IFIP8.2 chair, Kenneth Kendall, Kalle Lyytinen and Richard Baskerville, and all those others as well who have contributed in so many ways to make this group so successful, I will indeed be happy over the next three years. A lot depends on you. You know how good the atmosphere at IFIP8.2 events is, why not persuade a friend to come?

I now issue this challenge. Every member needs to bring at least one newcomer to Aalborg, Brisbane and Boise. He or she may be as grateful to you as I have been to my friend. It will be an enjoyable experience for you and your friend, and also make you rich. One out of two is not bad for me as well.

IS2000 Conference Update— Aalborg, Denmark

IS2000: The IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference on The Social and Organizational Perspective on Research and Practice in Information Technology, 10-12 June, 2000, Aalborg, Denmark. Web address: http://www.cs.auc.dk/~is2000/

More than 80 participants pre-registered for IS2000, and each participant was given advance on-line access to all of the papers accepted to the conference. The proceedings is in print and available to individuals and libraries. It appears the Working Group is set for an important event to mark the beginning of the new century of an information age. The conference purpose is to denote the transition from past to current to future investigations of the relationships and interactions among four major components: information systems (IS), information technology (IT), organizations and society. These investigations share a primary focus on the inter-relationships, not on the components themselves. The various contributions to the conference deal with the history of IS theory and technology, with the directions faced by those sharing the concerns of the field in its future research, and with attempts to draw these two views together. Five discourses collectively seek to answer the key question: "What is the status of IS, as related to organizations and society, now that we stand at the juncture of the new century?" The conference discourses deal with the fundamental concepts, the classical and novel challenges, the conceptualization processes, automation, and new
technology.

The conference papers unfold a story about IT; IT that is even more critical in social interaction in organizations, that human language barriers form fundamental roadblocks to IT implementation, that newer forms of IS integrate horizontally rather than vertically, and that the mix of skills and knowledge is changing. The papers also find that we lack integrated approaches to risk management, that new social costs are being unleashed on people by the wiring of society, and we are rushing headlong into globalized systems with our eyes closed.

It appears that the old end user tension between central control and innovation has reappeared in the intranet world, IT has been converted to a cultural commodity, and the video screen is becoming the central means for discovering our relevance to our universe. The papers suggest the surprising ways that machines have acquired human status, not through robotics, but rather through social construction, and that new

www.cs.auc.dk/~is2000/

norms are appearing which redefine the relationships and exchanges between human beings and computers. For example, gender can define IS success and web design can define social relationships. Not surprisingly, systems must now be developed interpretively, rather than through rational-technical IS design principles used in the last century.

The plan for the conference was partially rooted in the early WG 8.2 traditions, in which working conferences were substantially composed of invited papers. For IS2000, roughly half of the paper presentations were planned to be invited, and the remaining half were planned to be double-blind refereed in response to a "Call For Papers." Invited papers were single-blind reviewed in order to provide the authors with pre-publication feedback and comments, along with the opportunity to revise their papers prior to its final presentation at IS2000. Approximately one-third of the submitted papers were accepted, and the blind-review scoring process provided substantial indications that the invited and submitted papers achieved equally high quality in scholarly interest and content. There were four panel discussions that won acceptance in the blind-review process, and are to appear during the conference.

One purpose of IFIP is to disseminate knowledge about information processing. It is important to hold the WG 8.2 Working Conference Proceedings in as many university libraries as possible. If you are University Faculty, please consider completing the library acquisition request found in this copy of Oasis, and sending this forward to your librarian. You can also order a personal copy of the proceedings from the publisher on line: http://www.wkap.nl/book.htm/0-7923-7836-9.

Richard Baskerville, Program Co-Chair and Past-Chair IFIP WG 8.2

Photo Credits: All photographs in the publication were taken by Ken Kendall, Past Chair WG 8.2

Minutes of the Business Meeting Charlotte, NC, USA

December 12, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 pm. Richard Baskerville (US) opened the meeting and briefly explained the purpose of IFIP WG 8.2.

1. Workshop and Working Conference proposals

Eleanor Wynn (US) presented a proposal for a working conference on "Organizational Discourse about IT" to be held in Barcelona, Spain, in conjunction with ICIS in December 2002. Josep Valor spoke about the local arrangements in Barcelona.

Moved by Duane Truex (US), Seconded by Marius Janson (US) and carried that the working conference proposal be approved.

Steve Sawyer (US) asked whether there might be an IFIP WG 8.2 Oasis workshop organised in association with ICIS 2001 in New Orleans.

2. Appointment of Officers

Richard Baskerville announced the results of the recent election of IFIP WG 8.2 officers. David Avison (UK) was elected Chair, Julie Kendall (US) Vice-Chair, and Michael Myers (NZ) Secretary. At this point Richard Baskerville asked David Avison to assume the chair.

3. Awards Report

Ken Kendall (US), Chair of the ad hoc Awards Committee appointed by the Chair, announced that Richard J Welke (US) had received the IFIP Outstanding Service Award.

4. Past Workshops and Working Conferences

The most recent IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference was held in St Louis from August 20-22, 1999. David Avison thanked Marius Janson for organising a successful conference.

The recent IFIP WG 8.2 Workshop entitled "IS Research at the Beginning of the New Millennium: Searching for Artifacts, Metaphors, and Methodologies" was held at Charlotte, NC, on December 12, 1999. David Avison thanked Julie Kendall for organising it.

Natalia Levina (US) and Nancy Russo (US) were presenters at the 8.2 Workshop in Charlotte. Nancy is Program Co-Chair for the 2001 Conference in Boise.

2001 Conference July 27-29, Boise, Idaho

Realigning Research and Practice in IS Development: The Social and Organisational Perspective

Initial submissions: November 1 2000
Notification of Acceptance: February 1 2001
Final version due: March 1 2001

www.ifipwg82.org

Or contact the Programme Chairs:

Brian Fitzgerald
Executive Systems Research Centre
University College Cork
Cork, Ireland
Email: bf@ucc.ie

Nancy L. Russo
OMIS Department
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb IL 60115 USA
Email: nrusso@niu.edu

Minutes (continued from previous page)

5. Forthcoming Workshops and Conferences

The next IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference is to be held in Aalborg, Denmark, in June 2000. Richard Baskerville gave a brief report on progress. There has been a date change due to many hotels being unavailable. The conference will now be held from June 10-12, 2000, with the welcome reception held on June 9. It is most likely that the conference will finish at lunchtime on 12th June.

Keng Siau (US) mentioned the forthcoming IFIP 8.1 Computer –Aided Information Systems Engineering (CAiSE) workshop to be held from June 5-6 2000 in Stockholm, which IFIP 8.2 members may wish to attend.

An IFIP WG 8.2 Workshop is to be held in Brisbane in conjunction with ICIS 2000. Cathy Urquhart (AU) is one of the organisers. Michael Myers mentioned that the Australasian Conference on Information Systems (AU) will be held from December 7-8 2000 (Thursday/Friday) in Brisbane. The IFIP WG 8.2 workshop will then be held on December 8 or 9 (Saturday or Sunday) before ICIS begins on the Sunday evening.

Nancy Russo (US) spoke about the forthcoming IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference entitled "Realigning Research and Practice in Information Systems Development: The Social and Organisational Perspective." The conference is to be held in Boise, Idaho, from July 27-29, 2001.

David Avison mentioned the IFIP World Computer Congress to be held in Beijing from August 21-25 2000.

Bengt Lundberg (SE) mentioned the IFIP WG 8.3 conference on the subject of "DSS through knowledge management" which is to be held in Stockholm in June 2000.

Chris Sauer (GB) mentioned that he along with Bonnie Kaplan (US) are working on a proposal to hold a working conference in conjunction with ICIS 2003 in Jerusalem.

Outgoing Chair, Richard Baskerville (US) shows off his award for serving as IFIP WG 8.2 Chair for the past three years. It is not known whether Richard is driving around Atlanta with this specialized high-tech license plate
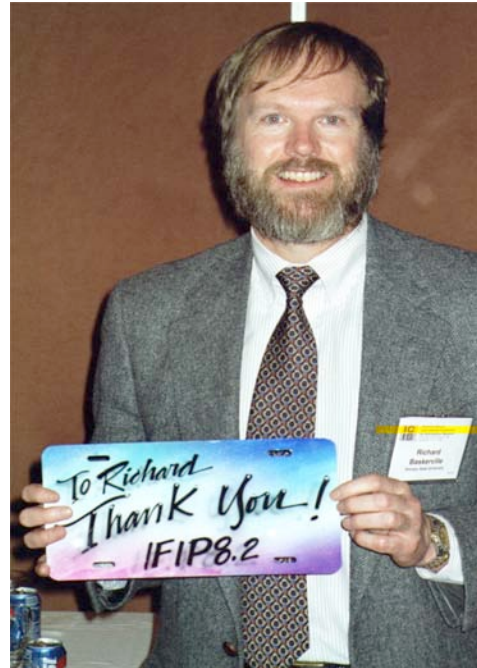
6. New members

It was moved, seconded and approved that Jan Pries-Heje be admitted as a member of IFIP WG 8.2 subject to a check on his attendance at the business meetings by the Secretary.

7. Other new business

David Avison thanked Kevin Crowston (US) for his work on the web page for IFIP WG 8.2. He also thanked Richard Baskerville for his work as Chair over the past three years.

Moved by Heinz Klein, Seconded by Nancy Russo and approved that the meeting be closed.

Michael Myers, WG 8.2 Secretary

Do you want to contribute an essay or editorial? Do you have a promotion or other news to share?
Please contact Julie Kendall, OASIS Editor at julie@thekendalls.org

Charlotte Research Workshop (continued from page 1)

submitting them to a journal for review; to receive feedback from peers on their current work; and to introduce nonmembers, especially Ph.D. students, to the research topics and methodologies favored by IFIP WG 8.2 members.

There were eight presenters from three different countries. Each researcher had about 15 minutes to present their current work to the assembled group. Following that, the presenters entertained questions and comments from the audience regarding their presentations.

Participants at the Charlotte Workshop (left to right) are Tom McMaster (GB), Chris Sauer (GB), Jan Pries-Heje (DK) and Tor Larsen (NO). Tor , served as Program Co-Chair for the 1998 WG8.2-WG8.6 Working Conference in Helsinki, Finland.

Erik Stolterman (SE) and Nancy Russo (US) kicked off the event by discussing their innovative work on "IS Design Methodologies and the Networked Organization." Following that, Steve Sawyer (US) stimulated much discussion with his work on "Conceptualizing Teams in Software Development: Three Models and Implications for Process." Edgar Whitley (GB) challenged the audience to think in new ways with his paper on "Change? What Really Happens When New Information Systems are Introduced." Next, Natalia Levina (US) presented a fascinating case study entitled "Sources of Vendor Production Cost Advantages in IT Outsourcing: Lessons from a Case Study." To end the morning session, Duane P. Truex III (US) presented an absorbing case study asking "Do ERP Systems Facilitate or Confound Corporate Mergers?"

Following a break for lunch, Ken Peffers (US) demonstrated how theory and practice can advance together with his stimulating paper on "Extending CSF, as Critical Success Chains (CSC), to Incorporate the Relationships among IS Attributes, CSF Performance, and Firm Values." Finally, Marcus A. Rothenberger (US) helped wrap up the workshop with an insightful paper on his research examining "Characteristics of Systematic Software Reuse Strategies: The Linkage to Adoption Success."

Each author submitted an abstract of their work for publication via the Web prior to the conference so that participants were able to read a published abstract of each paper when they arrived. The event began with an informal coffee time and an introduction and welcome to IFIP Working Group 8.2, and ended with an afternoon coffee break where researchers were able to extend their earlier interactions in an informal setting. Over the years, most members and friends would agree that the time spent with colleagues during the casual interactions has strengthened their ability to research and write together.

The next IFIP Working Group 8.2. research workshop is scheduled in December, 2000 in Brisbane, Australia, immediately preceding the ICIS meeting to be held there December 10-13. Anyone interested in WG 8.2 is encouraged to attend.

Julie E. Kendall, Rutgers University, USA, Workshop Coordinator and WG 8.2 Vice Chair

Professors Lundberg (SE) and Iivari (FI) appear to be in a deep intellectual conversation. In the background are Marius Janson (US) and Heinz Klein (US).

Congratulations

David Avison, WG 8.2 Chair, will take up a post at ESSEC Business School near Paris, France this autumn.
Gordon Davis, Past TC 8 Chair, received an honorary doctorate from the Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden.
Michael Myers, WG 8.2 Secretary, has been named Professor of Information Systems in the University of Auckland Business School.

A Message to the Librarian

Aalborg Proceedings

Special Offer

The mission of IFIP includes dissemination of knowledge. As a working group, we would like to ensure that or books are easily available through the university library systems. Members and friends who are faculty members are asked to clip or copy the form below, fill in their names and institutes, and send it to their university librarian. Room is also provided on the form to conform to other procedures required, such as a statement of justification.

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E-mail: services@wkap.nl

Department of Computer Information Systems
Georgia State University
35 Broad Street / PO Box 4015
Atlanta, GA 30302-4015 USA

IFIP WORKING GROUP 8.2

Website: www.ifipwg82.org
Email: julie@thekendalls.org

Organizations and Society in Information Systems

OASIS

OASIS is edited by Julie E. Kendall
Rutgers University

IFIP WG 8.2 Officers

WG 8.2 Chair

Dr. David Avison
University of Southampton
School of Management
Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK
Phone +44 1703 592563
Fax +44 1703 593844
mail: dea@socsci.soton.ac.uk

WG 8.2 Vice Chair

Dr. Julie E. Kendall
Rutgers University
School of Business-Camden
Camden, NJ 08102 USA
Phone: +1 (856) 225 6585
Fax: +1 (856) 424 6157
Email: julie@thekendalls.org

WG 8.2 Secretary

Dr. Michael Myers
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92 019
1000 Auckland, New Zealand
Phone: +64-9 373-7599 ext.7
Fax: +64-9373-7430
Email: m.myers@auckland.ac.nz

Call for Papers — 2001 Conference in Boise

Working Group 8.2 Conference
27th to 29th July 2001
Boise, Idaho, USA

Realigning Research and Practice in IS Development: The Social and Organisational Perspective

Conference Objective and Scope: Information systems development (ISD) continues to be an issue of central significance and concern in the IS field. Despite the abundance of research, the area remains problematic, particularly in that the solutions most frequently proposed are technical ones which fail to fully address organisational and social concerns. Furthermore, the development environment is changing rapidly and fundamentally, yet academic treatment of ISD and ISD methods does not fully reflect this change. This working conference will focus on the broad area of information systems development and information systems development methods. In particular, papers, panels and tutorials are invited which discuss current and future perspectives of ISD and their potential organisational and social implications. Also, given that practice has often preceded theory in the IS arena, there is a need to expand our field of view to include 'tales from the trenches'. Thus, of particular interest are papers strongly related to practice, either written solely by practising IS developers, or in collaboration with academic researchers. See instructions for submission on page 4.

Venue: Boise is located in the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho, where the desert meets the Rocky Mountains. The location provides access to a diverse set of activities ranging from white-water rafting to wine-tasting.

General Chairs: Claudio Ciborra, University of Bologna, Italy and Sue Conger, Sewell Automotive Industries USA.
Programme Chairs: Nancy L. Russo, Northern Illinois University, USA and Brian Fitzgerald, University College Cork, Ireland
Organising Chairs: Wita Wojtkowski and Gregory Wojtkowski, both of Boise State University, USA