

SG16: Specialist Group on Entertainment Computing

Minutes of the specialist group meeting held on the 19th September 2005

Hotel new Hankyu, Sanda, Japan.

Author: Benjamin Salem, last edited 1st February 2006.

List of participants:

Present:

SG Members:

Ryohei Nakatsu (Prof., Kwansei Gakuin University, Chair)

Matthias Rauterberg (Prof., Eindhoven University of Technology, Vice-chair)

Benjamin Salem (Dr., Eindhoven University of Technology, Secretary)

National Representatives:

Canada Sidney Fels (Prof., University of British Columbia)

China Zhigeng Pan (Prof., Zhejiang University)

Finland Ville-Veikko Mattila (Dr., Nokia Research Centre)

Japan Takehiko Kamae (Dr., National Institute of Informatics)

Korea Hyun S. Yang (Prof., KAIST)

Netherlands Matthias Rauterberg (Prof., Eindhoven University of Technology)

Singapore Adrian David Cheok (Prof., National University of Singapore)

WG chairs:

WG16.2 chair: Hitoshi MATSUBARA

WG16.3 chair: Matthias RAUTERBERG

WG16.4 chair: Jos Uiterwijk (Dr., University of Maastricht) as proxy for Jaap VAN DEN HERIK (Prof., University of Maastricht)

WG16.5 chair: Andy SLOANE

Guests

Roy Ascott (Prof., University of Plymouth)

Naoko Tosa (Prof., Kyoto University)

Absent:

National Representatives:

Bulgaria Galia Angelova (Prof. Bulgaria Academy of Sciences)*

France Bruno Arnaldi (IRISA-INRIA)

Ireland Richard Reilly (Lecturer, University College of Dublin)

Italy Paolo Ciancarini (Prof., University of Bologna)

Norway Geir Egil Myhr (Dr., University of Troms)

Spain Pedro Gonzalez Calero (Prof., Complutense University of Madrid)*

Thailand Natanicha Chorphothong (Dr., Internet Association)

United Kingdom Marc Cavazza (Prof., University of Teesside)

USA-ACM Donald Marinelli (Prof., CMU)

WG Chairs

WG16.1 chair: Marc CAVAZZA (Prof., University of Teesside)

*= absence notified

1. Action Plan agreed upon

- WG1: report on activities
- ICEC 2006: The hosting and organisation of next year conference need to be agreed.
- SG16 journal: all member should submit by email : How many papers from ICEC could go into the journal? How many papers are you willing to submit to the proposed journal?
- SG16 Elections: Election procedures need to be defined and agreed upon.
- SG16 Regulations: All members need to familiarise themselves with IFIP bylaws.

2. Executive Summary

1- IFIP Matters:

- The Specialist Group 16 has been invited to submit proposal for upgrade into a Technical Committee (TC).
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2- SG Matters:

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: both previous holders were re-elected into their respective positions.
- There is hope to increase SG membership up to 25-30.
- Dr Ben Salem has been asked to act as a temporary secretary.
- The launch of a journal related to entertainment computing has been discussed, some actions are required.
- Springer is the official publisher for SG16

3- Working Groups Reports

- WG1: No report
- WG2: Most activities are related to Robocup, would like to investigate entertainment robots
- WG3: We are recruiting more members, we are expanding and increasing activities.
- WG4: A report was handed in. A meeting is scheduled during ICEC2005
- WG5: New group with around 9 active members. Hope to organise a workshop in Wolverhampton. Possible inclusion of members from Art and Design.
- New WG: Prof. Pan has proposed a new WG on edutainment.

3. Detailed minutes

Openings by R. Nakatsu:

Welcome

Asked all participants to introduce themselves

Items of the meeting:

1 – Report of IFIP general assembly

The meeting was held in Gaborone, Botswana. Last meeting was held in Korea in March. Unfortunately Prof. Nakatsu could not attend.

There is a new member of SG16 Pedro Gonzalez as a representative of Spain. There are now 16 members with 3 more to be nominated. (see document handed in). There is a hope to increase the membership of the SG to 25 to 30.

SG16 is supporting two events the ICEC2005 and the workshop on ubiquitous home to be held right after the ICEC conference.

The SG16 was a co-sponsor of ACE held in Valencia in Spain.

Working Groups:

We have 3 working groups, WG16.1 Digital Story telling, WG16.2 Entertainment Robot, and WG16.3 Theoretical foundation of entertainment computing.

There are also 2 working groups: WG16.4 Games and entertainment computing chaired by Jaap van den Herik, and WG16.5 Social and Ethical issues in entertainment computing, chaired by Andy Sloane. These groups have been accepted which means that the SG16 has now 5 working groups. I hope that today Prof. Pan (China) will propose another WG.

What I would like to add is that at the time of the general assembly, I was asked by the chair to submit the proposal of upgrading our SG into a TC on the next opportunity, i.e. next year. We shall return to this issue later during this meeting.

Any Questions:

2- Report of WG activities

1st WG1 (but there is no person representing this group so there is no report).

Issue raised by the Vice Chair: there seems to be some member who are not present are they absent excused or do we have no information as to why they are not here.

In the case of Galia Angelova, she is engaged in another conference that she is organising. Bruno Almandi did not present any excuses, Paolo Ciancarini has presented excuses as to his absence. Pedro Gonzalez Calero had some communication with me. However, Natanicha Chorpothong seems to be a dormant member from whom I have not received any news. As for Donald Marineli, I have received news of prior engagements that prevented him from attending.

There should be some procedure to suggest that dormant member be replaced by the societies they represent after some times.

As for Marc Cavazza, he didn't submit a paper at the conference and I have contacted him about the IFIP meeting. I will try to contact him again regarding attendance to IFIP meetings.

WG2

I was the general chair of the robocup 2005. Therefore the only activity of the WG is related to the robocup activity. Next year robocup will be held in Germany in Bremen. During the Football worldcup. So we have to widen our area of activities from the robocup into more entertainment robots.

Questions:

Rauterberg : Are you intending to document your activities and events.

Proceedings of conference related to Robocup will be published soon.

We shall arrange some workshop for next year on entertainment robotics.

Nakatsu: there is an understanding that this WG2 focus mainly on the RoboCup event.

WG3

We have recruited a couple of new members. We had several events mentioned in the report. It is also a similar situation by linking the WG interests with on-going events. This is a WG that is starting to get together and planning meeting. However for the US members of the WG travelling seems to be a problem. As they are reluctant to travel solely for the attendance to WG meetings.

Questions:

Nakatsu: How many members are they in this WG

Between 5 and 10. I have a website about this WG, so there is some online activity but to bring all the WG members together is difficult. The solution would be to link the meeting with a conference. It is difficult to get travel funding for just an IFIP WG meeting. So there is a need to combine such a meeting with a conference or other

event. To facilitate the justification of the travel. As an example is this meeting being held together with the ICEC conference.

Nakatsu: As I have already informed you I hope to have a discussion with the financial chair with Prof. Kawabata about this issue. I hope that we could reimburse part of your travel and accommodation fees. Such reimbursement is still pending.

WG4

There was a proposal in the report. We intended to have a meeting right here during the ICEC. I hope to be able to organise a meeting tomorrow and I will coordinate this with you. Already there is some attempt to have the next meeting in Turino, Italy in May 2006 during a chess championship and a game conference. In coordination with Paolo Ciancarini.

Questions:

Nakatsu: So when we started the activity of entertainment computing Prof. Ida was very active but unfortunately recently we haven't heard much from him is he still active .

From the floor: yes very active, but no time to come to the ICEC conference.

Kamae: in appendix 1 of the report: I don't understand the concept: commercial game.

All kind of games but in relation with games that are not analytical. It is not a clear separated category. One could look at it as an attempt to ensure that the scope of interests of this WG is wider than just analytical games. However the current proposal need some expansion. In the way that the term commercial games need addressing.

Fels: Develop a classification and theory of games. That would allow for some extension of the scope as there are some games that don't have the right category.

WG5

Not much to report as we are a fairly new WG. We have spent few months discussing the scope of this WG. We have established a mailing list and some online community we have around 9 active member. We had a meeting in York 14th April. Where we have tried to attract new members. There is quite some overlap over TC9 with similar but not exactly the same focus. There were 3 members from the TC in that session. The next step would be to organise an event I hope next year you get the WG members together, probably a workshop in Wolverhampton. To get a better coherence of the WG and also to know people. I am please about the name and the scope of this WG.

Remark:

Rauterberg, I am in contact with Geoffrey Goldstein. He is involved in the NL with the rating of video and games and I would like to know if he would be relevant and of interest to get into the committee. I mean in every country there is some sort of censor's board and I would like to know if this would be suitable in this WG.

Sloane: There is some overlap with other groups and we could organise a meeting of this WG during others conferences.

General remarks:

I would like to make some general remark to the WG activities. Springer is the official publisher of the SG16. That means there are not much cost due to publishing. As we get up to 50 free copies. And you get a volume in LNCS. This could lower the barrier to organise an event.

Sloane:

There is another scheme within IFIP to deal with Springer where it is relatively cheap and it works out approx EUR50 per volume but it is not part of LNCS. There are some confusion about the 2 different routes. Most other IFIP conferences are published out of the LNCS.

Rauterberg: IFIP want a consistent book series, and Springer wants some content for the LNCS. So there is some conflict of interest. AS IFIP is not so happy about the

LNCS as it is not a branded series but rather a Springer publication with the IFIP logo.

Pan: Asked for further details about the procedures, Rauterberg gave the details about how to get LNCS publication of proceedings.

Nakatsu : for WG5 the title is ethical issues, are you not planning to include people from art design area.

Sloane: yes we are open

Nakatsu: Hence me inviting 2 people from an art background, is to widen the ...

It could be a good idea to have a WG focusing on art.

Rauterberg: which WG is the design of game included in.

Nakatsu: to which WG should artist belong to. If they want to join my impression there is no adequate working group. One idea is to ask on of them Roy Ascott or Naoko to organise a new WG.

Naoko/Roy Ascott: Maybe if we joined on of the WG should make it more explicit and

Nakatsu: Anyway this is my request to both of you to think about it. If you agree please submit a proposal by email so we can discuss it further.

I think 5 WG is enough.

Sloane: TC 13 has only 3 WG it is not very large

Rauterberg: is WG turning into a TC if we have some promising future, then we have some chance of turning into a TC14.

I forgot to add one important topic, that is the election of a new chair. According to the bylaw the mandate of a chair lasts only 3yrs. This WG has lasted for more than 3yrs.

So we need to elect a new chair and vice chair.

So today we need to hold the elections. But the secretary position can last forever.

For me 3yrs have been long but I could carry on another term of 3yrs.

3- Proposal of a WG

Prof. Pan

I would like to propose a new WG for edutainment as the integration of education and entertainment.

There are two stream: education with entertainment.

We have 2 societies: learning and games. We are trying to bring people from the 2 societies to have some discussion to have a game more educational and education more fun.

The scope of this WG will be:

VR for education

E learning

Digital museum

I have spoken to Ruth Aylett, Yangshen Wong, Holger Diener, Nuno Correia, Adrian Cheok.

Also actually we have our group has cooperation with universities with European-Asian project of e-learning and VE, a EU china workshop to be held in China. We had people from education, games and entertainment.

Next year IFIP we will have edutainment conference edutainment 2006. And I hope that this conference can be co-sponsored by SG

Hopefully you can promote this event in your country, we are trying to get more international contributions

Comments:

Rauterberg: You should contact TC3 because maybe there is a WG in that TC that focus on your scope. You need to check, so either you join them,. Collaborate with them or make your profile sufficiently distinct

Sloane: there is a possibility of a join WG like TC9.5 and TC11.2, if you make your scope sufficiently different it is useful to have members from other TC.

Make sure to check if first as the authorisation will come from a technical assembly and they will ask this question.

Nakatsu: so you are going from education to entertainment or from entertainment to education.

Pan: we want to approach it from entertainment and have educational games.

Nakatsu: I will give you the names of the people that you need to contact.

Rauterberg: May be the information is on the IFIP website. Where you will find the contact details.

I would like to make a formal proposal by email to all our members of this SG. Please contact the adequate people.

Remark: Yang: I am concerned about having so many conferences, workshops being organised in this area are we not running too many events. Are we supposed to run something larger than ICEC?

Rauterberg: yes it is the objectives of the WG, it is about organising conferences and other events.

If the ICEC is our main conference why not have the WG activities synchronised with this event.

Nakatsu, let go to the topic on Journal on entertainment computing

Rauterberg: I was approach about editing a handbook about entertainment computing from Elsevier. I was then approached about setting up a journal about entertainment computing. We started the procedure and contacted many people including many of you. We then contacted Elsevier. Simone... did a marketing tour of the US and then decided that there insufficient potentials. As the journal has to be viable and to set up a journal you need from a couple of year some committed authors to get submission flow going. The assessment Elsevier got...

We changed the title to International Journal of entertainment computing into the Nature of entertainment computing and approached Gloria Davenport again this year to ask her whether she would consider launching the journal at MIT=Press and she promised to come back about this but insofar we had no feedback from her.

In the meantime the ACM has started a transaction on games and entertainment.

Cheok: But you know that transactions are extremely difficult to publish in so I think that even if they have the transactions which is of very high level, there is still room for a journal. They have a magazine on comp. ent. And there is room.

Rauterberg: The scope of our journal is to have a boarder scope than the currently published journals in the field of entertainment.

Cheok: I am surprised that Elsevier assessed that such a journal wouldn't be liable.

Rauterberg: depends on who you are talking to.

The problem is that these journals are cannibalising from other journals and also why shall an author publish in a new journal rather than in an established journal which has an overlapping subject like for example on robotic.

I think it is worst to pursue on this topic of establishing a journal with a broader scope than established journals.

Nakatsu: have you got still contact with Elsevier

Rauterberg: they explicitly said they are not interested

Ascott: there are journals of societies and we could try publishers like intellect as they publish many societies journals .

Rauterberg: the NL are driving to establish public availability of academic output. There is an international initiative which promote this initiative to give access to academics to published material. This means that publications that comes out of research organisations and universities should be available for free. With the Internet and other online resources this should be feasible rapidly. The issue is not to replace the publication in journals but to make it available to academics.

Ascott: isn't it replacing journal publications.

Rauterberg: the issue is just about ensuring that the copyrights do not go to a publishing house but stay with the authors and the process is still the same (i.e. peer reviewed) that implies that the material should be freely available.

Uiterwijk: If the journal is about establishing a community and you can't find a publisher you could consider self publishing, at university costs for example.

Nakatsu: Obviously having our journal is very positive but this will give us a lot of work, including long conversations. But we do want to continue

Rauterberg: Well the issue is to see if we want to approach other established published according to the will of the majority of this SG.

Nakatsu: there are already many journals that cover some narrow scopes within entertainment, but to have a journal that address the whole scope of entertainment is something very difficult and so far there are no journal.

Rauterberg: Yes I would like to know what sort of commitment this SG member are willing to put., In other words how many journal papers this SG members are willing to submit.

Cheok: the problem is that with a new journal you are publishing in not established journals and this does not count much

Rauterberg: then we have to keep referencing all the papers published in this Journal to raise the profile and keep citing it.

Cheok: this seems to be strategy forwards.

Rauterberg: we are resenting a lot of people and our network is growing.

Sloane: were there any economic argument put forwards by the publishers?

Rauterberg: This is related to their answer, they assess the potential of the paper flow, and if the leadings research groups in the US say that they do not publish at all, then the publishers are under the impression that the entertainment topic is not mature enough to need a dedicated journal. IF the only issue is the impact factor of a journal then we can ensure that we do a lot of citation from the journal and this should raise the ranking and the impact factor of the journal.

When I asked how many papers shall we be expecting the variation between people that I asked was very broad: from 10 to 1000s.

The answers I got were very promising. But the issue is how many papers are we willing to submit for the journal and we are facing the situation that Adrian had already address

Fels: one other way is to approach a conference that wouldn't necessarily have it submission go to a journal paper, and if we could mine these people by asking them to make few revisions of their conference papers we could increase the submission. If we do that in few conferences we could significantly increase the submission rate.

Ascott: We get a steady flow of submission because we are overlapping several field. We just mine certain conferences and we just ask authors why they shouldn't submit to the authors yet.

On the other hand if we have an area that is not covered by a journal, then I don't see why this SG should not go for it and establish a journal.

Rauterberg: For most of us the decision is shall I carry on submitting to an established paper or to this new journal that we a re setting up.

Ascott: yes but you could establish and identity through this new journal.

Rauterberg: We have already the conference series, the question is how many of the ICEC proceedings could be forwarded into a journal publication. So what is our personal judgment about how many conference papers could go into a journal publication. I think all the members of this SG should consider this issue and let me know by email.

Nakatsu: we have to ask from each member of this WG should submit a paper with the next 6 months.

Tosa: will there be something like the ACM portal?

Rauterberg: there will be an online version, but will there be a paper version

Tosa: Nowadays we are more concerned about having the paper on the internet rather than on a paper.

Rauterberg: right now we already have the ICEC proceeding online available through the ACM paper, at least the abstracts.

There should be a evaluation from this SG members about how many of the ICEC proceeding papers could be forwarded to the journal.

The second point of action is that Nakatsu and Rauterberg are investigating further the opportunities for the journal paper by contacting publishers. The decision...

Yang: is this a decision about this journal or are we having a discussion

Nakatsu: please answer our emails regarding this journal.

Rauterberg: In fact I will only act upon this issue if I get emails from this SG members. Fels: In fact this is your answer by a fixed date you have to have all the

emails from the members of this SG with answers to the 2 questions: how many papers from ICEC could go into the journal and how many papers are we willing to submit to the journal

ICEC2006

Nakatsu: this is a major subject so I suggest we should talk about it during the diner later on this evening.

Rauterberg: as a back up strategy all of us should think of a person that would be interested by organising ICEC2006

Ideally we would have the next ICEC in North-America

6. Upgrade from SG to TC.

Nakatsu: I think the activities of this SG are growing and I was approached by the Technical assembly chair to upgrade the status of this SG. But there was time limitations to do it right away as I wanted to have a discussion with you as members of this SG.

Rauterberg: They are rather interested and there seems to be some of them that are supporting us.

Nakatsu: Once we submit a proposal there will be many options

Sloane: I think it is time for this SG to move into a TC status. There is a good range of activities and good WG, with useful publications and work.

If it becomes a TC then the WG can become developing even more their specialist subjects and activities.

Nakatsu: let's start our work of upgrading into a TC.

Rauterberg: you could ask The chair of the other TC about this

Nakatsu: there are several things to do, we need to increase the national member of this committee.

The next thing is to promote the activities of the WG. It seems that some WG are doing very well, but I am somewhat concerned by WG1, although this is a very interesting are. WE have to discuss on this issues with Cavazza.

Rauterberg: Or we have to replace him.

Nakatsu: a WG should be a real WG not a dormant one.

Uiterwijk is the TC STATUS approved at the general assembly?

Nakatsu: no it is decided at the technical assembly and then agreed into the general assembly.

Rauterberg: detailed explanations of IFIP organisation and working methods, ie differences between technical assembly, general assembly....

Uiterwijk: you need a SG to establish itself within 5yrs.

Rauterberg: yes within 5 yrs we have to demonstrate that we are viable, attractive and active.

Nakatsu: what we have to decide if we want to move into a TC. ARE there any objects? No OK, then lets start.

Nakatsu: we have 10 minutes left so lets go for the elections of this SG chair and vice-chair. How does the nomination and election go?

Rauterberg: it depends.

Nakatsu: are there any nomination?

Sloane: I'd like to nominate the incumbents to carry on

The floor: yes

Cheok lets do it by applause

Everyone applauded, and thus both chairman and vice-chairman have been re-elected to their respective positions.

Rauterberg: we need to establish procedures on how to elect the positions available in this SG. The secretary should get involved in this procedure. Also we need to sort the voting procedure, the electorate selection and who is representing which country.

Sloane: the chair can be national representative but there could be a second representative while the chair is in office and how ever there are many rules and exceptions about this.

Rauterberg: The IFIP bylaws should be available to everyone and please familiarise yourselves with it.

End of the meeting and thus we close this event.

Lets go for diner.

Note from the SG secretary:

The correct name for commercial games is consumer games. (ref. keynote speech of Tesuji Baba, 20th September).