

ECSCW 2001

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From the Organizers

This volume represents the proceedings of ECSCW 2001, the 7th European Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work. ECSCW is an international forum for interdisciplinary research activities from various technical and social disciplines. The conference alternates with the ACM International Conference on CSCW to provide annually a principal forum for CSCW research.

This year the German CSCW community takes pride in organizing ECSCW. The establishment of a German research community reaches back to the early 1990s. In 1991 the first German speaking CSCW conference was organized in Bremen by Jürgen Friedrich. Since then, a biannual conference series, called DCSCW, developed. It brought together researchers from Human Computer Interaction, Distributed Systems, Information Systems, Humanities and Social Sciences. While academics often acted at the edges of their home disciplines, government funds at the European, federal, and state level helped creating research groups with international reputation. Industry picked up on the results to innovate products and processes. Recently the CSCW community decided to join forces with other fields of applied Computer Science as well as industrial designers to shape a newly created conference series called *Mensch & Computer*.

The ECSCW program of technical papers presented in this volume is the result of a very selective review process. This year the conference received 109 submissions of very high quality from which 21 papers were selected. Both the number of submissions and the quality and diversity of the program presented here are testimony to the importance the CSCW community has gained. We are sure that you will enjoy the papers in this volume.

The papers in this volume are only one aspect of a diverse and dynamic event such as ECSCW. The technical paper program is complemented by a record number of 10 workshops, high quality tutorials, demonstrations from industry and academia, and posters representing research in progress. These events reflect some of the most exciting and novel aspects of CSCW research and practice. They are essential to the success of the conference and the continued growth of the community.

This conference could not have taken place without considerable enthusiasm, support, and encouragement as well as sheer hard work. Many people have earned the thanks of those who attended and organized ECSCW 2001. In particular, we would like to gratefully thank.

- All those who submitted to the conference. The standard was very high and reflects well on the research work in the community.
- All of those who contributed to the conference through workshops, tutorials, posters, demos, and paper presentations.

- All of those who contributed to the organization of the conference. Planning a major international conference is a complex endeavor and many people made significant contributions to realizing a successful conference.
- The Student Volunteers who work so tirelessly during the conference to ensure things run smoothly.
- Those members of the Conference and Program Committees who gave so freely of their time and energy to ensure that the conference was both smoothly run and of high technical quality. The many individuals we owe our thanks to are listed elsewhere in this volume.
- The many sponsors and supporters of ECSCW 2001 for their contributions to the conference and to the CSCW community generally.

We would also like to acknowledge the organizers of the ACM CSCW conference for the support and encouragement they extend to this conference. The close cooperation between ECSCW and the ACM CSCW conferences allows us to continue the growth of a truly international research community tackling the problems crucial to CSCW. Between both conferences we have been able to establish an annual international conference on CSCW for the last decade charting the development and maturity of the discipline. The future appears to hold considerable promise for us all.

Matthias Järke, Wolfgang Prinz, Yvonne Rogers, and Volker Wulf

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