Foreword

Guest Editors:
Marcos R.S. Borges, Jörg M. Haake and José A. Pino

A group of Ibero-American researchers organized the first version of the International Workshop on Groupware (CRIWG) series in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1995. The CRIWG workshops are rooted in the Ibero-American community of researchers, but after its fourth edition, in 1998, they have evolved to become a truly open and international forum for researchers working in CSCW, CSCL and their applications.

The original format of the workshop, however, has been preserved. It is based on a small but very active group of participants, lively discussions, and most important, a high level of cooperation during the event sessions. This constructive atmosphere generates relevant feedback to authors, who use it to improve their work.

The papers in this special edition of the IJCAT were selectively chosen from the work initially presented at the Eighth International Workshop on Groupware, held in La Serena, Chile, in 2002. The papers went through a careful revision, based on the comments and suggestions produced during the workshop. Moreover, as most reported work was based on on-going projects, authors were asked to include additional results obtained in the meantime. The new versions went through another round of evaluation. The resulting papers are presented in this issue.

Nine papers are included, covering six main areas of groupware technology: evaluation, CSCL, awareness, meeting support, design and development support, and infrastructure. With this collection, we provide a snapshot of some groupware major issues.