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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** David Taniar holds a PhD degree in computer science, with a particular speciality in high performance databases. His research area has now expanded to Grid and Mobile databases. He has published more than 30 journal papers and more than 100 conference papers. He has published six books, including the forthcoming 'Object-Oriented Oracle'. Taniar is now with the School of Business Systems, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University, Australia. He is an Editor-in-Chief of several international journals, including *Web and Grid Services*, *Web Information Systems*, *Mobile Information Systems*, *Mobile Multimedia*, *Data Warehousing and Mining*, and *Business Intelligence and Data Mining*. He is also a Fellow of the Institute for Management Information Systems (FIMIS).

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Web services are developing to provide declarative interfaces to services offered by systems on the internet. They include messaging protocols, standard interfaces, and directory services, as well as security layers, for efficient and effective business application integration. Typical application areas are business-to-business integration, business process integration and management, content management, and design collaboration.

Currently, grid computing has emerged as a global platform to support organisations for coordinated sharing of distributed data, applications, and processes. Grid computing has also started to leverage web services to define standard interfaces for business services, like business process outsourcing, a higher-level outsourcing model of e-business on demand. Service orientation of the grid makes it a promising platform for seamless and dynamic development, integration and deployment of service-oriented applications.

The journal fosters discussion on web and grid service technology with a focus on its application, emphasising issues of architecture, implementation, and standardisation. This perspective acknowledges the complexity and challenges that developers currently face when designing and deploying web service based solutions on the grids.

A summary of the scope of web and grid services includes:

- *Web services*: web services modelling, specification, frameworks, architectures, discovery, performance, quality, security, infrastructures, and case studies; web semantics; business process integration, management, and e-commerce; and resource and solution management.

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- *Grid services*: grid services workflow planning, composition, modelling, description, deployment, compatibility, interoperability, policy, and distribution; grid ontology, meta-data, and business semantics; grid service business models and applications in e-research; security, reliability engineering, benchmarking of grid services and infrastructures; and intelligent services and grid service agents.
- *Convergence*: convergence of web services, semantic web, agent technology and the grid; confluence of service-oriented architectures based on web services with grid computing; and usage of web services and agents in a grid infrastructure.

The journal editorial board members are responsible for reviewing manuscripts. The members not only come from four different continents: Asia, Australia, Europe, and America, but also cover a broad range of expertise in web services and grid services.

Following up a Call-For-Papers in early 2004, we have received numerous responses and submissions. Each paper was carefully reviewed, and eventually, six papers were accepted for inclusion in this inaugural issue of the journal. In other words, all papers in this inaugural issue have been fully refereed (as opposed to being invited) by the editorial board members.

The first two papers are papers on web services. The first paper, by Dustdar and Schreiner from Austria, presents a comprehensive survey on web service composition, whereas the second paper, by Schlesinger, Irmert, and Lehner from Germany, describes how the web service technology can be used to support the extraction-transformation-loading (ETL) process in data warehouse systems.

The next two papers are on grid services. Cormito, Talia, and Trunfio from Italy present a comprehensive discussion on principles, implementation and use of grid services, whereas Hai Jin et al. from China explains some experimental results of the proposed information service management and organisation on their campus grid system at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

The last two papers are on grid databases and ontology. The paper, by Goel et al. from Australia, proposes a replica of synchronisation protocol for heterogeneous grid databases. The proposed protocol uses timestamps and metadata services to synchronise the replicas. The final paper in this issue by Wouters et al. also from Australia presents visualisation techniques applied to ontology extraction processes.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the editorial board, and the Inderscience publisher, for making this journal possible. I would also like to thank the authors who have chosen this journal as a medium to publish their research results. I hope that readers will find these papers useful, informative, and innovative.