Preface

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Biographical notes: Eric Pardede is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering, La Trobe University, Australia. His current research interests include XML and web data management, mobile database, data quality and data integration. He has published nearly 30 papers in journals, books and various international conferences and workshops. He has co-authored a book entitled *Object-Oriented Oracle*. He is serving as program chair, publicity chair and organiser of several international conferences and workshops. He is also serving as program committee member and reviewer for various conferences and journals.

This issue comprises of five selected papers, which were presented at the 9th International Conference on Information Integration and Web-based Application and Services in December 2007.

In the first paper, Jadalla and Elnagar proposed a plagiarism detection engine that can find clusters of source code that were suspiciously plagiarised. The similarity measurement between clusters can be calculated and the visualisation representation of each cluster is also provided.

While the previous paper discussed the source code plagiarism detection, the second paper focused on the plagiarism of documents. See et al. developed a mathematical algorithm that converts words into steps, which walks on a mesh, using the proposed hash functions. By using the walk pattern on the mesh, the plagiarised version document can be detected. The algorithm is implemented to a tool that can be used in university setting by tutors when checking the students' documentation works.

In the next paper, the authors proposed a new clustering technique called Hierarchical Pattern-Based Clustering (HPBC), which can be used for grouping a set of data, especially customer web transactions data. The experiments showed that the proposed technique has outperformed the existing techniques up to 100% in terms of processing times.

The effect of negative association in association rule is studied in the next paper. Sim et al. proposed an approach to mine both positive and negative association rules as rule pairs. The experimental results showed that negative associations can be found using the proposed approach and can be easily used for decision-making.

In the final paper, Neubauer and Heurix proposed an approach that can provide decision-makers with various scenarios of secured business processes. The system will facilitate selection of efficient and secure solutions. The approach is explained by using a case study in the social security sector.

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