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## Preface

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**Biographical notes:** V. Vijayakumar is a Professor and an Associate Dean of SCSE in VIT University Chennai. He has more than 18 years of experience which includes eight years in teaching and eight years in industry. He is a Coordinator of the Cloud Computing Research Group and Coordinator for Internship in India and Worldwide. His areas of research include grid computing, cloud computing, big data, and web semantics. He completed his PhD CSE from Anna University, and ME CSE and BE CSE from Madras University. He completed his Diploma in Computer Technology with Honours from the State Board of Tamilnadu. He also completed his MBA HRD from Periyar University. He had published many national/international articles in conferences, journals and books. He is a professional member of IAENG, CSTA, and ISTE. He has organised many national/international seminars, workshops, symposiums, conferences and special sessions in the area of cloud computing and big data.

Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis received her Master's degree in 1991 and PhD in 1995, both from the University of Vienna. After a Visiting Professor position at the business schools in Vienna and Copenhagen, she accepted a position as a Full Professor in Computer Science at the Johannes Kepler University Linz where she has been since 2002. She is the Head of the Department of Telecooperation with a research focus in mobile computing and performance management as well as cooperative and collaborative systems. She is the author of over 150 scientific publications. She has successfully led several research projects, such as the EU-funded networks of Excellence CRUISE and EuroNGI, and has organised international conferences, including iiWAS or MoMM. From 2003 to 2007, she was the President of the Austrian Computer Society. She is a founding member of the ACM Europe Council and elected member at large of ACM. In 2014, she was recognised as an ACM Distinguished Scientist.

Zhipeng Cai received his PhD and MSc from the Department of Computing Science at University of Alberta, and BSc from the Beijing Institute of Technology. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Georgia State University. Prior to joining GSU, he was a Research Faculty in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. His research areas focus on networking, privacy, and big data. He is a recipient of an NSF CAREER Award.

Jemal H. Abawajy is a Full Professor at the School of Information Technology, Deakin University, Australia. He is currently the Director of the Parallel and Distributing Computing Laboratory. He is a senior member of IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Technical Committee on Scalable Computing (TCSC); IEEE Technical Committee on Dependable Computing and Fault Tolerance, and IEEE Communication Society. He has served on the academic board, faculty board, IEEE technical committee on scalable computing performance track coordinator, research integrity advisory group, research committee, teaching and learning committee and expert of international standing grant and external PhD thesis assessor. He has been actively involved in the organisation of more than 200 national and international conferences, and has guest edited many special issues. He is the author/co-author of five books, more than 250 papers in conferences, book chapters and journals. He has also edited ten conference volumes.

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Cloud computing has emerged as one of the most highly discussed topics both in the academic community and in the computing industry. It serves as a de facto computing model, enabling software, infrastructure and information to be used as services over the network in an on-demand manner. This opens up opportunities for industry in processing high-resolution datasets supporting data-intensive decision-making at a level never before imagined. From a scientific point of view, there are still many research questions to be discussed and answered. Some of them have been discussed and presented at the 2nd International Symposium on Big Data and Cloud Computing Challenges (ISBCC2015).

ISBCC is an annual event organised by the School of Computing Sciences, VIT University, Chennai. ISBCC 2015 is the second edition of the conference.

The objective of this special issue is to provide a follow-up on those discussions and specifically to address innovative ideas, emerging technologies, methods and solutions for cloud computing and big data. It should bring together both the industrial as well as the academic perspective.

In particular, in this issue, the reader can find research papers on different topics, all interesting and related to big data and cloud computing challenges.

Finally, as editors of this special issue, we would like to congratulate all the authors, reviewers and journal staff, for the realisation of this work. Each of them contributed to the making of a collection of research papers that, in our opinion, represents a step forward in the research on big data and cloud computing challenges.

Our special thanks go to the Editor-in-Chief and his entire Inderscience team for their continuous support. Sincere thanks to Inderscience Publishers for such great opportunity.