

PREFACE

Cooperative computing aims at enabling different parties to work together towards a pre-defined goal. The evolution and popularity of the Internet and computing GRID has brought the cooperative computing research discipline to the Internet, for which we coined the term Cooperative Internet Computing (CIC). At the same time, we witnessed an enormous leap in communication speed/bandwidth on the infrastructure behind the Internet, opening up a wide range of new cooperative applications that were not feasible in the past.

In order to bring together new and different approaches to CIC, we organized the Fourth International Conference on Cooperative Internet Computing (CIC 2006) in October 2006 in Hong Kong, China. We received a total of 47 submissions. After a careful review process, in which each paper was generally reviewed by 3 reviewers, we selected 16 full papers and 5 poster papers, from 9 different countries or regions. This book contains the revised version of the 12 best papers presented at the conference. The papers fall into the four categories:

- Theories and protocols of CIC
- Technologies and architecture of CIC
- Collaborative information retrieval
- CIC applications

We are confident that these papers constitute a representative snapshot of the contemporary approaches to CIC. We hope that this collection will serve as a useful resource for all interested in the research and study of CIC.

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