

UNISCON 2006

ALPEN-ADRIA
UNIVERSITÄT
KLAGENFURT



@Klagenfurt



2



UNISCON 2006

@Klagenfurt

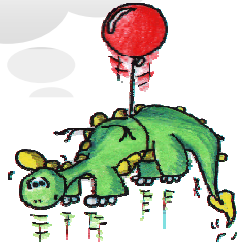
Arrival of Delegates and Special Guest "Lindi" at UNISCON 2006

The UNISCON 2006 was an integrated conference that took place from May 30th to June 2nd 2006 at the University of Klagenfurt in Carinthia, Austria.

In the course of this event the 5th ISTA (International Conference on Information Systems Technology and its Applications), the 9th BIS (International Conference on Business Information Systems) and the 11th NLDB (International Conference on Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems) took place.

All three conferences combined had more than 70 presentations and more than 90 participants from more than 25 countries on four continents. The successful social events included an Ukrainian night, a boat trip on lake Wörthersee and a Carinthian evening with a visit to the venerable castle Schloß Tanzenberg and a dinner at Magdalensberg, which is famous for its archeological excavations.

Wow, there is a stony "Lindi" down there; is that someone famous? I need a stopover!!



Have you already visited Klagenfurt's landmark on "Neuer Platz"? – This smart boy is really a good choice for a town's landmark!



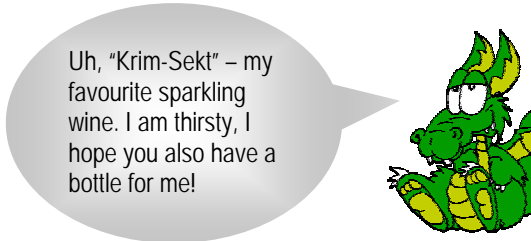
Openings of ISTA, BIS and NLDB 2006

On Tuesday, May 30th, 8:30 a.m., the ISTA opening marked the start of the UNISCON conferences. The vivid opening speeches created the spirit for a productive and informative first conference day, which consisted of the ISTA scientific presentations.

ISTA was founded in 2001 in Charkov and was a start for the cooperation among Klagenfurt University and Charkov Polytechnical Institute. This poses a new highlight to the cooperation between the universities of

Klagenfurt and Charkov, which is particularly expressed by an active exchange of computer science students, who are encouraged to write their diploma thesis at the respective partner university.

On Wednesday, May 31st, 8:30 a.m., the NLDB and BIS conferences started. The opening event consisted of short, inspiring speeches.



Ukrainian - Carinthian Evening

The first evening social event of UNISCON 2006 was rather intercultural, and emphasised the strong relationship among the Klagenfurt University and the Polytechnic Institute of Charkov (Ukraine). These connections were established in the early 1990s, a first cooperation of the department of Slavistic Studies in 1992 followed by the cooperation with Business Administration in 1994 and the departments of Informatics in 1996. One "child" of this cooperation is the conference ISTA, which took place for the 5th time.

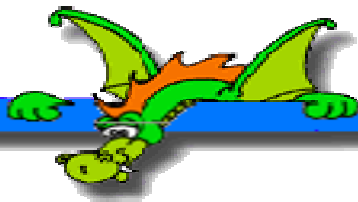
Vice-Rector Y.I. Sokol of the Polytechnic Institute Charkov and Rector H. C. Mayr from the Klagenfurt University opened this evening event with "Krim-Sekt", an Ukrainian sparkling wine.



The guests enjoyed Ukrainian Vodka & food specialities as well as tasty Carin-

thian and Italian finger food. Accomplished by the Post-Chorus Klagenfurt and some Ukrainian Music and landscape views of Charkov, this event was the ideal platform for intensive discussions and building new relationships.





Keynote Session 1 (BIS): Ethnical & Social Responsibility Issues of Information Technology Use



Janice C. Sipiør from Villanova University in Pennsylvania, US informed about different threats for organizations due to expanded internet use in daily business.

They have to take a bulk of responsibility to protect online consumer privacy and organisational information. Additional they also have to ensure compliance with laws & regulations.

Janice distinguished between internal threats like copyright infringement, defamation, discrimination, harassment, hostile work environment, invasion of employee privacy, violations of securities laws, violation of trademark and trade secret laws and external threats provoked by competitors,

consumers, government, criminals, cyber terrorists and intruders. She also mentioned that some threats can have both, internal and external causes, e.g. threats regarding business partners or technical failures.

After the explanation of these different threats and precise and very demonstrative examples, she presented her strategic response to manage internet privacy concerns. This implies the understanding of the sources of these threats and the awareness that to carry the burden of misuse is on the organisation's side.

Organisations have to determine their lines of defence and monitor the effectiveness of the initiatives. Thanks to Janice for pointing out big problems for organisations regarding of privacy and security in present & future and corresponding solutions.

Let me think: external threats for "Lindi"-corporation are hunters, thunder storms, no food - how can I tackle them with internet privacy and security? ... Maybe an absolute secure "how to scare the hunters" forum might be nice!



Keynote Session 1 (BIS): The Semantic Web Through Business Information Systems Glasses



Martin Hepp is researching at "Digital Enterprise Research Institute" at the University of Innsbruck in Austria. He is also head of the research cluster

"Semantics in Business Information Systems". His major research interests deal with Semantics, especially with the use of ontologies for

advancement in the automation of business processes.

After a short introduction of the semantic web, Martin addressed the core components and the backbone of the semantic web, which are ontologies. After that he illustrated how these thoughts can be applied to typical Business Information Systems challenges.

Furthermore he discussed the open research and implementation issues that need to be solved and help the semantic technology to get accepted into BIS as a discipline.

Wow! Mr. Hepp this is really a hard topic! Is it possible to get a private session with you?



Actually I thought that I explained it quite well, but if you want ... of course we could talk about it later on the boat trip!!!



Oh no - he did not get that it's not the topic that I really want ...

Keynote Session 2 (NLDB): Metamodelling for Business Engineering

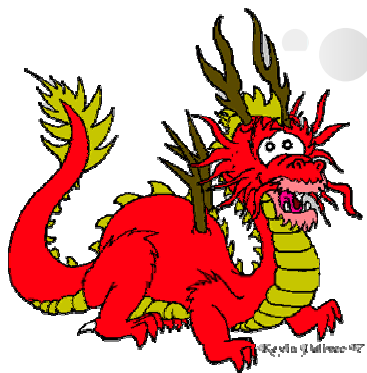


The keynote of Dimitris Karagiannis from the University of Vienna informed the audience about the importance of metamodels in the context of organisation modelling.

After defining the concept of metamodels (which are models that describe other models and therefore work on a higher abstraction level) Dimitris posed the question what the "ingredients" of metamodels are. Then he continued to explain specific components of a generic metamodel architecture, namely syntax, nota-

tion, semantics, the modelling language, mechanisms and algorithms, modelling procedures, techniques and methods. Dimitris concluded that meta-modelling will soon become state-of-the-art.

International standards like UML/MOF are based on metamodelling concepts and commercial metamodelling products are already available. For example the ADO-toolset (ADONIS, ADOscore, ADOit and ADOlog), which was developed in cooperation with the University of Vienna, supports the meta-modelling approach.



Metamodelling, what an interesting topic – this must have something to do with beauty contests: Who is the greatest (meta)model of 2006? Is she here at this conference? I must get to know her!!!

...
Or did I misunderstand this concept?

Keynote Session 2 (NLDB): Clairvoyance for intermediate learners



Chris Rupp is a very well-known capacity in the community of computer science, particularly for her books and publications on requirements

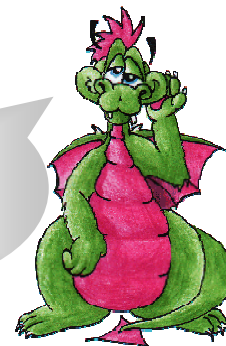
engineering. She is also head of the SOPHIST group in Nürnberg.

In her keynote speech she talked about the main problem that requirement engineers generally have to face: to identify the real needs of their customers. This is not as easy as it sounds, since customers have not only conscious wishes for their information systems but also unconscious (not explicitly told) ones and subcon-scious (not consciously known) ones.

Chris argues that words are inherently meaningless, since they have to be interpreted in a specific context, which might differ from person to person. While natural language descriptions of requirements allow information exchange between customers & developers, really perfect communication is impossible.

Involuntary transformations that change or distort the meaning and make the correct interpretation more difficult can easily happen to natural language text. Chris presented three kinds of such linguistic defects: deletion, generalisation and distortion. She talked about possibilities to recognize such defects and about how to deal with them in requirements engineering projects.

Can you hear the applause? ... This was a great speech!



Interview with Chris Rupp

Lindi: How do you like the UNISCON 2006?

Chris: I enjoy it very much, particularly the very international audience makes this conference so interesting for me.

Lindi: Have you already been in Klagenfurt or is this your first time?

Chris: Yes, I have already been here. The last time, two or three years ago I hold a workshop.

Lindi: Have you already spent your holidays in Carinthia?

Chris: I am sorry to say no. As I said before I held a workshop in Klagenfurt and I was sometimes in Villach when I collaborated with Infineon Technologies. But yesterday when I came to Klagenfurt I saw the beautiful mountains and so I think I will come back for mountain biking.

Lindi: Do you know some typical Carinthian food like "Carinthian noodles"?

Chris: No, I only know the conference food and the Infineon Technologies canteen food, but I don't know if this was typical Carinthian.

Lindi: When did you get your passion for requirements engineering?

Chris: At first I was a classical computer scientist because I had studied this. I was a software engineer developing UNIX-software and

I was often annoyed about insufficient specifications. Then the OO came up and I was very interested in this. Then I had to make the analysis of an air-traffic-control and I had to write the specification in English speech. Because I had some difficulties and didn't find a clearly schema to do this in literature, I decided to make my own requirements engineering model.

Lindi: Did you expect that your books would be so enormous successful?

Chris: No, at first I thought that nobody would read them because they are not interesting for the students. But nowadays I know that also "Non-IT professionals" like medics read them.

Lindi: Do you plan some new books for the near future?

Chris: No, I don't think so. I have already written five reference books and so I spent a lot of time to write reprints for them. Now I am writing the 4th reprints of one of my reference books. Perhaps I write a novel because no reprint is needed. Last year I wrote a novel about the lifetime of my parents.

Lindi: Thank you very much for your time.

Chris: No worries!

Keynote Session 3: Method Engineering: Theory and Practice

Brian Henderson-Sellers from the University of Technology in Sydney is well known for his books & papers about object orientation and -technology.



Brian described an approach for method engineers, i.e. constructing new methodologies from available fragment repositories.

Instances of the resulting methodology can be used by project managers in specific projects. After defining the notion "methodology", a collection of tools, techniques and guidelines for project management,

Brian emphasized the difference between methodologies and processes.

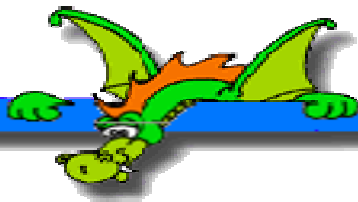
Methodologies are processes combined with products, whereas products are the in- and output of process elements (e.g. documents, diagrams etc). Methodologies can be grouped by flexibility and comprehensiveness; the most expedient types of methodologies are methodology frameworks or metamodels.

Brian talked about method engineering with the Open Process Framework. The bottom-line of his keynote speech is that no methodology fits all situations, thus flexibility is needed.



Project management? That is my core competence!! I have years of experience and I know the special technique which really works: Strong muscles and a big hammer and you can manage any project you want.

Shall I prove that?



Keynote Session 3: Guaranteeing Security and Privacy in Cyberspace as applied to a Hospital-Insurance Company System



Reind van de Riet retired six years ago from his position as professor at the Free University of Amsterdam. Fortunately due to his passion for

computer-science he nevertheless is actively involved in the science community.

His main focus on privacy and security is still the same but his examined systems changed from database systems to web based systems during the previous years. In his keynote speech Reind presented the Mokum System, which is an object-oriented simulation system developed in Amsterdam. The in-

teresting thing is that in the Mokum system objects are acting as communicating agents.

Objects contain types, they can be grouped in collections and have keepers, which are ordinary objects themselves; types are managed as hierarchical trees. Reind showed how parts of a hospital-insurance company system are constructed with Mokum and how security-sensitive requirements like visibility or accessibility of certain features can be handled.

Finally Reind made a comparison with certificate-based security-mechanisms of ERP-systems like SAP and showed that Mokum wins the comparison due to less complexity.

Oh thank you, that is so kind!

What a nice gentleman!



I am not so sure about privacy and security in internet. That's why I want to give you this love letter in the good old traditional way! I hope you accept that?!



UNISCON Panel Discussion: Quo Vadis Information Systems: from Theory to Synergy

On Wednesday evening the UNISCON-Panel took place. The motto of this discussion was "Quo Vadis Information Systems: from Theory to Synergy". "Who is who"? Here are the famous names in alphabetical order Witold Abramowicz, Brian Henderson-Sellers, Dimitris Karagiannis, Reind van de Riet, Chris Rupp and Janice C. Sipior under moderation of Heinrich C. Mayr.

This sophisticated choice of the panelists led to three different views on information systems because there were computer scientists, linguists and mathematicians from Europe but also from the US and Australia.

During the panel very interesting questions were posed and discussed:

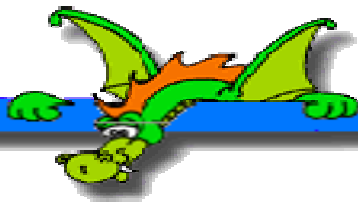
- main goals of information systems,
- how to give semantic to web based information systems,
- future of information systems (also for small businesses),
- how to design useful solutions for industrial partners,
- privacy and security in wireless networks
- how to prepare students for work life

The discussion was very lively and, due to the different fields of research of the panelists, different opinions were presented. After the panel the participants of the UNISCON 2006 were looking forward to spend their free time with a boating trip on lake "Wörther See". Of course we report on that second social event of the conference as well ☺

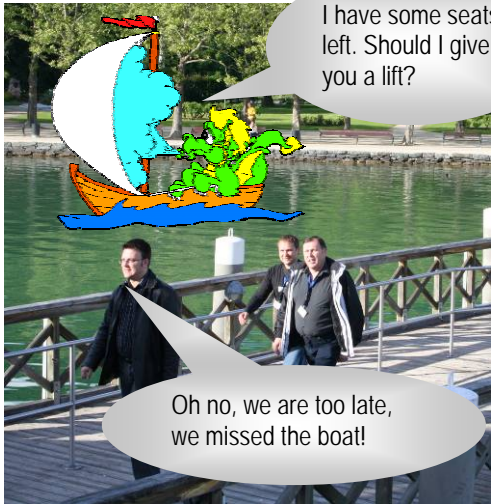
- how to bridge the gap between academy and industry, ways to contact industry & use synergies,

May I also say something?





"We have a boat to catch!"



Ahoi, the captain and the crew of the traditional ship on lake Wörthersee called "Thalia" warmly welcomed the participants of UNISCON 2006 to their second social event of the conference.

H.C. Mayr in his role as the general chair of UNISCON suggested to continue the trip with the slogan of the panel discussion "from theory to synergy". The participants liked

the idea of having nice chats with colleagues, having an aperitif on board. Lake Wörthersee took its chance to show the beauties of the region to the international delegates.

After a little less than an hour the "Thalia" docked on near the small and beautiful hydroelectric power plant "Forstsee". A guide led us through the plant and gave insights how the production of electricity works and where we can get environmentally friendly energy from. Back on board of the "Thalia" a tasty buffet already waited desperately for the hungry international guests. After eating well, the delegates were relaxed and happy to have the chance for new discussions during the "Thalia" made its way through the whole lake. Also the youngest delegate of the conference enjoyed the cold but beautiful evening.



Travelling through the historic heart of Carinthia

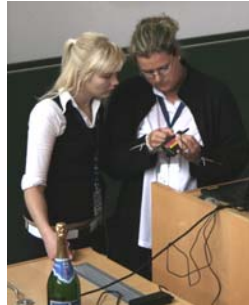
Last but not least the Carinthian Evening closed the series of social events of UNISCON 2006. First station of this amazing event was the castle of Tanzenberg, where keynote speaker Reind van de Riet demonstrated his virtuosity in playing the organ. After taking a last view from Tanzenberg Castle to the old Carinthian coronation cathedral Maria Saal, the trip continued passing the historic center of Carinthia the "Zollfeld", where the "Herzogstuhl" and the "Fürstenstein" build the other parts of the really unique Carinthian coronation ceremony. A yeoman asked the intended duke in Slovenian if he would be lawful and defend his country. Afterwards the duke passed to the coronation cathedral in Maria Saal, where the bishop blessed the new sovereign. The vow and the

homage to the new duke was held at the "Herzogstuhl". This ceremony was held from 1161 until 1414, and the really unique was that the yeoman could deny the coronation, if he was not convinced by the intended duke. So Carinthia practised a little bit of democracy even in the dark mediaeval times. The next historical site on our journey was the old Celtic-Roman city on Magdalensberg. It is assumed that this town was Noreia the former capital of the "Regnum Noricum". On Magdalensberg then, we took a last breathtaking view over the two capitals of Carinthia. St. Veit in the north was until 1592 followed by Klagenfurt. With a very tasty dinner the Carinthian Evening closed by slight music "Kärntner Nudeln" and some typical desserts that make Carinthia unforgettable.



People behind UNISCON 2006

Such a conference can not work without many helping hands in the background. We would like to thank all our technicians from IWAS - Business Informatics and Application Systems - and those from the Central Information Technology Service (ZID) for the marvellous IT-support.



Also the wireless LAN connection was provided by the ZID-Members.

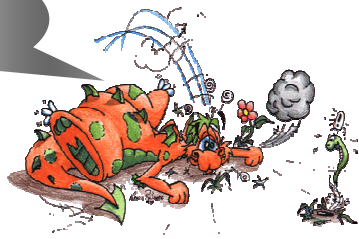
A lot of thanks to the organisation teams of the three conferences:

- ISTA: Volodymyr Sokol, Tilmann Reuther, Christine Seger, Heinrich C. Mayr
- BIS: Heinrich C. Mayr, Maria Semmelrock-Picej, Robert Grascher, Jörg Kerschbaumer, Christine Seger, Andrzej Bassara, Agata Filipowska, Monika Kaczmarek, Tomasz Kaczmarek, Marek Kowalkiewicz, Wojtek Rutkowski, Krzysztof Wecel, Marek Wisniewski, Karol Wieloch
- NLDB: Stefan Ellersdorfer, Alexander Salbrechter, Christine Seger, Christian Winkler



Many thanks to our additional staff on site, who made your stay unforgettable: Nicole Bergmann, Daniel Durnik, Alexandra Fischer, Brigitte Gauster, Kerstin Jörgl, Sybille Klary, Barbara Shimun und Kerstin Wiedenbauer. They worked until the end of their power and still kept on smiling.

Now I know: Organising three conferences is quite exhausting!



Really? Even for a big guy, like you?!!

Chairpersons



Witold
Abramowicz



Günther
Fliedl



Dimitris
Karagiannis



Christian
Kop



Heinrich C.
Mayr



Elisabeth
Métais



Editorial Staff



Marko
Anzelak



Wolfgang
Ebner



Waltraud
Grillitsch



Anita
Toschkov



Jürgen
Vöhringer



Martin
Waiguny

bis
BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS 2006



Industriestiftungsinstitut
eBusiness
business technologies **biztec**