Message from the DMA4SP 2011 Workshop Organizers

Human-centric, ad-hoc, and dynamic semi-structured processes are common in today's business enterprises. The lifecycle of such processes is not necessarily driven by a formal process model and the execution of such processes may be very dynamic. Such processes may execute on heterogeneous platforms and involve the interchange of diverse documents and artifacts (E.g. emails, images, PDF attachments, videos, audio files, chat transcripts). Key problems that arise as a result of the proliferation of such processes include how to integrate unstructured data for semi-structured business processes from disparate sources and heterogeneous platforms (E.g. social networking platforms, heterogeneous databases, distributed legacy workflow engines). Further major challenges include mining data of such processes to enable modeling, optimization, prediction, collaboration and community management, and network analysis. The goal of the first international workshop on data management and analytics for semi-structured business processes (DMA4SP) is to investigate novel solutions to such problems, as well as create a forum to discuss emerging applications.

The data mining and business process management communities are currently quite separate. For example, the community in the field of semi-structured and unstructured data works on mining documents of different kinds such as free form xml or text data. Similarly, the image and video processing communities work with data of various kinds. The business process management community is a different community of researchers, which tends to work independently. Researchers in each of these communities think of similar problems related to data and process management. Furthermore all of these communities experience equal impact from recent rapid advances in the way data evolves and is exchanged brought on by the proliferation of social network and communication platforms and different social media. This workshop intends to bring researchers together from both communities to engage in an exchange of ideas to further collaborative research in the two fields on problems of common interest. Such a fusion is likely to lead to a learning experience for all of these communities.

During the review process, each paper was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee, resulting in the acceptance of nine full papers. These nine papers cover topics ranging from monitoring, extracting and integrating events and unstructured data from heterogeneous sources, as well as novel algorithms and systems for mining, modeling, managing, matching and analyzing such data in the context of semi-structured business processes. Automatic compliance failure detection in enterprise risk management, healthcare management, IT support, business process change detection, collaborative online workflow management, and automated case management include a handful of applications and technologies addressed by these papers.

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DMA4SP'11 Workshop Organizers

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