Proceedings of the Fifth European Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work
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Edited by

John A. Hughes
Lancaster University, U.K

Wolfgang Prinz
GMD-FIT.CSCW, Germany

Tom Rodden
Lancaster University, U.K

and

Kjeld Schmidt
Riso National Laboratory, Denmark

Cover Design by Roger Bonninck

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From the Editors

This volume represents the proceedings of ECSCW'97, the 5th European Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work. The conference provides an international forum for research activities from various technical and social disciplines. The conference alternates with the ACM international conference on CSCW to provide annually a principal point of focus for CSCW research.

The programme of technical papers presented here is the result of a difficult review process. This year the conference received 111 submissions of very high quality from which the 24 papers making up the technical programme were selected. Both the number of submissions and the quality and diversity of the programme presented here are testimony to the health of the CSCW community. We are sure that you will enjoy the papers in this proceedings.

The technical papers in this volume are only one aspect of a diverse and dynamic event such as ECSCW. The technical paper programme is complemented by tutorials, workshops, demonstrations and posters reflecting some of the most exciting and novel aspects of CSCW. These activities are essential to the success of the conference and the continued growth of the community.

This conference could not have taken place without considerable enthusiasm, support and encouragement as well as sheer hard work. Many people have earned the thanks of those who attended and organised ECSCW'97. In particular, we would like to gratefully thank:

- All those who submitted to the conference. This year saw the highest number of submissions to this conference. The standard was extremely high and reflects well on the research work in the community.
- All of those who contributed to the conference through workshops, tutorials, posters, demos and paper presentations.
- All of those who contributed to the organisation of the conference. Planning a major international conference is a complex endeavour and many people made significant contributions to realising a successful conference.
- All of the local conference management team and the Student Volunteers who work so tirelessly during the conference to ensure things run smoothly.
- Those members of the Conference and Programme Committees who gave so freely of their time and energy to ensure that the conference was both smoothly run and of high technical quality. The many individuals we owe our thanks to are listed elsewhere in this volume.
- The many sponsors and supporters of ECSCW'97 for their contributions to the conference and to the CSCW community generally.

We would also like to acknowledge the organisers of the ACM CSCW conference for the support and encouragement they extend to this conference. The close
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