Editor's Message to Special Issue on Technologies and Network Services to Cooperate with Social Activities

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The information-and-communications environment is continuously changing. For example, computer networks have spread globally, various information media have been developed, and various threats are beginning to occur with expansion of network services. Due to rapid popularization of mobile terminals, such as smart phones, into our lives, new types of collaboration or network services are emerging. Popularization of mobile terminals brought about new types of problems such as security and/or privacy. Therefore, research and development should be promoted for constructing cooperative technologies or network services to secure various aspects such as society/community, business, and education/learning.

In this special issue, the editorial committee of the journal sought paper submissions on technologies and network services to cooperate with social activities. The editorial committee members are mainly from the Special Interest Group on Groupware and Network Services (SIG-GN). Topics may cover a wide range of issues associated with information/knowledge sharing, social computing, ubiquitous computing, secure network services, medical treatment or social security, network services for disaster prevention/reduction, collaboration, education/learning, and communication theories and technologies.

Fifty-two papers were submitted to this issue. The first editorial committee meeting was held in April 2013. In this meeting, whether each paper conformed to the topic of this issue was discussed. All papers started this review process. The second editorial committee meeting was held in June 2013, and the final editorial committee meeting was held in September 2013. After careful discussions based on the peer reviews, 19 papers were accepted for publication (the acceptance rate was 37%). This special issue includes the following topics on technologies and network services for cooperating with social activities: eight papers related to "groupware based on computer system", six papers related to "knowledge sharing network", three papers related to "location data", and two papers related to "security".

There were number of interesting papers although they were not accepted for this issue. Therefore, the editorial committee wishes the authors of the papers to resubmit their work.

In closing, as guest editor of this special issue, I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions. I also appreciate the voluntary work of all reviewers as well as the remarkable efforts of Hideaki Kanai as Editorial Board, and the other Editorial Committee members listed below.

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