Proceedings of the 11th Biannual Conference of the ACM SIGCHI Italian Chapter

2015, Rome, Italy

CHItaly 2015

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ACM ISBN: 978-1-4503-3684-0

Foreword

Maria De Marsico, Daniela Fogli, Maristella Matera, Paolo Bottoni, Tiziana Catarci

The continuous progress from machine-oriented languages to human-oriented interfaces has given rise to a specific research field devoted to investigate human-computer interaction (HCI). Since its birth, the results it achieved have created new possibilities for applications of wider and wider diffusion, which however are often hindered by the so-called "digital divide". Digital divide entails two distinct gaps. One is technological and economical in its nature, when special equipment and connections are required. The other one is cultural, entailing the difficulties encountered by the so called "digital immigrants" with respect to "digital natives" in adapting to the digital society and to its required abilities and skills. Nowadays, HCI studies have a special focus on closing both gaps, aiming at designing applications that are less demanding under both points of view. At the same time, new possibilities are also offered to users with special needs, who cannot be effectively supported by traditional interfaces. The topics HCI deals with range from general principles to more and more specialized areas, where specific requirements can be derived from new ways of addressing everyday activities, and drive research and design. On the one hand, the general aim is to increase both expressive richness and usability of human-computer interfaces at the same time. On the other hand, accessibility, cultural heritage, interaction for children are only some popular examples of application fields considered in HCI research. In an orthogonal way, the development of new trends follows different lines according to the specific communities addressed by the applications. In this way, personal and social interaction alternate and complement each other in new digital scenarios.

The works presented in the proceedings of the Eleventh Edition of CHItaly just reflect the above mentioned trends, and are examples of how research is active and ready to catch new suggestions from social and cultural changes. These proceedings include 31 papers (15 full papers and 16 short papers) addressing the theme "Public, private and community-based interaction" suggested in the call for papers. Their authors come from 10 countries: Italy, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain and United States. Two invited speakers elaborated the theme from different perspectives: Kristina Höök, from the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, spoke about "Serious Research On The Unserious: Playfulness, Sociality and Bodily Engagements In The Internet Of Things Era"; while Keith Cheverst, from Lancaster University, United Kingdom, presented a talk titled "Experiences of Supporting Community Interaction Through Situated Display Deployments".

The program was structured into a number of sessions that addressed important HCI topics such as Design for children, Game design, Interaction design and evaluation, Information manipulation and presentation, Design for inclusion, Design for communities. The Conference program also featured a Poster and Demo session (co-chairs Fabio Pittarello and Giuseppe Santucci) with 8 presented works, the second doctoral consortium of the CHItaly conference series (co-chairs Massimo Mecella and Antonio Piccinno) and two workshops selected by co-chairs Rita Francese and Franca Garzotto. The first workshop, "PALX – Player and learner experience – Can we design for both?", was organized by Gabriella Dodero, Rosella Gennari and Alessandra Melonio; it aimed at discussing the issues emerging around the design for a learner and player experience. The latter, entitled "New perspectives to improve quality, efficacy and appeal of HCI courses" and organized by Carmelo Ardito, Rosa Lanzilotti, Roberto Polillo, Lucio Davide Spano and Massimo Zancanaro, was a venue for discussing different experiences concerning HCI education and challenges that must be dealt with when teaching this discipline. Two editorials describing the workshop aims and contributions are included in these proceedings.

We thank the Department of Computer, Control, and Management Engineering Antonio Ruberti at Sapienza University of Rome for hosting CHItaly 2015, the members of the Program Committee that helped with the reviews of the papers, and all the participants in the conference that contributed to creating such an interesting program.

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