The 2009 International Symposium on Collaborative Technologies and Systems
(CTS 2009)
May 18-22, 2009
The Westin Baltimore Washington International Airport Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland, USA
http://cisedu.us/cis/cts/09/main/callForPapers.jsp

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Session on
Collaborations in Emergency Response and Disaster Management

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2009

Brief Description:

Disasters are events that cause dramatic losses of life and property and disrupt the normal functioning of the economy and society on a large scale. Disaster management is a multifaceted process aimed at minimizing the social and physical impact of these large-scale events. Emergency response seeks to contain the event and minimize loss of life and injuries (rescue), health impacts, and property loss. Examples of immediate response include search and rescue operations. Responding to disasters involves such information- and communication-intensive activities as marshaling available resources and materiel, mobilizing and organizing sufficient skilled personnel, deploying them with those resources to where they are needed, and finally coordinating their actions. Specific tasks include establishing connectivity with potential resource providers, authorizing the use of resources and coordinating their use into something akin to a supply chain, integrating information from diverse (including ad hoc) sources, reducing the volume of data to relevant information for recipients, directing ongoing operations based on an overall awareness of the situation, adjusting and altering prior plans and commitments based on the evolving situation, and supporting collaboration and distributed decision making.

This special session on Collaborations in Emergency Response and Disaster Management – to be held as part of the 2009 International Symposium on Collaborative Technologies and Systems (CTS'09) – will focus on collaborative systems and technologies that support effective team work in crisis and emergency management. Emergency response and disaster management typically require collective intelligence from multiple, distributed agencies, task groups, and individuals, and involve making collaborative decisions and taking coordinated actions. However, current information systems are rarely designed to support group work in emergency

response situations. There is a need for establishing a long-term, interdisciplinary research agenda that aims to improve information technology support to collaborations in disaster management and emergency response.

The objective of this special session is to highlight key design challenges and major advances in the design, implementation, and assessment of collaborative technologies for crisis management. We invite original contributions from researchers and practitioners in academia, government, and industry in this emerging field.

Topics of Interest include (but are not limited to):

- Conceptualizing the roles of information technologies in collaborations during emergency response and disaster management
- Collaborative sense-making and information foraging
- Collaborative decision-making under stress, time pressure and inadequate resources.
- Supporting collaborations in emergency operation centers (EOCs).
- Technologies for mediating same-time, different place collaboration communications among distributed crisis management teams.
- Supporting collaborations among citizens (in disaster impacted area) through personal mobile computing devices and novel information services.
- Collaborative information systems architectures, technologies, or algorithms that address particular challenges in crisis management.
- Collaborative virtual environment for situation awareness
- Experiences in applying collaborative technologies to emergency responses or exercises.
- Geospatial information technology and geocollaboration

Instructions for Authors:

Authors are invited to submit original papers to the special session organizer by **January 31, 2009**. Electronic (pdf) submissions are encouraged and should be sent to cai@ist.psu.edu. For other electronic formats, please check with the organizer. Papers submitted for review should not exceed 10 pages in IEEE single-spaced, double-column format. Make sure to include up to 6 keywords and an abstract of no more than 350 words. Submissions should also include the title, authors name, affiliation, e-mail address, telephone number and postal address. In case of multiple authors, an indication of which author is responsible for correspondence should also be included. If accepted, the final manuscript will follow the CTS 2009 format that is available on the conference Web site at http://cisedu.us/cis/cts/09/main/callForPapers.jsp.
Electronic submissions will be accepted only in PDF.

Consistent with standard practice, each submitted paper will receive a minimum of three reviews. Papers will be selected based on their originality, timeliness, significance, relevance, and clarity of presentation. Initial selection will be based on full papers.

Submission implies the willingness of at least one of the authors to register and present the paper, once accepted. All accepted papers are required to be presented and will be included in the conference proceedings.

Special Session Co-Organizer

Guoray Cai
College of Information Sciences and Technology
Pennsylvania State University
307F IST Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: +1-814-865-4448
Fax: +1-814-865-6426
Email: cai@ist.psu.edu

Alan M. MacEachren
GeoVISTA Center
Pennsylvania State University
310 Walker Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: +1-814-865-7491
Fax: +1-814-863-7943
Email: maceachren@psu.edu

Technical Program Committee:

All submitted papers will be rigorously reviewed by the special session technical program committee members.

(This committee will be announced soon.)

Important Dates:

Paper Submission Deadline	**January 31, 2009**
Notification of Acceptance	**February 15, 2009**
Registration & Camera-Ready Paper Due	**March 3, 2009**

For information or questions about the special session and the paper submission procedure, please contact the Special Session organizers.

For information or questions about the full Symposium's program, tutorials, exhibits, demos, panel and special sessions organization, please consult the conference web site at URL: http://cisedu.us/cis/cts/09/main/callForPapers.jsp or contact the symposium co-chairs: Bill McQuay at AFRL/RYT, WPAFB (William.McQuay@wpafb.af.mil) or Waleed W. Smari at the Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Dayton (Waleed.Smari@notes.udayton.edu).