management of distributed data processing

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MANAGEMENT OF DISTRIBUTED DATA PROCESSING

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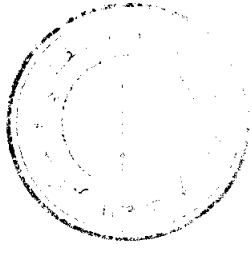

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PREFACE

Due to advances in computer network technology and the steadily decreasing cost of hardware, distributed computer systems have become an attractive alternative to centralized data processing systems. We are witnessing an increasing number of systems in which information processing and storage functions are distributed among several computers. Despite the slow speed at which this trend is developing, distributed processing represents solutions to complex problems. It is our contention that distributed systems are a 1980's phenomenon and both DP and functional management must be prepared. Many users can afford to tailor data processing functions to fit their corporate operating structures. It is now possible to place the processing power where it is needed and make it as independent as possible of other processing activities within the organization. Although there have been substantial breakthroughs in the computer network and the distributed database technologies, few guidelines have been offered to companies implementing distributed processing.

The aim of this book is to help management to face effectively the implementation of distributed computer systems. The main goal of this International Conference on Management of Distributed Data Processing was to review the state-of-the-art in the domain and to determine future trends. Another aim was to provide a forum for the interchange of ideas between practitioners and researchers.

The topics covered by this book include the following aspects:

- centralization versus decentralization of information systems
- planning of change from centralized to decentralized information systems
- design, implementation and evaluation of distributed processing
- economic issues in distributed processing
- management of distributed processing
- control and planning of distributed processing
- the impact of the decentralization on organizations
- the rôle of the users in distributed processing environments

– distributed data base systems and their performance evaluation
– query optimization in distributed processing systems

We think that the conference has met its goal and that this book will interest both students, researchers and practitioners of distributed data processing systems.

J. AKOKA
Editor

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