

## **Agents and CSCW: A Fruitful Marriage?**

Cherif Branki, Julian Newman and Rainer Unland

### **Scope and Aims of the Workshop**

In recent years, Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) has drawn great attention from both research communities and commercial sectors. More and more CSCW products have emerged widely in software markets. Furthermore, the increasing use of networking and the globalisation of dispersed organisations have posed new challenges for the development methodologies of CSCW systems.

In parallel with the advances made in CSCW in recent years there have been interesting developments in the field of Distributed Artificial Intelligence, notably in the concepts, theories and deployment of intelligent agents as a means of distributing computer-based problem solving expertise. The application of agents to provide engineering design support is an active area of research. Furthermore, the ideas inherent in such an approach are also applicable to other domains, for example, support for interactive learning. However, many organisations, that seek to exploit the advantages offered through CSCW, could derive benefit from the integration of agents in the management and use of their corporate knowledge.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- multi-agent macroscopic modelling of group work
- multi-agent cooperation and coordination in social group work
- multi-agent mechanisms for task decomposition, dispatch and synthesis in group work
- multi-agent architectures and CSCW
- multi-agent engineering design support
- mobility of agents in CSCW
- support of distributed work by agents
- how will agents influence the work environment

- which roles can agents play in virtual work environment

The major aims of this workshop are:

- to bring together researchers in the areas of CSCW, intelligent agents and their overlap;
- to provide a forum for the dissemination of current relevant theory and applications in the above fields;
- to identify important research issues and potential areas for future work;
- to explore the particular benefits of, and technological problems in introducing agents into CSCW;
- to fertilise international collaboration in future research and application in the highly promising areas of intelligent agents for CSCW.

### **International Workshop Committee:**

Cherif Branki, University of Paisley (U.K.)

Brian Lees, University of Paisley (U.K.)

Julian Newman, Glasgow Caledonian University (U.K.)

Rainer Unland, University of Essen (Germany)

Ryszard Kowalczyk, CSIRO, Melbourne (Australia)

Mathias Petsch, Technical University of Ilmenau (Germany)

Hua Tian, Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education (U.K.)

Stefan Uellner, T-Nova Deutsche Telekom Innovationsgesellschaft mbH (Germany)

For further information please contact:

- Cherif Branki: [bran-ci0@paisley.ac.uk](mailto:bran-ci0@paisley.ac.uk)
- Julian Newman: [j.newman@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:j.newman@gcal.ac.uk)
- Rainer Unland: [unlandr@informatik.uni-essen.de](mailto:unlandr@informatik.uni-essen.de)