Message from the General Chairs

On behalf of the International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2) and the University of Calgary, we are delighted to welcome you to the 16th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW 2007) in Banff. The WWW conference is the premier international forum for sharing the latest information about the Web, its technologies, and its future evolution.

We have an excellent conference lined up for you. WWW 2007 received a record number of refereed paper submissions this year, and accepted just under 15% of them. Complementing the high quality papers are 9 exciting workshops, 12 informative tutorials, 7 expert panels, about 100 posters with late-breaking results, plus the always-popular DevTrack and W3C track offerings. Bonus events include a WOW tutorial and a look at the history of the Web. A busy week indeed!

It is difficult to estimate the time and effort required to organize a conference of this magnitude, but the task is tractable with the right organizing committee at your command. Many people have helped make this conference a success. Particularly demanding is the task of the Program Chairs: we thank Peter Patel-Schneider and Prashant Shenoy for their many hours of work on the conference. The high quality of the technical program owes much to their efforts, as well as the efforts of the track chairs, deputy chairs, program committee, and external reviewers.

The Local Organizing Committee did everything we asked of them, and more. EventPlan served as the conference PCO, dealing with many logistical issues, including hotel contracts, overflow hotels, travel information, and budget. Key20 Media (formerly QuestMedia) did a wonderful job with the WWW 2007 sponsorship program. Denilson Barbosa did an excellent job publicizing the conference, with print ads in CACM and regular monthly newsletters. We thank Camille Sinanan for her super-human efforts as Registration Chair and financial officer. Lisa Higham managed our student travel award program. Sue Williamson designed conference promotional material, with photos courtesy of the Banff/Lake Louise Tourism Bureau. The IW3C2 and WWW 2006 gave valuable advice and support at crucial moments. The Banff Springs Hotel personnel, especially Barb Wallace, assisted greatly with our conference planning. Gwen, Nathan, Qian, and Chris handled the Web site, program guide, and CD, and the WWW 2007 volunteer team coordinated by John Miller helped make everything run smoothly this week.

We wish to thank our four plenary speakers (Tim Berners-Lee, Prabhakar Raghavan, Bill Buxton, and Dick Hardt) for sharing their insights, as well as the other authors and presenters for their contributions. We also thank our sponsors (especially AOL!) for their generous financial contributions to the conference.

Thank you all for attending WWW 2007. Enjoy the conference, the hotel, the food, the beautiful mountain scenery, and the wonderful spring weather! Our blog awaits your comments.

Carey Williamson, *University of Calgary*   **Mary Ellen Zurko**, *IBM*

Message from the Program Chairs

On behalf of the WWW 2007 Program Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to WWW 2007, the 16th conference in the World Wide Web conference series.

The number of submissions to the refereed papers track and their quality has grown over the years. This year we had a record 755 submissions, of which we accepted 111 papers (a 14.7% acceptance rate). In response to the growing interest from the research community, we added a fourth day to the refereed papers track program, which allowed us to accept approximately 20% more papers than previous years. Despite this increase, many good papers had to be turned away.

The refereed papers track consists of thirteen research areas. This year, we introduced two new tracks – *Web Services* and *XML and Web Data*, which were formed by splitting the old "XML and Web Services" track into two new tracks. We also eliminated the "Alternate papers tracks" by folding those research areas into the regular refereed paper tracks. Thus, *Technology for Developing Regions* and *Industrial Practice and Experience* were regular refereed paper tracks this year and submissions were subjected to the same process as other tracks. We are pleased to report that both set of changes were successful–the new tracks drew a healthy number of submissions and the quality of submissions to the new and the former alternate tracks were comparable to the other tracks. The table below summarizes the number of submissions and the number of accepted papers in each track.

	Submissions	Accepts		Submissions	Accepts
Browsers & User Interfaces	48	6	Security, Privacy, Reliability & Ethics	63	10
Data Mining	105	14	Semantic Web	114	16
E* Applications	52	6	Technology for Developing Regions	20	4
Industrial Practice & Experience	22	4	Web Engineering	40	7
Performance & Scalability	30	7	Web Services	56	8
Pervasive Web & Mobility	11	3	XML & Web Data	52	6
Search	140	20			

All papers underwent a rigorous review process by the technical program committee—each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers, followed by an online discussion phase to reconcile conflicting opinions. Candidate accept, borderline and controversial papers were discussed at length at a two day program committee meeting, which was attended by all track and deputy chairs. Some track chairs attended the meeting via audio conferencing from a satellite California site. We are pleased with the final outcome and present to you a technical program comprising 111 papers, all of which are of the highest standard.

The task of putting together the technical program of a large conference such as WWW2007 is a substantial endeavor. Many people contributed to the success of the technical program. We would like to thank the entire WWW2007 program committee for their hard work and dedication. The general chairs Mary Ellen Zurko and Carey Williamsom have been extremely supportive in a multitude of ways. Special thanks to Andrei Voronkov for his help with the Easychair web reviewing. Thanks to Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs for hosting the Program Committee meeting, to Google California for hosting the satellite site for the PC meeting, and to Lisa Tolles of Sheridan Printing for assembling the conference proceedings.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the numerous authors for submitting excellent papers and to the attendees for making the conference a success.

Peter F. Patel-Schneider   **Prashant Shenoy**
Bell Labs Research, USA   *University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA*