



ISCRAM2010

Defining Crisis Management 3.0
7th International Conference on
Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

May 2-5 2010
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Seattle Washington USA

TRACK: SOCIAL NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

Submission of work-in-progress, discussions, and practitioner papers remain open until January 18th 2010.
Submissions of full research papers is now closed.

Introduction of the track

The convergence of information and communication technologies, the growth of the internet including the mobile internet, and the advent of technologies known under the general heading of Web 2.0 have all contributed to our ability to collaborate over great distances, both synchronously and asynchronously. Our aim in this track is to explore how these new approaches to and support for collaboration can help in crisis management and response. How might such collaboration technologies help:

- preparation for disasters?
- the crisis management team in their decision making on the handling the event?
- the crisis management team in their interactions with a wide range of responders, government bodies, various publics and stakeholders and, of course, the victims and their families?
- all parties build a picture and share information about a developing crisis?
- widen the range of stakeholders who can join fully in handling the crisis and recovery?
- involve communities fully during the recovery phase to rebuild and return to normality?
- communities to work together, alongside but independently of government and non-governmental agencies, to inform and help themselves, co-ordinating citizen-led efforts?
- virtual teams and virtual communities develop processes and software for emergency management and recovery?

The track will consider submissions about systems development, their application and evaluation, as well as studies that address socio-behavioral and cognitive features and consequences of systems

Track topics

Papers are invited that provide rich description and/or evaluation of the actual use of novel web based and other systems for collaboration and/or widespread participation in any phase of emergency

management, from initial planning and preparedness, through detection, response, and recovery phases. This might include:

- Studies of the use of virtual teams or virtual communities or “social software” (e.g., social networking sites, knowledge gathering systems such as Wikimapia) in the design or use of emergency management information systems, with data collection methods ranging from laboratory or field experiments to qualitative case studies.
- Exploration and assessment of any problems that occur when virtual or partially distributed teams or the general public use information technology to coordinate disaster management related tasks, and how can they be resolved.
- Assessment of the advantages of collaborative systems compared to closed “command and control” systems created for ‘official’ involvement only?
- Investigations of the role these sorts of forums could have in future disaster preparation and response. How could their efforts be better facilitated? What socio-technical conditions should be in place to make them most beneficial?
- Behavioural studies of collaboration which have implications for the use of networking and web technologies in crisis response and management, including experimental studies.

Note that more detailed descriptions of the tracks and special sessions as well as guidance on housestyle and formatting with a MS Word template for submissions are available at www.iscram.org.

Track co-chairs

- Paloma Diaz, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- Starr Roxanne Hiltz, NJIT and the University of Salzburg
- Leysia Palen, University of Colorado

Type of submissions

ISCRAM is aware that it serves a wide community of different disciplines spanning both academic and practitioner interests. The demands on individuals from their various professions differ greatly in terms of publications and conference presentations. Academics need conferences and related publications to conform to certain standards – time consuming standards – of peer review; practitioners have far greater time pressures and often do not need such formal reviewing of their work for career progression. All have relevant and important perspectives on the issues that face us.

ISCRAM2010 is soliciting four types of submission:

1. Full research papers, which will be double blind peer reviewed. It is intended that these will report completed work which can be assessed to the highest academic standards. Such papers should be no more than 10 pages with figures & tables (~5000 words)
2. Work in progress and discussion paper which will be subjected to a peer review to ensure clarity, relevance and significance. Such papers should be no more than 5 pages with figures & tables (~2500 words).
3. Practitioner reports and discussions which raise issues, examples and case studies, examples of best practices, improvements, and significant insights or examples. Such paper will be subject to a peer review to ensure clarity, relevance and significance. Such papers should be no more than 5 pages with figures & tables (~2500 words). Authors may prefer to submit an extended abstract rather than the full paper and perhaps a set of powerpoint slides. The template for submission (see below) explains how this may be done.
4. Demonstrations. (see below).

Note that the designation of the paper and its reviewing will be indicated in the conference proceedings. Also anyone is welcome to submit any of these types of submission.

Presentations

ISCRAM will have plenary, parallel and poster sessions. Accepted papers will be assigned to the most appropriate session given the reviewers reports and the papers objectives. Such designation of the paper will be advised at the time of the acceptance of the paper.

Demonstrations

There will also be possibilities for demonstrations. These may be associated with a paper or simply stand alone. If you wish to have a demonstration associated with your paper, please email the conference organisers to this effect. However, you must submit the paper separately for review as indicated below. Contributors simply wishing to demonstrate their systems or technologies without any associated presentation should email the conference organisers. (iscram2010@iscram.org). Note that there is a fuller call for demonstrations on www.iscram.org.

Submission Process and Deadline

Submissions must be in the ISCRAM housestyle. Details of this are provided in a Word document /template, which is available at www.iscram.org.

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About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. Full information on ISCRAM can be found at www.iscram.org.

Rough Schedule of Important Dates

Although this is our 7th ISCRAM, the ISCRAM association is young; its first elected Board barely formed. Thus, while we have some well advanced ideas of what ISCRAM2010 will look like, we hope to involve you, the attendees, in planning the event. The dates below are still rough, but they should serve to set expectations. And be warned -- key dates for submission will be advanced over those in previous years.

- Nov 30, 2009: Submission of full research papers ended.
- Early Jan 2010: Acceptances or otherwise of full papers will be announced.
- Jan 18, 2010: Final submission of work in progress papers, practitioner papers, demos and posters.
- Early Feb 2010: Closing date for applications for doctoral consortium, and any workshops or tutorials which require separate registration and pre-event communications.
- Mid Feb 2010: Acceptances or otherwise of work in progress papers, demos and posters announced. Notification of acceptance of places at doctoral consortium and other workshops with limited registration.
- Feb 28, 2010: Final submission of all accepted papers, full, work in progress or practitioner reports, for inclusion in the proceedings. Note that by this date at least one of the authors of each paper will need to have registered.
- Early Mar, 2010: Early registration deadline.
- May 2-5, 2010: ISCRAM2010 conference.

Further details of ISCRAM2010, as they become clear, will be published on www.iscram.org and through its discussion and mailing lists.

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