



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: Standardization and Ontologies

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

Submissions should be made through www.conftool.com/ISCRAM2010

Introduction of the track

Due to the complex nature of crisis response and management, information systems in this field are more often than not a “system of systems”. Information interoperability among such systems is essential to make key data flow among the many stakeholders during a crisis. In addition, information systems are integrated in decision processes controlled by legislation and regulation, and set in a fast-changing environment of people with different levels of expertise, multi-disciplinary backgrounds, and multi-cultural and multi-lingual work environments. The key challenge of information systems is to ensure that information is encoded in a way that the receiver understands the semantics of the information in an interoperable environment.

The key way to create effective and efficient information systems for crisis response and management is by using existing and developing new standards and ontologies for information exchange. These include IT standards for software interoperability (such as web service standards and geospatial standards), but also process standards for interoperability of (multi-national) emergency teams. It includes ontologies ranging from description of relief teams, resources and locations, over hazard preparedness (seismic building codes) to techniques to uniquely identify a disaster.

Track topics

Information standards for system-to-system interoperability

- Standards for information system interoperability (e.g. W3C standards, OGC standards, OASIS standards)
- Standard Languages for emergency phases (e.g. resource response needs, early warnings)

Frameworks and Architectures used to enable interoperable implementations

- Information Models for large-scale information infrastructures
- Consistent national and international platforms for information sharing

Governance, regulations, legislation, requirements (etc) used to manage processes

- Standards for evaluation of response performance (e.g. financial, organizational)

- Standards for humanitarian response (e.g. visa regulations, humanitarian logistics, international search and rescue)
- Standards for disaster preparedness (e.g. seismic codes, civil protection)

Ontologies, vocabularies, taxonomies, (etc) used to describe resources and activities

- Emerging Ontologies (e.g. Who-What-Where; disaster types; missing people)
- Global unique incident identification (e.g. GLIDE)
- Methods and tools for defining, mapping, reasoning, and maintaining semantics of crisis ontologies

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

- Tom De Groot, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
- Chamindra De Silva, Tilburg University

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.

Corresponding track co-chairs



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