

Introduction

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This special issue is based on the 15th International Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work in Design (CSCWD 2011) held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on June 8–11, 2011. CSCWD is a series of annual international conferences (<http://www.cscwd.org/>) organized by the IEEE SMC Technical Committee on Computer Supported Cooperative Work in Design to provide a forum for researchers and practitioners involved in different but related domains to confront research results and discuss key problems in the design of complex artifacts. The scope includes the research and development fields of collaboration technologies and their applications to the design of processes, products, systems, and services in industries and societies.

From about 130 papers presented in technical ses-

sions at the conference, authors of the twenty six papers considered to be the most innovative and original in terms of collaboration technologies and engineering applications were invited to submit “*substantially extended and updated manuscripts with additional original computational materials based on their most recent research*” for possible publication in this issue. It was also noted “*the overlap between the new submission and the paper published in the conference proceedings should not be more than 50%.*” Each submitted extended manuscript was reviewed subsequently by 4 to 7 reviewers using the journal review form. The six manuscripts included in this issue are those that passed through two rounds of the journal’s rigorous review process successfully.