Information integration among Heterogeneous and Autonomous Applications

Benabdelkader, A.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgments

The work described in this dissertation is the result of more than five years of research performed at the Informatics Institute of the University of Amsterdam. Many people have supported my research effort amongst whom I would like to mention a few especially.

First of all, I would like to thank my promoter Bob Hertzberger and my co-promoter Hamideh Afsarmanesh for their supervision and for giving me the opportunity to become a member of the COoperative Information Management (CO-IM) group. Without their confidence and support this thesis would not have reached its final stage. Their final reading and comments greatly improved the content and the readability of this thesis.

I am very grateful for the continuous support of the members of my group with whom I shared many professional and social activities. In particular, Adam Belloum, Anne Frankel, Ersin Cem Caletas, Victor Guevara, Mohand-Amokrane Abtoun, and Uzgul Unal. Special thank is given to my officemate Cesar Garita, who was my research companion during all my studies at the UvA. Many thanks to all other people at the institute with whom I have shared the work and expertise: Hakan Yakali, Arnoed Visser, Philip Jonker, and Zeger Hendriks. They always helped me keep up with the good work, and they supported me in the final preparation of the thesis document.

I also want to express my appreciation to the members of the evaluation committee for the time they dedicated to the promotion activities. I am sincerely grateful to all of them for their many constructive comments and the principal advisory role they played during the final writing process of this thesis.

I am also thankful to the partners of Waternet, MegaStore, and Virtual Laboratory projects. Without their collaboration, the application cases, which constitute an important part of this research would not have been so faithfully developed. Special thank if given to Ronald Schut, Manager of the PCC company, and to Pieter de Haan who participated in the final development of the MegaStore project.

During my stay in Amsterdam I have made many friendships at several places and for different periods of time, who have in one way or another influenced my life in Amsterdam and made it more enjoyable. Just to mention a few of them: Ahmed, Nikos Massios, Fouzi, Djomaa, Hiddad, Youssef, Rachid, and others. I thank you all for your after-hours company and for your true friendship and constant encouragement.

Furthermore, during the elaboration of this thesis, I received the assistance of many colleagues and friends from the Faculty of Science. I cannot mention all the names, however. I would like to mention the people of the secretariat, they were always very attentive and accessible to my requests. In particular, Jacqueline, Virginie, and Erik offered me a lot of help during the final stages of this thesis.
Finally, I want to thank my parents, my sister, and my brothers. They were always my greatest supporters in every way, they provided me with the necessary strength, and they motivated me to study from the very beginning. But most of all I would like to thank my wife Yasmina. she always encouraged me to continue and challenged me to go further with my research work.

Ammar Ben Abdelkader