Report
Edited by Paul Brusil

Management Solutions for the New Communications World—A Report on NOMS 2002

Rolf Stadler¹ and Mehmet Ulema²

The 8th IEEE/IFIP Network Operations and Management Symposium (NOMS 2002, http://www.noms.org/2002) was held in Florence, Italy, April 15–19, 2002. NOMS and the IFIP/IEEE International Symposium on Integrated Network Management (IM) are the premier technical conferences in the area of network and systems management and their operations. The NOMS and IM series, jointly sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society Committee on Network Operations and Management and the IFIP Working Group 6.6 on Network management, alternate every year. More than 300 participants from 32 countries attended the symposium this year.

Following the symposium’s theme “Management Solutions for the New Communications World,” NOMS 2002 presented the latest approaches and technical solutions in the broad area of network operations and management, including

- Management Frameworks and Architectures
- Management Paradigms, Models, and Solutions
- Management of Emerging Technologies
- Service Management
- Topics Related to Operational Challenges

We received a high number of paper submissions for NOMS 2002, 173 in total. After a rigorous review process, 57 technical papers were selected for presentation at NOMS 2002 and for publication in the conference proceedings. In addition, the Technical Program Committee (TPC) and the poster chair selected 23 submissions for poster presentations. They are included as short papers in the proceedings.

The 3-day technical program was organized into three parallel tracks. Two tracks included the papers that focus primarily on technical aspects, while a third

¹NOMS 2002 Technical Program Co-chair. E-mail: stadler@comet.columbia.edu
²NOMS 2002 Technical Program Co-chair. E-mail: mehmet.ulema@manhattan.edu
track covered papers and panels that take into account operational aspects, industry experiences, and business factors. It was the first time in NOMS history that all sessions with particular relevance to an industry audience were combined into a single venue.

As part of the industry track, NOMS 2002 offered five panels: Managing 3G and M-Commerce Services, e-world IP Management: An Oxymoron?, Can We Implement Multi-Vendor Component-Based Operations Support Systems (OSSs), The Business Case for Component-Based OSS using OSS/Java, and Policy Management: Is it Real or Just Good marketing?

In the spirit of the Third IM (1993) in San Francisco wherein Forum member companies participated in various collaborative, multivendor Network Management Technology Showcases, NOMS 2002 featured some of the TeleManagement Forum Catalysts. The TeleManagement Forum is a nonprofit global organization that provides strategic guidance and practical solutions regarding management and operation of communications services, and its catalyst projects are collaborative implementations that support the development of reusable, commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products. NOMS 2002 also featured a number of vendor booths.

NOMS 2002 offered 15 tutorials on the following topics: Policy-Based Network and Security Management, Using Java2 Platform; Enterprise Edition for Telecom Management; Quality of Service in IP Networks—An Overview Strategic Issue; Mobility Management in Next Generation Wireless Systems; Management of Dynamic Networks and Services Based on Distributed Event Correlation; Using Policy-Based Management for MPLS Traffic Engineering; Building Large-Scale Solutions using the OSS through Java API; eTom: The Business Process Framework for Information and Communications Service Provider; A Model-Driven Approach to Component-Based Management; Wireless Broadband Networks; MPLS-Based Virtual Private Networks: Design, QoS, and Management; Architecture, Control, and Management of Optical Internet; QoS Management in the Internet; Enabling Technologies and Open Challenges of the Optical Internet; and Java in Telecommunications. Policy-based management and QoS related tutorials drew larger participation.

Following the NOMS tradition, NOMS 2002 opened each day with a keynote address, given by a distinguished speaker. On the first day, Dr Stefano Pileri, Senior VP, Telecom Italia, talked about his views on the directions of the OSSs technology. He focused on three key points: Customer Relationship Management, Economic Results (reduction on OPEX and fast return on CAPEX), and service innovation. On the second day, Mr Eric Fremont, Senior VP, E-Business Group, Verizon Communications, USA, presented his thoughts on the challenges that OSSs people are facing during the current downturn. He emphasized the importance of opening up the OSSs for use by others via the Internet. On the final day, Dr Young-Hyun Cho, Senior VP, Korea Telecommunications, talked about the status of Korea’s telecom industry and the vision of his company in addressing the challenges