FOREWORD

The Interactive Events series is new to this year’s AIED conference, although those who visited recent CSCL conferences may already have participated in events of a similar nature. Why add a new presentation format to the AIED conference?

The conference organizers believe that Interactive Events series will turn out to be a useful and lively complement to the traditional technical sessions, which remain the best format for characterizing new learning technologies and presenting empirical results about learning.

During Interactive Events, on the other hand, the technology takes center stage. The audience will experience the capabilities of novel software or hardware scenarios in a truly interactive, hands-on manner. The audience will learn by doing and discovering, rather than by listening, which many researchers in our field believe are preferred modes of learning. (As a research community we should practice what we preach!) Further, if good software design is as much about getting the details right as it is about the big architectural picture, then it seems logical to allot a sufficient amount of time to highlight important details, as we do in the Interactive Event series. Finally, we expect that the hands-on experience will help spur informed and interesting discussion to a degree not easily realized during traditional presentations.

Special thanks are due to all presenters of Interactive Events for having the courage to be pioneers. Also, I would like to thank the reviewers of the Interactive Event proposals for their thoughtful comments: Shaaron Ainsworth, Joe Beck, Ricardo Coneja, Andreas Harrer, Neil Heffernan, Santosh Mathan, Tom Murray, Jeff Rickel, and Judy Robertson. I would like to thank Dan Suthers for his advice on how best to stage the Interactive Events. Finally, I am very grateful to the technical staff of the University of Sydney for taking on the daunting task of meeting the diverse hardware and software requirements.

May the Interactive Events turn out to be a happening series and become a regular and popular feature of future conferences in our research community.

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