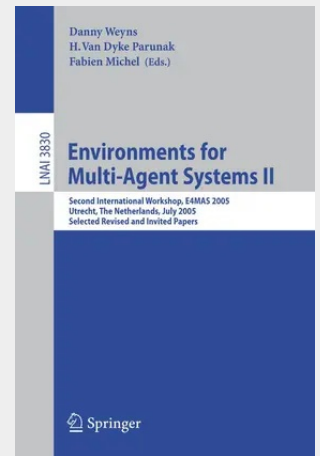


## Environments for Multi-Agent Systems II

Second International Workshop, E4MAS 2005, Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 25, 2005,  
Selected Revised and Invited Papers

This book constitutes the thoroughly refereed post-proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Environments for Multiagent Systems, E4MAS 2005, held in July 2005. The 16 revised papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from the lectures given at the workshop. The papers are organized in topical sections on models, architecture, and design, mediated coordination, as well as applications.

In the past two years the environment in multiagent systems has become increasingly important and is now becoming a focus of research in its own right. Yet, the environment in multiagent systems has been studied before. So the obvious question then is: Why does the environment attract the attention of a broader community of researchers right now? The answer to this question is manifold. First, current research on environments is built on the receptive ground of early work. Pioneers such as Demazeau, Parunak, Ferber, Odell, Omicini and Zambonelli have been stressing the importance of the environment in multiagent systems for almost a decade. Second, current research on environments is well organized. The workshop series on Environments for Multiagent Systems (E4MAS) provides the breeding ground for coordinating research on environments. E4MAS provides an active forum for discussion and exchange of ideas. The constructive atmosphere of the E4MAS workshops and the critical attitude of the attendees stimulate research in the growing community. Third, researchers interested in environments come from various backgrounds. The notion of environment exceeds specific types of agency. The environment is important for simple agent-like agents as well as for complex cognitive agents. The environment provides a challenging area for synergetic research on multiagent systems in general. And last but not least, the perspective on the role of the environment in multiagent systems has undergone a fundamental change in the last two years.



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