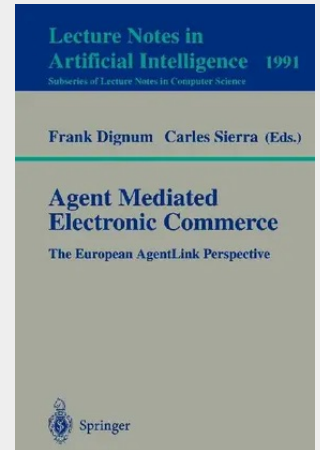


Agent Mediated Electronic Commerce

The European AgentLink Perspective

It is now no longer necessary to argue the importance of agent technology. Besides numerous conferences and workshops on specific aspects of agent technology there are also many companies that are exploring its exploitation possibilities. In the light of these developments and in order to foster the transfer of agent technology from research labs to business, the EU has funded a "network of excellence" devoted to agent technology. This network of excellence, called AgentLink (<http://www.agentlink.org/>), aims at bringing together research groups from different countries and industrial developers. The ultimate goal is to create synergy among the different projects and groups to improve the competence of European industry and the excellence of academia. In order to achieve this goal, AgentLink organises educational activities (summer schools), builds agent-related literature repositories, and facilitates collaboration between member nodes. One of the main activities related to the last point are the regular meetings of "Special Interest Groups" (SIGs). At this moment six SIGs are functioning, focusing on topics ranging from agent based social simulation to intelligent agents for telecommunications applications and telematics. The current book combines two results from the activities of the SIG on "Agent Mediated Electronic Commerce". This SIG gathers the main research groups and industrial partners interested in the use of agent technology in electronic commerce. First and foremost the book contains a roadmap of research and current technological developments in the area of agent-mediated electronic commerce.

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