

## Guest Editorial

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Computer technology has greatly advanced over the last 30 years. The early 1980s, for example, witnessed the introduction of “stand alone” personal computers at schools and in the workplace. The mid 1980s saw the mass introduction of local access networks providing service to very limited areas. The early 1990s saw the introduction of the Internet and expanded network capacity and range, especially due to fiber optics. Wireless technology was beginning to rapidly expand, particularly in the area of telecommunications. The last years of the 1990s witnessed the increased relevance of the internet and of wireless technologies.

The early 21st century, however, has seen a remarkable increase of social networking, online learning and wireless communications and information technologies. Presently, as well as in the near future, wireless technologies will play an increasingly important role in mobile and ubiquitous computing applications in the areas of health, education, public safety, law enforcement, disaster preparedness, mitigation and management, traffic control, ecology, as well as military applications, just to name a few. Today, being communicated by mobile telephone or internet is an essential part of “belonging” on a social level and “participating” in what has become an extremely fluid and intercommunicated worldwide workplace. However, new challenges are each day attracting the focus of researchers.

The scope of The International Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies is to focus on the exchange of relevant trends and research, present practical experiences gained, and discuss fundamentals and applications related to interactive mobile technologies. This special issue deals with such challenges. For example, maintaining the consistent state of mobile databases in mobile environments is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Another important challenge is the hand over process between wireless systems such as Bluetooth, WiFi, cellular and WiMAX networks. On the other hand, there are also hostile or inaccessible environments which require wireless technologies to monitor and control physical and chemical variables.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

These important issues, among others, are presented in papers submitted to this special edition of The International Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies. In this way, we maintain iJIM as a relevant international journal that contributes to the dissemination of information and promotes research in mobile interactive technologies that are relevant today and vital to our future.

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