

# Preface

For the 29th time, SOFSEM (SOFTware SEMinar) was held. Having transformed over the years from a local event to a fully international conference, the contemporary SOFSEM is a mix of a winter school and a conference striving for multidisciplinary in computer science, accompanied by workshops dedicated to a narrow field (this year multimedia and softcomputing) and a student forum.

This volume constitutes the proceedings of SOFSEM 2002 held in Milovy, Czech Republic, November 22–29, 2002. This year, 23 papers were submitted from 11 countries. The selection of the 11 best papers accepted by the Program Committee was based on their contribution to the state of the art, technical soundness, clarity of presentation, and relevance of bibliography. The Steering Committee supported by the Advisory Board recommended 12 invited talks focused on the following key topic areas: distributed and parallel systems, system design and testing, databases and information systems, and fundamentals.

SOFSEM is the result of considerable effort by a number of people. It is our pleasure to record our thanks to the Advisory Board for its support, to the Steering Committee for its general guidance, and to the Organizing Committee for making SOFSEM 2002 happen. It has been an honor for us to work with the members of the Program Committee and other referees who devoted a lot of effort to reviewing the submitted papers.

Also, we would like to record a special credit to Aleš Křenek, the PC secretary, for his tremendous job in keeping track of the hundreds of PC agenda-related issues and for the technical preparation of the proceedings (here substantially helped by Zdeněk Salvét). Moreover, we would like to acknowledge the excellent cooperation we received from Jan Staudek as the Organizing Committee Chair.

We are very grateful to the editors of the LNCS series for their continuing trust in SOFSEM, and to Springer-Verlag for publishing the proceedings. In addition, we highly appreciate the financial support of our sponsors which assisted with the invited speakers and advanced students.

Ultimately, the success of SOFSEM will be determined not only by the speakers and the committee members, the core of the conference, but generally by all the attendees who contribute to the spirit of the conference. So we are very grateful to all of our professional colleagues who did their best to make SOFSEM a high-quality event. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for having the opportunity to serve as the Program Committee Co-chairs of SOFSEM 2002.

Bill Grosky and František Plášil

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### SOFSEM 2002 is organized by

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 Czech Society for Computer Science  
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 Institute of Computer Science, Academy of Sciences, Prague  
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