



The 4th International Conference on Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management

Delft, the Netherlands, May 13-16 2007
<http://www.iscram.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR SPECIAL *ACADEMIC/PRACTITIONER/DEMO* SESSION ON

Virtual Teams and Virtual Communities in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Session ID: 52VTC

Motivation for this session

Virtual Communities and Virtual Teams are increasingly prevalent uses of ICT technology in response to disasters.

Research Area

Virtual or Distributed teams are a prevalent means of managing tasks, from software development to disaster response. Disaster response teams are often far-flung, and must collaborate and coordinate efforts across distance, which includes supporting response workers who are new to a geographical region. Disaster response can benefit from deliberate, designed inclusion of technology for better, more efficient coordination across time, space, and organizational boundaries.

Virtual Forums or Communities: with the increasingly accessible Internet, online forums have allowed people to cross geographical boundaries that normally constrain the reach of crises to share information and coordinate citizen-led efforts, in addition to any official government and non-governmental websites. For example, many citizen-created online sites sprang up in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and FluWiki is currently a very active website for people interested in preparing for a possible avian flu epidemic.

Topics

Some non-exhaustive examples of topics that could contribute to this session are papers or practitioner reports or demos that address the following questions:

- What are the problems that occur when virtual or partially distributed teams need to coordinate to manage disaster response, and how can they be resolved?
- In regard to virtual communities or forums: What role could these sorts of forums have in future disaster preparation and response? How could their efforts be better facilitated? What socio-technical conditions should be in place to make them most beneficial?
- What possibilities are present for the integration of these distributed efforts by the public and by formal response teams?

Type of contributions:

- **Academic Session:** we especially invite researchers from academia or research labs to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters submit a regular research (or research in progress) paper which will be reviewed according to the usual academic standards.
- **Practitioner Session:** we invite practitioners to present their practice or experiences in the use of virtual teams and virtual communities in disaster response. Prospective presenters submit a PowerPoint presentation which will be reviewed according to standards of relevance and contents.
- **Demonstration and Simulation Session:** we invite presentations of non-commercial demonstrations of information systems with case study content demonstrating actual systems used to support virtual teams or virtual communities in emergency response. Prospective contributors submit a description of the demonstration or simulation they intend to present at the conference. These will be reviewed according to standards of relevance to the general theme of the conference.

Important Notice: All submissions must be submitted to the ISCRAM2007 central email address: iscram2007@iscram.org.

All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM2007 instructions published on iscram.org. All papers, presentations or demos will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection. Acceptance rates at previous conferences were at 50-60 percent.

Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM2007 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions, (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form (see iscram.org) and (3) one of the author's registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration. Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately

Session Chairs:



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Important ISCRAM2007 Deadlines:

- Paper Submission Deadline: January 15, 2007
- Notification of acceptance: February 22, 2007
- Closing date Early Registration: March 1, 2007
- Final version submission deadline: March 15, 2007
- ISCRAM2007: May 13-16 2007

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

This year the conference will be held from 13-16 May in the Netherlands in the city of Delft. All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.

TIP!

If you have the intent to submit a paper or presentation to one or more sessions, the session organizers would greatly appreciate an early, voluntary, notification. Please send your abstract TO: the Session Chair(s) (See e-mail addresses above) *and* CC it to: iscram2007@iscram.org.

The subject of the mail should be:

"Abstract for <session ID> on <your short title>"

The content of the mail should include:

- The type of contribution you want to submit: an academic paper, a presentation or a demo
- The title of your contribution
- A short description (abstract) of your contribution (10 lines)
- Any remarks/questions you have.

The session organizers will answer any questions you have, and may provide you with some tips.

Please note that submitting an abstract is not obligatory; it will be appreciated however. The organizing committees will not review the abstracts, or make a selection on the basis of abstracts. Only the final and full submissions will be used for this purpose. Sending an abstract does not oblige you to submit the full paper.