
FOREWORD

Special Section on Networking Technologies for Dependable Networks

The variety and scope of network environments have been increasing. Examples of these networks are the newly available integrated service networks, which allow single networks to support various communication services at once such as the Internet and NGNs, integrated wired and wireless networks (i.e., fixed mobile convergence (FMC)), and integrated communication networks and broadcasting. As a result, the variety of applications and diversity of users have also been increasing. The more individuals and the society as a whole depend on such networks, the more indispensable to the social infrastructure they become, and we need a higher quality of communication services, and networks that are more available and have higher stable. Therefore, we should develop a variety of networking technologies that will help make networks more dependable.

This special section aims to promote understanding of the latest trends in network technology and further research and development for creating more dependable networks. In answer to our call for paper of this special section, we had received 48 submissions including 3 letters. After careful consideration and intensive review and discussion by the editorial committee, 11 papers and 1 letter have been selected for publication. Those papers cover various issues of latest dependable networking technologies. Two invited papers are also solicited to provide future perspectives on dependable networks. The editorial committee believes that these sophisticated papers will contribute to the further progress of dependable networks and future rich network services.

Last, all members of the editorial committee, who volunteered from the Technical Committee on Information Networks of the IEICE Communication Society, would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the authors and reviewers for their contributions to make this special section a successful one.

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Hiroshi Saito (*Fellow*) graduated from the University of Tokyo with a B.E. degree in Mathematical Engineering in 1981, an M.E. degree in Control Engineering in 1983 and received Dr.Eng. in Teletraffic Engineering in 1992. He joined NTT in 1983. He is currently an Executive Research Engineer at NTT Service Integration Labs. Dr. Saito is a fellow of IEEE and ORSJ, and a member of IFIP WG 7.3.

