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**BPMDS'06**  
**Seventh Workshop on Business Process Modeling,**  
**Development, and Support: Requirements for flexibility**  
**and the ways to achieve it**

Workshop at

**CAiSE'06**

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## Preface

The BPMDS series of workshops has been carried out since 1998. BPMDS'06 is the seventh workshop in the series. The workshop series is devoted to the exploration of business process modeling, development and support issues in general and the understanding of so called Business Process Support (BPS) systems in particular. Whereas all the workshops in the series share the same broad subject, each BPMDS workshop has a specific theme that relates to the overall BPMDS series.

The specific theme of BPMDS'06 is the requirements for flexibility and the ways to achieve it. In the dynamic business environments of today, associated as they are with new methods, new practices, and an increasing number of both mergers and technological innovations, flexibility is an important guiding principle in the design of business processes. However, different kinds and levels of flexibility are needed in different organizational situations.

Flexibility types can be differentiated following multiple dimensions. First, flexibility may refer to different subjects. For example, changes to the business process model, instances or even services used during process execution. Second, flexibility may be required only for a short time as "one-time deviation" or a permanent change. Third, the need for flexibility may exist for different perspectives of the business process, such as the information and the control flow. Following this, different types of flexibility require different techniques for their achievement. Furthermore, different parts of the business process support system may be affected.

The theme of the BPMDS'06 workshop was decided on at the previous workshop (BPMDS'05), which focused mainly on achieving an understanding of what flexibility is. The conclusion of this workshop was that based on the understanding that was gained, the next workshop should continue with the issue of flexibility and focus on identifying requirements for flexibility in a given business situation and how to achieve it in terms of process design techniques and BPS system requirements.

The outcome of the brainstorming sessions held at BPMDS'05 was a taxonomy of business process flexibility, which summarizes the understanding that was achieved about what flexibility is. Most of the authors in BPMDS'06 related their contribution to this taxonomy, which was published as part of the Call for Papers of BPMDS'06. This taxonomy thus serves as a common framework to all the papers and makes them a part of an overall body of knowledge which is being developed. As well, building on the taxonomy made sure that a progress is maintained in the BPMDS series to continue the gradual and steady exploration process reflected in the themes of the previous BPMDS workshops.

The 12 papers accepted to BPMDS'06 deal with various aspects of business process flexibility, the requirements posed by the environment and the business needs, and methods by which flexibility can be achieved. Besides the presentation papers, the workshop will include a keynote speech by Alain Wegmann, presenting some epistemological principles for understanding business process flexibility, and an industry talk devoted to processes in IT service management especially the IT

infrastructure library (ITIL). The workshop will also include two brainstorming sessions in which related issues will be discussed by the participants.

The papers that will be presented at the workshop have been organized under the following session headings:

**Modeling for flexibility.** A model of a business process is a representation and a prescription of the process. The papers in this group attempt to define how this representation can facilitate flexibility and serve as a basis for flexible business processes.

**Flexibility of process type and instance.** A process instance is a specific occurrence of a process of a certain type. Flexibility of a process instance is the ability to have variations among these occurrences. The papers that belong to this group discuss requirements on process type definition in support of process instance flexibility.

**Flexibility within a context.** The papers in this group examine a scope which is broader than the business process itself, and establish the requirements for flexibility and the design for flexibility with respect to the process' context.

**Process mining.** This group of papers specifically addresses techniques of process mining, extracting knowledge from existing processes, and its relation to flexibility.

**Theory application.** The papers in this group are works grounded in theories and propose applications of these theories for solving flexibility-related problems.

Finally, we wish to thank all the people who submitted papers to the workshop for having shared their work with us, as well as the members of the BPMDS'06 program committee and the workshop organizers of CAiSE'06 for their help with the organization of the workshop.