Preface

The Center for Architectures for Data-driven Information Processing was established at UMBC in August 1997. CADIP conducts research at UMBC, Bowie State University, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, University of Missouri - Kansas City, and University of Regina. The center is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The three areas of research focus for CADIP are software agents, information storage and retrieval, and information visualization. Many of our most interesting projects touch on two or even all three of these areas.

The scalability of agent-based systems remains an interesting open question. As was the case last year, four of the five CADIP universities are conducting research in the areas of models, protocols and languages for communication between agents, and reports on these efforts appear in this volume.

With the increasing capacity and decreasing price of mass storage devices, the important question in the area of information storage and retrieval is not *whether* a large disk system can be built, but rather given that it can be built, how is it best used? Current systems handle gigabytes and even terabytes, but the systems of the future will need to scale into the petabyte range.

Our work in the area of information visualization addresses the question of how to present all this information in a way that helps (or allows) analysts to gain insight into the data and what it means. We remain intrigued by the problem of how to present data that is high dimensional in nature.

In September 2000, the participants in the different CADIP projects met at UMBC to discuss their results. The papers in this volume are based on talks given at that meeting, and appear in this volume in the same order as the corresponding presentations. The papers, as well as most of the original presentations, are available on the WWW via the CADIP web page, which is `http://www.cs.umbc.edu/cadip`.

Charles Nicholas
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