

ATNAC 2004 Conference Report

Introduction

The ATNAC'2004 stands for Australian Telecommunication Networks and Applications Conference which was held from 8 – 10 December 2004 in Sydney, Australia.

ATNAC is a major annual Australian conference bringing together researchers from universities and industrial research laboratories, both from Australia and overseas. Members of the ATNAC'2004 Program Committee included representatives from leading R&D institutions around the world. ATNAC 2004 provided attendees with the latest developments in telecommunications networks and applications. It included plenary sessions featuring internationally recognized keynote speakers as well as parallel oral and poster sessions.

Traveling Experience

I am grateful that I got the opportunity to travel to Australia. This was my first visit there. I traveled together with my wife, considering it as our delayed honeymoon. We arrived in Sydney a bit earlier, on the 4th December. We stayed at my friend's place and spent first few days before the conference on sightseeing. During that time we went to many places in Sydney, visiting the Aquarium (where "Finding Nemo" lives), Sydney Olympic Park (where the year 2000 Olympics were held), Sydney Opera House, huge shopping malls, The Rocks, China Town, Botanic Gardens, Art Gallery, University of New South Wales, the city centre, etc. In summary, Australia is both similar and different from New Zealand. There are similar shops, and houses are of the same sort of design as in New Zealand. However, people, culture, food, weather, (huge) buildings, bus and traffic jam experience in Sydney are different from those in Christchurch.

During the last four days of our stay, we stayed at Bondi Apartments which was about 1km away to Bondi Grand Hotel where ATNAC was held. Staying at this apartment really helped me as I could walk to the conference without any worries that I would be late to attend the conference, as traffic congestion in Sydney is a big problem.

Conference Experience

On the first day of the conference, I managed to find my way to the registration desk and registered for my attendance and got a conference bag, badge and the Proceedings of ATNAC'2004 on a CD. I attended the first plenary session where Nicolas Mercouroff, Chief Technology Officer from Alcatel and Professor Prasant Mohapatra from University of California were presenting their talks. I was really impressed by Nicolas' talk about "From next generation mobile networks to multimedia applications to user centricity". This is because of my interest in mobile networks. His talk provided me an overview of the latest evolutions in telecommunications and networking in mobile networks.

Later on there were many talks in different seminar rooms and I chose to attend sessions on Wireless LANs, Network Architectures and Wireless Network. All of these sessions very interesting and broadened my view on what kind of research was carried out by

other researchers in this area. During that time, I got a chance to meet researchers from Helsinki University of Technology, Monash University, Swburne University of Technology and University of Wollongong.

On the last day, it was my turn to present my talk based on my Masters research at University of Canterbury. My results impressed some participants. One of them was very interested in how I managed to obtain my results with so few resources I had access to. Below is a picture of me taken during my presentation.



In conclusion, I would like to say thank you to the Department of Computer Science & Software Engineering at the University of Canterbury in sponsoring this conference leave of mine me. It gave me a unique opportunity of gaining a valuable experience by presenting my research paper on “Implementation of Freeze-TCP with Cellular IP in a Wireless LAN”.

Francis Chai