

ISESS

Welcome to ISESS 2004

Thank you for supporting the International Symposium for Environmental Software Systems. This year's workshop is being held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Who Is ISESS?

Due to increasing practical needs, the software support of environmental protection and research tasks is continuously growing in importance and scope. ISESS 2004 is the 9th event in the conference series organised by IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) Working Group 5.11, "Computers and Environment". The purpose of the symposium is to present and discuss the progress and actual trends in Enviromatics in terms of methods, tools and state-of-the-art applications.

ISESS 2004

Post-event management of environmental disasters, whether due to natural causes or deliberate actions, requires advanced planning. Response to floods, earthquakes, famines and wildfires has been largely institutionalized. The scale of these events appears to be increasing, requiring new thinking about the deployment of information resources. More recent environmental threats resulting from human conflict will require new technologies. These technologies will be aimed at coping with the even greater need for real-time information dissemination. Through the use of risk assessment and management techniques the public will be provided with assurance that government resources are being directed effectively. Enviromatics is a scientific discipline which embraces the suite of computer-oriented techniques and technologies that can be used to address these environmental issues. The theme for this year's workshop is appropriately entitled Environmental Risk and Emergency Management to explore the role of Enviromatics in making our world a safer place.

This welcome package is intended to provide delegates with relevant information regarding travelling to ISESS 2004 as well as what to expect from the workshop. Please note that the program information is tentative, for up-to-date information, please visit the web site at: isess.crle.uoguelph.ca or contact the Conference Manager, Linda Robson, at linda@cis.uoguelph.ca

Workshop Details

The workshop will begin on Tuesday, May 18 at 9:00 am at James Madison University, Conference Centre. Registration will be available beginning at 8:30 am. The workshops will be held in Ballroom C and the workshop office will be located in Conference Room 3.

The meeting room will be equipped with the following:

- overhead projector
- computer/video projection
- flip-charts

There will be a reception on Tuesday, May 18th in the evening. The reception will be held at a local pub called Calhoun's and will be a cash bar with some snacks available.

Wednesday, May 19th will begin at 9:00 am and conclude at approximately 12:30 pm. The attendees will have the rest of the afternoon off to explore the area. There are no social activities planned.

Thursday, May 20th will begin at 9:00 am and will conclude at approximately 5:30 pm. The workshop banquet will be held that evening, beginning at 7:00 pm in Ballroom C and is included in attendee registration. Please note that guests and students will need to purchase a ticket for the banquet.

Friday, May 21st will begin at 9:00 am and the workshop will conclude at approximately 2:00 pm.

Breaks will be served during the meeting days and lunch is provided on Tuesday and Thursday.

Parking is available in lot R3. A map of James Madison University is included in this package.

Please consult the ISESS 2004 web site (<http://isess.crle.uoguelph.ca/conferences/2004>) for detailed and current information regarding the workshop.

Documentation

For those delegates travelling from outside the United States you will require a valid passport with six (6) months before its expiry date.

Delegates from Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom may be eligible to travel in the United States without obtaining a visa through the Visa Waiver Program. Delegates from countries not listed above should contact the nearest United States Embassy to obtain visa requirements.

For further information regarding visa requirements please visit:

travel.state.gov/visa/visitors.html or www.unitedstatesvisas.gov

Flight and Travel Information

To reach Harrisonburg, Virginia you will fly into Washington, D.C. There are two (2) airports in Washington. Most international flights will land at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The other airport in Washington, D.C. is Washington Dulles Airport. Domestic and North American flights have the option of landing here as well as Ronald Reagan National Airport.

Please note the following information regarding security measures:

- S** Passengers are required to show a boarding pass and current passport at the security screening checkpoints.
- S** Passengers may experience random additional screening with hand-wands at the security checkpoint.
- S** Passengers are urged to arrive 1½- 2 hours before their flight to allow time to get through airline ticketing and security.
- S** Contact your airline for more specific directions on this.
- S** Limit carry-on bags to one bag plus one personal item (such as a purse or a briefcase).
- S** TSA security measures require careful screening of carry-on luggage. Passengers are urged to leave any sharp objects (pocket knives, scissors, etc) at home or in their luggage checked in at the ticket counter.
- S** Passengers with medical conditions that require them to carry a needle and/or syringe must also have the medication that requires such injection with them. The medication must be packaged with a pharmaceutical label or professionally printed label identifying the medication.
- S** All electronic items, such as laptops, cell phones, pagers, may be subject to additional screening. Be prepared to remove your laptop from its travel case so that both can be X-rayed separately. Also be prepared to turn all electronic devices on for screeners.
- S** Only ticketed passengers will be allowed through security checkpoints. You can help expedite this process by having your ticket readily available prior to entering the security screening areas.

- S** No parking or waiting will be allowed by police on the curb areas at National.
- S** Unattended bags will be immediately confiscated by Airports Authority Police.
- S** There are no facilities for short or long term luggage storage at the airport.

Car Rental and Directions

At Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, car rentals from Avis, Budget, National or Dollar are located in Parking Garage A. Follow the ground transportation signs outside, there are courtesy airport shuttles for car rentals.

To Harrisonburg from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport:

1. South on Return to Airport toward W Entrance Road. Return to Airport becomes W Entrance Road.
2. Turn Slight Right onto Abingdon Dr.
3. Take the ramp toward US-1/I-66/Crystal City.
4. Turn Right onto VA-233.
5. Take the US-1 N ramp toward I-395 N/Washington/I-66 W.
6. Merge onto Jefferson Davis Highway.
7. Merge onto I-66 W toward Front Royal/Dulles Airport.
8. Merge onto I-81 S via exit 1A (on the left), toward Roanoke.
9. Take VA-659/Port Republic Road, Exit 245.

At Washington Dulles Airport, car rentals from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty offer shuttle buses to their location. From Baggage Claim (lower) Level, go down any ramp, proceed out of the building to the second curb.

To Harrisonburg from Washington Dulles Airport:

1. Go West on Dulles Airport Access Road toward Saarinen Circle.
2. Turn Slight Right onto Saarinen Circle.
3. Turn Slight Left onto Saarinen Circle/Arrivals.
4. Turn Slight Left onto Saarinen Circle
5. Stay straight to go onto Dulles Airport Access Road
6. Take VA-28 (Exit 9), toward VA-7/Sterling/US-50/Centreville.
7. Merge onto Sully Road/VA-28 (Exit 9A) toward US-50/Centreville/Manassas.
8. Merge onto I-66 W toward Front Royal.
9. Merge onto I-81 S (Exit 1A, on left), toward Roanoke.
10. Take VA-659/Port Republic Road (Exit 245).

Destination Information

James Madison University is located in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Harrisonburg is located in the Shenandoah River Valley, only 2 hours from Washington, DC and 1 hour from Charlottesville, Virginia. Information on the area can be found at:

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Convention and Visitors Bureau 540-434-2319 (www.hrcvb.org)

Outdoor Recreation

Grab your hiking shoes and hit the trail with over 139,000 acres of George Washington National Forest and the famous Shenandoah National Park & Skyline Drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway - just 20 minutes from Harrisonburg. Traveling through small towns and rural roads to the market is a step back to an earlier time. Don't miss the Shenville Creamery & Garden Market, a state-of-the-art creamery where milk from their dairy herd is bottled in glass the old fashioned way. Enjoy a slice of fresh pie with homemade ice cream amidst fresh seasonal produce. Kids will love the farm animals, corn maze and pumpkin picking in the fall.

History & Heritage

Civil War buffs delight in exploring the area, as many battles were fought in the Valley. Parts of the Civil War Trails series, the Port Republic and nearby Cross Keys Battlefields are some of the most pristine and well preserved battlefields in the Valley. General "Stonewall" Jackson's Valley campaign is unforgettably told using a renowned electric map at the Shenandoah Valley Folk Art and Heritage Center in Dayton. Traditional arts on exhibition reflect the ethnic and religious backgrounds of the original groups who settled here in Shenandoah Valley Folk Art Collection. Stop by the Virginia Quilt Museum in downtown Harrisonburg and view an extensive collection of modern and antique quilts.

Climate

Virginia's weather has been described as "not too hot, not too cold" and is officially considered a humid, subtropical region due to winter frost. During the summer, it can get a bit humid due to the abundant water along the East Coast with the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean as well as the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James rivers and their tributaries. But the air is cooler with less humidity in the mountains, on the average of 10 degrees cooler for all four seasons.

Miscellaneous Information

Time Zone

Harrisonburg, Virginia is on Eastern Standard Time.

Currency

U.S. Dollars. Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) are accepted at hotels, restaurants, and shopping centers. Banks are open Monday - Friday with varying hours. ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) are located throughout the city and are accessible with a bank card that has international access on it. There will be a fee for using an ATM. Debit cards (check cards) can be used at ATMs provided they have been properly programmed with a personal identification number (PIN). Debit cards cannot be used at stores or restaurants. Check with your bank to make sure that your credit card and/or debit card can be used overseas. Traveller's Cheques are accepted at most restaurants, hotels and stores. Banks offer the best exchange rates. Make sure that you have some US currency when you arrive to avoid having to exchange money at the airport exchange booths.

Electrical Current

The electrical current in the United States is 110-volt, 60-cycle alternating current. You will need a converter or transformer if your country's electrical current is different. The wall outlets in the United States are either two flat prongs set parallel to one another or two flat pins with one round pin.

Tipping/Gratuities

Below are general guidelines for use when tipping in the United States. As always tipping is a reflection of good service and not necessary.

Airports and Train Stations

\$1 per bag for porters (more if bags are heavy)

\$1 for hailing a taxi

Taxis

10-15% of fare

Hotels

\$1-2 for valet parking attendant

\$1-2 per bag for bellman

15% for room service (unless gratuity already added), then \$1 for delivery

Restaurants

20% for exceptional service, 15% standard for seated dinner

10% for bartenders, bar service or buffet meal

Hotel

Most hotels will provide hair dryers, telephones with outside calling, televisions, coffee makers, irons and ironing boards as part of the room amenities. Room safes are also standard in most hotels in the United States. Some hotels offer non-smoking and smoking floors. Please check the specific hotel web site for details of room amenities.

Please make sure that you know the check-in and check-out times for your hotel. Reservations can be made without a credit card, however they will not be guaranteed and will not be held after 6 pm.

Telephone Charges

Hotels will often charge a fee to dial out of the hotel and an additional charge for long distance calls. A listing of these charges will be displayed by the telephone in the guest room. Calling cards are more convenient and cost effective.

Computer Access

Most hotels will provide telephone hook-ups for computer access, however service providers will be necessary in a lot of cases. This could lead to large long distance charges. There is a Kinko's located at 1010 S Main Street.

Customs

Non-U.S. residents ages 21 and older may import into the United States 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 2 kilograms of tobacco, 1 liter of alcohol, and gifts worth \$100. Prohibited items include meat products, seeds, plants, and fruits.