THE AIM2 MANIFESTO

(20 March 2012)

Executive Summary

The Association for Interactive Multimodal Information Management (AIM2) is concerned with the field of interactive systems that facilitate access to and management of multimedia and multimodal information and which enhance human-to-human communication.

AIM2 will particularly support research and development in the domains of multimodal information processing, multimedia indexing and retrieval, multimodal interfaces for human-computer interaction, and social signal processing.

AIM2 also aims at promoting education and dissemination in these fields.

1. Introduction

The Association for Interactive Multimodal Information Management (AIM2) is concerned with the field of natural multimodal interfaces for human-computer interaction and related interactive systems operating over multimedia data. By "multimodal" we mean the different technologies that coordinate natural input modes (such as speech, pen, touch, hand gestures, head and body movements, and eventually physiological sensors) with multimedia system output (such as speech, sound, images, or video). Multimodal interfaces should flexibly accommodate a wide range of users, tasks, and environments for which any single mode may not suffice. The ideal interface should primarily be able to deal with more comprehensive and realistic forms of data, including mixed data types (i.e., data from different input modalities such as image and audio).

AIM2 is also concerned with the domain of computer-enhanced human-to-human interaction. Indeed, understanding human-human interaction is fundamental to the long-term pursuit of powerful and natural multimodal interfaces for human-computer interaction. In addition to making rich, socially-enhanced analyses of group process ripe for exploitation, our advances in speech, image, video, and language processing, as well as the tools for working with multimodal data, will improve research and development in many related areas.

The field of multimodal interaction covers a wide range of critical activities and applications, including recognition and interpretation of spoken, written and gestural language, particularly when used as an interface to multimedia information systems, and biometric user authentication (protecting information access). Further, management of multimedia information systems is a wide-ranging and important research area that includes not only the study of multimodal interaction as described above, but also multimedia document analysis, indexing, and information retrieval. The development of this technology is necessarily a multi-disciplinary undertaking, requiring the collaborative contributions of experts in engineering and computer science, but also from the social sciences, psychology and linguistics.

2. Major actions

AIM2 supports its community of interest through various activities. The major planned actions are listed below.

2.1. R&D projects

Supporting, and conducting research and development projects.

AIM2 supports and conducts projects ranging from fundamental research projects (e.g. European projects, SNSF, etc.) to applied development projects (e.g., CTI projects).

AIM2 is established as a reference working group over its topics of interest. As such, it provides reference support for project proposals, letters of recommendation, and any form of prevision falling within its scope.

2.2. Technology transfer

Encouraging consulting and technology transfer.

AIM2 manages an international network of competencies, with directories available to all its partners. The network comprises both academics who want to share their expertise and industrials who want to bring to market a technology.

AIM2 is co-organizer of the International Create Challenge

2.3. Data and technology exchanges

Mediating exchanges of data, software and know-how.

AIM2 provides and manages a platform to exchange data, including annotated corpora of multimodal recordings. Furthermore, the web platform enables exchanges of technologies (toolkits, algorithms, hardware solutions, etc.) and of competencies within the members of the association.

2.4. Education

Promoting teaching and educational activities.

AIM2 encourages and supports the creation of new curricula (e.g. Master of Advanced Studies) and courses in the field. It also supports the organization of educational events to attract new researchers to the field.

Furthermore, AIM2 will provide facilities for the publication of books for educational purposes (e.g. through an AIM2 label) and will facilitate exchanges of teaching material through an educational server.

2.5. Dissemination

Facilitating dissemination of knowledge through the organization of eventsand publications.

AIM2 will organize events (schools, workshops) to disseminate and publicize research in the field of multimodal information management.

AIM2 will also disseminate its most significant "success stories" through a quarterly newsletter and other external communication actions (public web site, large audience articles, etc.).

3. Membership fees

Institutional members (non-profit organizations)	fr. 1'000.-
Corporate members	
Bronze level	fr. 300.-
Silver level	fr. 1'000.-
Gold level	fr. 5'000.-
Platinium	fr. 10'000.-
Individual members	fr. 200.-
Honorary members	free

Corporate membership program includes:

- Advertising opportunities and company link on the AIM2 website.
- Insert placed in our annual advertising mailing distributed to our entire membership
- Several opportunities to advertise at the AIM2 conferences and events.
- Gold and Platinum give privileged access to technologies portfolio of AIM2.
- Platinum gives first right of refusal to invest in the new companies of the International Create Challenge.

4. References

- The Swiss National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) on Interactive Multimodal Information Management (IM2)

- ICMI-MLMI: Joint International Conference on Multimodal Interfaces and Workshop on Machine Learning for Multimodal Interaction (http://www.acm.org/icmi/2010/)