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Record Nr.	UNINA9910483951003321
Titolo	Autonomic networking : first international IFIP TC6 conference, AN 2006, Paris, France, September 27-29, 2006 : proceedings / / Dominique Gaiti ... [et al.] (eds.)
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, : Springer, 2006
ISBN	3-540-45893-X
Edizione	[1st ed. 2006.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (IX, 316 p.)
Collana	Lecture notes in computer science, , 0302-9743 ; ; 4195 LNCS sublibrary. SL 5, Computer communication networks and telecommunications
Altri autori (Persone)	GaitiDominique
Disciplina	004.6
Soggetti	Autonomic computing Computer networks - Automatic control Self-organizing systems
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Autonomic networks -- Self-configuration -- Autonomic platform and services -- Autonomic management and discovery -- Policy-based management -- Ad hoc, sensor, and ambient autonomic networks -- Autonomic control of mobile networks.
Sommario/riassunto	The autonomic communication paradigm has been defined mainly through the Autonomic Communications Forum (ACF) and particularly as follows: Autonomic communication is centered on selfware – an innovative approach to perform known and emerging tasks of a network control plane, both end-to-end and middle box communication-based. Selfware assures the capacity to evolve; however, it requires generic network instrumentation. Selfware principles and technologies borrow largely from well-established research on distributed systems, fault tolerance among others, from emerging research on non-conventional networking (multihop ad hoc, sensor, peer-to-peer, group communication, etc.), and from similar initiatives, such as Autonomic Computing of IBM, Cognitive Network of DARPA, Harmonious Computing of Hitachi, Resonant Networking of NTT, etc. A visionary network would be able to (a) configure and re-configure itself, (b) identify its operational state and take actions to

drive itself to a desired stable state and finally (c) organize the allocation and distribution of its resources. To build such a network, it is necessary to go beyond the improvement of techniques and algorithms by using a new concept, the knowledge plane. The knowledge plane is able to collect information available in the network to provide other elements of the network with services and advice and make the network perform what it is supposed to. There are many objectives to the configuration and reconfiguration of the network, from the optimization of resources to the use of best available techniques in order to offer the most appropriate service, best adapted to the t- minal capabilities.