



A Value-Added Gem

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The new editor-in-chief of the magazine shares his vision of this timely and timeless publication.

I write this message to introduce myself to you. It is a great honor to be appointed as the 2020–2022 editor-in-chief of *Computer*. I will do my best to continue bringing high-quality, compelling, and original content to the magazine, in keeping with *Computer's* 53-year history, and to help continue its successful evolution in an ever-changing and ever-challenging publication environment.

Computer is the value-added gem that the IEEE Computer Society provides to its members. Its content is multidisciplinary, covering all topics in computer science, computer engineering, and IT. The magazine serves as a monthly reminder to members as to why we are a part of this Society. That is an important point to never overlook.

Over the past 30 years, I have dedicated most of my time to research and entrepreneurship. Through this endeavor, I've learned the important difference between research that is *timely* and that which is *timeless*. This difference applies keenly to magazine content as well.

So, a question arises as to what is a reasonable balance between timely and timeless content for the magazine

going forward. My goal as editor-in-chief will be to make *Computer's* content as timely as possible. Our readers appreciate the publication's

ability to produce this kind of content because it affects them more immediately.

However, I am duly aware that to attract the best authors and the best work, we need to maintain or even improve the impact factor of the magazine as well as monitor how widely *Computer's* content is being cited. I plan to work with the IEEE Computer Society staff in Los Alamitos, California, to address this concern. Timely articles that focus on new technology developments early should boost the magazine's impact factor and possibly become timeless articles later. The best and most timely articles give us key insight into new technology developments in real time; they lay the groundwork for future work and often become timeless.

I am also a firm believer that all *Computer* articles should tell stories, whether timely or timeless. Each article, column, department, and roundtable should be written and titled not only to draw in readers but also to keep them engaged throughout the entire article. This is the art of storytelling, but, unfortunately, not all scientists and authors are good at it. My goal is that every issue of *Computer* offers more than one article that resonates with each reader. It would be disappointing to find out that our readers look at the table of contents and summarily dismiss the entire issue's content as being of no interest or value to them.

PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT!

I want to encourage you to participate in *Computer*. You might ask yourself how you can do that.

Magazines always are looking for good content and reliable volunteers. In terms of volunteers, they fill many roles, such as reviewing submitted articles, serving on the editorial board, writing various types of content, and proposing special issues and virtual roundtables (VRTs). For the editorial board, I am currently seeking new members with expertise in computer security, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

If you are unfamiliar with VRTs, they are a relatively new type of article that you will see more of in *Computer* and in other magazines. There was one in the October 2019 issue, and another is scheduled for February 2020. They are the most inexpensive way to bring a panel of experts together to discuss a topic du jour with no travel involved and no misinterpretation of the thoughts and opinions of the panelists.

While VRTs are an easier publication mechanism than special issues, both focus on a specific topic. If you are curious about where a particular technology is headed and think other readers might also be curious, you could

still propose a special issue on the topic, but now you can propose a VRT on it.

To propose a special issue, you must include information about the topic, guest editors, likely content contributors, and other reasons and arguments that the editorial board will consider when evaluating your submission request. In contrast, for a VRT, all you need is the topic and a list of five to 15 questions that you will ask to the five to seven experts to address. These experts will respond with written answers, and their responses (hopefully verbatim) will be summarized in your VRT article.


Note that I will still run VRT proposals through the editorial board to get their evaluation. All I need from you is the topic, a list of questions, and the list of experts. We have done a handful of these in *Computer* in the recent past, and they seem to resonate well with our audience. They are something for you to consider, going forward.

In summary, I hope you will consider participating in *Computer* as well as reading it. You can always send me your thoughts.

In terms of authors, they drive the success of the magazine. It's their content and willingness to write that can never be overlooked. I will work

that board members will come and go, as with any organization. My plans are to keep the editorial board as it is now while pursuing five to seven new

receiving many papers and special issue proposals on these topics.

So that is my philosophy going forward. Do these objectives resonate with you? I hope that you will let me know, and I look forward to hearing from you. Please let me know how I am doing and whether you approve of this direction for the magazine as you read your 2020 issues. 

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with our editorial board to seek potential authors who can offer "reader-desired" material. And speaking of the editorial board, which also drives the success of the magazine, I recognize

members. We receive submissions on a diversity of topics relevant to *Computer*, and that requires an expanded board. Artificial intelligence and autonomy are examples of this. We are

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