The Last Issue of *IEEE Cloud Computing* Magazine—for Now

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Editor-in-Chief Mazin Yousif looks back on *IEEE Cloud Computing* magazine.

After five successful years, this is the last issue of *IEEE Cloud Computing* magazine. At least for now. I'll explain.

First, I would like to say that it has been a wonderful journey. *IEEE Cloud Computing* magazine started as something of an experiment, jointly sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and the IEEE Communications Society and reflecting the multidisciplinary breadth of the cloud. It has become a focus for publishing sophisticated analysis, leading-edge research, unconventional insights, lessons from practice, and reporting cloud activities. Its format—with an EIC letter, columns by members of the editorial board, and papers on special topics as well as regular queue articles for each issue—provides flexibility in order to remain topical and interesting but with continuity of editorial style and quality. However, its major contribution has been to expose issues across all aspects of cloud computing, stimulating thought and discussion by challenging accepted wisdom and suggesting solutions—or paths to solutions. I am happy to say that the magazine met its goals of helping a wide audience to understand the rich dimensions of the cloud, balancing readability with technical excellence.

We started the magazine in early 2014 and have since published 28 issues (including this one) covering a range of topics. A few examples of the themes we've focused on include intelligence in the cloud, managing data in the cloud, legal clouds, cloud engineering, hybrid clouds, autonomic clouds, manufacturing and the cloud, cloud security, cloud and fog computing, the evolving cloud, cloud-native applications, fortifying the cloud, and more. Each issue included two main parts—research articles submitted by authors (researchers, professionals, and practitioners) from all over the world; and columns written by leads from the editorial board and reviewed by our column advisory board, along with a few members of the editorial board. I am confident that you found the quality of the columns to be outstanding as they have been both easy to read and addressed very timely cloud-related topics. Not to mention that they were written by experts, each an authority in the field of cloud computing.

Many of the published articles and columns in the magazine have had more than 1,000 downloads in the few years the papers were published—a testament to the quality of the submissions. Talking about the quality and impact of the magazine, we were happy to receive our first impact

factor a couple of months ago, and it was 2.913, which is higher than many well-established publications. This makes me very proud of the reputation we have been able to achieve in the short five years since the inception of the magazine.

Getting the magazine to this stature was the result of a team effort from its many constituents and authors who trusted us and submitted their articles, as well as the reviewers who diligently reviewed the submitted papers.

In addition, I can assert that the success of the magazine is due to tireless efforts of its editorial board—those who have been with us for all five years that the magazine has been in circulation and those who joined and departed after some time with us. The board has been involved in the many tasks necessary to run a magazine as well as in helping its EIC making decisions. A select few of the board were leaders of the columns we routinely publish. They included Joe Weinman, Rajiv Ranjan, Kim-Kwang Raymond Choo, Christine Miyachi and Alan Sill. We also had David Linthicum. I would like to candidly thank all of them for all their efforts because writing one column each issue—six columns per year—is not an easy task. The column leads were also helped by their advisory boards, which were established to oversee and review each column before submitting them to the editorial board for further review. Here, I would like to acknowledge James Mitchell and Omer Rana who were always involved in reviewing the cloud economics column.

Other board members handle the submissions review process. And they also reviewed the columns that the leads prepare. I want to especially thank Omer Rana (again), Keith Jeffery, Lutz Schubert and Beniamino Di Martino here.

A magazine also needs IEEE staff to run its operations and deliver each issue with the best quality. Brian Brannon has been instrumental in his internal efforts to help here. Before Brian joined us, we also worked with Brian Kirk, who I also would like to sincerely thank. I also would like to thank the IEEE Communications Society for co-sponsoring the magazine.

If you have not visited the magazine's webpage, I urge to take a look. In addition to the usual magazine webpage, we also have the History of Cloud Computing website (www.obren.nl/ieeecloud/), which presents all the published issues in one page.

Unfortunately, despite the magazine's highest-quality content and clear successes, the IEEE Computer Society and Communications Society have, after reviewing priorities, determined that they will not continue to sponsor the magazine.

As a result, I and the editorial board are planning to relaunch the magazine under a different professional technical organization, where it will be called the *Cloud & Edge Computing* magazine. We will have the same Editorial Board, the same contributors, and therefore the same high-quality publications. In fact, we will bring even more diversity and breadth to what we publish.

I can say the magazine has clearly left a mark in the cloud community, which is growing at an incredibly rapid pace, mirroring the growth in cloud deployments worldwide. A simple measure is looking at the number of cloud-related conferences, publications, and companies, but more importantly, how cloud has become the de facto hosting platform for all social and economic innovations. For example, any IoT deployment will likely have a cloud in the backend. We can say the same for other types of deployments, such as those for smart mobility, big data, and industry 4.0.

Finally, I—and the entire editorial board—would like to thank you, the readers, for being consumers (and some of you as contributors) to the magazine. Without you, the magazine would have no purpose. As EIC, I wanted to say goodbye under the IEEE umbrella. We hope to see you soon in a new format under the sponsorship of a new organization.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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