

# Moving Toward a Multimedia Magazine

By Peter Corke

In the last issue, we introduced the article voting system. As of now, I can see that votes are starting to come in, and some of the most popular articles are the “President’s Message,” “IROS 2012 Competitions,” the column “Precisely Groovy,” the “Tutorial,” the “Guest Editorial,” and the technical feature “Lending a Helping Hand.” This voting feature is still in its early days, and there are still some platform-specific problems to be resolved. We will watch the data to provide some guidance on what people like to read, and if the number of votes increases significantly, perhaps one day, a magazine popular paper prize might be instituted.

This magazine, like all IEEE publications, can publish multimedia attachments for articles, though this capability is perhaps not widely known. The data are held on the IEEE *Xplore* Web site (<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/guesthome.jsp>)

**The magazine is in great hands for the future. Keep reading and keep contributing!**

and can be downloaded as a zip file that contains one or more media files. Typically, the media files are videos, but they can theoretically contain any type of data or even software. Importantly, the attachment is archival—it will be held for as long as the IEEE exists, whereas



Peter Corke (left) with incoming EIC Eugenio Guglielmelli in front of Stadthalle (part of Kongresszentrum Karlsruhe) at ICRA 2013 in Karlsruhe Germany.

Web links in articles become broken over time, which is frustrating for readers. Previously, it was difficult to know from reading the magazine whether or not an article had an attachment, so we will now flag this with a “Multimedia” heading near the end of the article. IEEE *Xplore* is moving toward a rich HTML5 format for articles that includes text, figures, references, and multimedia content, all highly cross linked. Having videos actually embedded in the digital version of the magazine is a long-term goal and challenge.

This will be my last editorial for the magazine. As of July, the editor-in-chief’s hat will pass to Eugenio Guglielmelli. Eugenio has a strong history of involvement and service to the magazine as an associate editor from 2008 to 2011, and he will bring great enthusiasm and new ideas to the role.

It has been an honor to serve as editor-in-chief. I have really enjoyed my time with the magazine and achieved most of the agenda that I set when I started: shorter and more magazinish articles, a richer collection of columns to complement the technical features, a new layout and design, photographic front covers, digital issues, rapid posting to IEEE *Xplore*, open access articles, stronger links with the *IEEE Spectrum Automaton* blog, the return of the “Book Review” column, healthy advertising revenue, a growing number of paper downloads and citations, a readership of more than 10,000 people, and special issues on some important topics such as ethics and environmental robotics. The magazine is in great hands for the future. Keep reading and keep contributing!

Enjoy the issue.

PC