Editorial

Dear TAAS Readers,

Since April 2011, when we were appointed as the new co-Editors-in-Chief of TAAS, we have worked very hard, along with the Editorial Board, to improve TAAS from the perspective of its readers and its authors. We would like to share with you some of the key achievements of the last year and a half.

TURNAROUND TIMES

As we outlined in our first editorial (TAAS Vol. 6 No. 4), we have undertaken a number of actions to reduce the processing time as well as the time-to-publication of the articles submitted to TAAS. We did this in particular by expediting the review process as well as by reducing the backlog of articles accepted for publications and the consequent delay experienced by accepted papers before appearing in a TAAS issue.

After a year and a half of effort, we can claim success in this regard. In fact, currently,

- the average *review turnaround time* (the time from article submission to notification) is now *63 days* (down from 180 days when we took over as editors);
- the *time from acceptance to publication* is now typically *less than 6 months for papers requiring revision*.

Additional statistics can be found at <http://dl.acm.org/pub.cfm?id=J1010>. These changes have been possible through the active participation and collaborations of all members of the Editorial Board. We do believe that these results are important to both the readers, who can now find timely research results in TAAS, and the authors, who can publish their results in timeframes that are comparable to those of major conferences.

ENGAGEMENT WITH MAJOR CONFERENCES IN THE FIELD

To improve the quality of articles submitted to TAAS and to make sure such articles reflect the interest of our readers and the best research results in the area, we have proactively sought the cooperation of some of the major conferences that currently deal with issues which are within the scope of TAAS.

The conferences that we have current engagements with include SASO (IEEE Conference Series on Self-Adaptive and Self-Organizing Systems), SEAMS (Symposium Series on Software Engineering for Adaptive and Self-Managing Systems), and ICAC (International Conference on Autonomic Computing).

For each of these conferences, we worked with the PC chair(s) to identify the best papers presented at the conference and published extended versions of these papers after a fast-track review process in special sections of the journal. The results of this process can be seen in the last issues of 2012 where the best papers from the SASO 2011 conference have appeared, this will and will continue in 2013 with the publication of the best papers from SEAMS 2012, ICAC 2012, and SASO 2013.

We invite the community to let us know of relevant high-quality conferences in the area of autonomous and adaptive systems, including conferences on emerging topics that are not currently fully covered by TAAS.

REFRESHING THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Continuing a process that we started when we took over as Editors-in-Chief, we have enforced a healthy churn in the editorial board. Our goal in doing this is to grow and refresh the coverage and competencies of the board, as well as to involve young and motivated researchers to help us keep the journal alive and efficient.

We would like to thank the associate editors whose terms ended in 2012 and will be cycling out. In particular, the outgoing AEs are Karl Aberer, Vinny Cahill, Ajoy Datta, Jeff Kephart and Giovanna Di Marzo. We do appreciate all their hard work and contributions to the journal. These outgoing Associate Editors (along with all past Associated Editors), are now listed as “TAAS AE Alumni” on the TAAS Web site. Giovanna Di Marzo, given her prominent role as co-founder of TAAS and as first Editor-in-Chief, is listed as “Editor-in-Chief Emeritus”.

We would also like to welcome the distinguished researchers who have agreed to serve on the editorial board and to lend their expertise and time to TAAS. Specifically, we welcome Indranil Gupta (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), Julie McCann (Imperial College London, UK), Andrea Omicini (Università di Bologna, Italy), Roy Sterritt (University of Ulster, UK), and Onn Shehory (IBM Research, Haifa, Israel). Their brief biographies follow.

We would also like to thank Dr. Nicola Bicocchi, University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy, and Dr. Ivan Rodero, Rutgers University, USA, who have the journal served as Assistant and Information Manager, respectively, and have helped us to keep the review process of TAAS effective and the online-image of TAAS up-to-date.

We do look forward to continue working with you. Please keep your submissions and suggestions coming.

Manish Parashar
Rutgers University
Franco Zambonelli
University of Modena e Reggio Emilia
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Brief Biographies of New Associate Editors:

Indranil Gupta is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He received his BTech degree from IIT-Chennai (India) and PhD from Cornell University. He has worked at Google, Microsoft Research, and IBM Research. His research interests include cloud computing and large-scale distributed systems. For more information visit <http://www.cs.uiuc.edu/homes/indy/>.

Julie A. McCann is a Reader in Computer Systems in the Department of Computing at Imperial College London. Julie received BSc and PhD degrees from the University of Ulster. Her research interests lie in decentralized algorithms and the self-organizing scalable solutions that are mainly applied to wireless sensing networks, operating planet-wide or as networked systems. Julie is a member of the ACM and British Computer Society, an associate member of the IEEE/IEEE Computer Society, and a Chartered Engineer. For more information see <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~jamm/>.

Andrea Omicini is Professor of Computer Engineering at Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Italy. He received both his Laurea degree in Electronic Engineering and his PhD in Computer & Electronic Engineering from the Alma Mater. His main research interests are in the area of complex computational systems and range from coordination, agents and intelligent systems to software engineering, simulation, and self-organization. He is a Member of ACM and IEEE Computer Society. For more information see <http://andreaomicini.apice.unibo.it/>.

Roy Sterritt is a faculty member in the School of Computing and Mathematics at the University of Ulster and a member of the University's Computer Science Research Institute. Internationally recognized as a leading innovator in self-managing and self-healing computer-based systems, he currently holds 13 patents with NASA and has 175+ publications in the field. He was the founding chair of the IEEE Technical Committee on Autonomous & Autonomic Systems (TCAAS). Roy has also served on the IEEE CS Publications Board and chaired the Conference Publications Operations Committee (CPOC), the Conference Publications Committee (CPC), and the Conference Advisory Committee (CAC). In addition, he has served on the IEEE CS Technical & Conferences Activities Board (T&C Excom). For more information please visit <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/staff/r.sterritt.html>.

Onn Shehory is a research scientist and a master inventor at the IBM Haifa Research Lab. He is also an adjunct faculty at Bar Ilan University. He received his B.Sc. in physics and computer science, M.Sc. in physics, and Ph.D. in computer science, all from Bar Ilan University. He was also a visiting faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University. His research spans multiple fields in computer science, with focus on distributed systems, autonomous systems, multiagent systems and software engineering. For more information see <http://researcher.watson.ibm.com/researcher/view.php?person=il-ONN>.