Still Finding the Right Questions

BRANCHING OUT AND CHANGING WITH THE TIMES AT *ACMQUEUE*

GEORGE NEVILLE-NEIL AND STEVE BOURNE

Welcome to the newest incarnation of *acmqueue*. When we started putting together the first edition of *ACM Queue* in early 2003, it was a completely new experiment in publishing for ACM. Targeting a practitioner audience meant that much of what we did would differ from academic publishing. We created a new editorial board whose role was not only to vet articles, but also to identify topics and authors that would be of interest to both practitioners and academics. The board created the concept of guest experts who would take on an issue of the magazine and help the board acquire content and sometimes write the overarching piece that tied it all together. Along the way *acmqueue* has published columnists such as Stan Kelly-Bootle and brought in new voices like Poul-Henning Kamp, who writes “The Bike Shed,” and George Neville-Neil, who is Kode Vicious.

As times have changed, *acmqueue* has branched out and changed as well. The move from a paper magazine to a Web site was one of the more significant changes we made that allowed us to develop new types of content, including the “Portraits” video series, “CTO Roundtables,” and “Case Studies.” Of special note is *acmqueue*’s problem focus, which has helped it stand apart from other publishing efforts in computer science.

The goal is to bridge the academic and industrial sides of computer science and software engineering so the people who are building systems and those who are researching them have an idea of what is going on just next door.

What you hold in your hands is our latest experiment—an interactive, socially networked, electronic magazine. While the delivery format has changed, the quality of the content remains excellent, and we use the same process we have used over the past decade to find, develop, polish, and publish the best work in computer science for both the practitioner and the academic.

Our goal at *acmqueue*, as ever, is to bridge the academic and industrial sides of computer science and software engineering so the people who are building systems and those who are researching them have an idea of what is going on just next door. It is the long-held belief of everyone involved with *acmqueue* that this type of information exchange enables practitioners to build systems based on the latest research and researchers to see how their ideas fare in practice.

George V. Neville-Neil *works on networking and operating-system code for fun and profit. He also teaches courses on various subjects related to programming. His areas of interest are code spelunking, operating systems, and rewriting your bad code (OK, maybe not that last one). He earned his bachelor's degree in computer science at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, and is a member of ACM, Usenix Association, and IEEE. George is the co-author with Marshall Kirk McKusick and Robert N. M. Watson of The Design and Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System. He is an avid bicyclist and traveler who currently lives in New York City.*

Steve Bourne *has held senior engineering management positions at leading computer systems and networking companies including Cisco, Sun Microsystems, Digital Equipment, and Silicon Graphics. At present he is chief technical officer at Icon Venture Partners in Menlo Park, California. Bourne is well known for his work on the Unix operating system and designed the Unix Command Language or “Bourne Shell.”*

© 2015 ACM 1542-7730/15/0500 \$10.00