Editorial: Continuing the Course

It has been 3 years since my first term as the EiC of this journal started, and now a second term just started. With the new year, we start another 3 years of journey, and we have a new editorial board with a new structure in place.

First of all, I want to thank all the editorial board members who have worked hard to ensure adequate number of reviews are made for each paper through multiple iterations and who helped tremendously in keeping the turnaround time as short as possible. Second, I want to particularly recognize two of the editorial board members, as they have unfailingly been very responsive and timely and also often took responsibilities of papers that were delayed through the editorial processes for various reasons. Prof. Tulika Mitra from the National University of Singapore, and Prof. Hiren D. Patel from the University of Waterloo are those two editors who I have come to depend on very much during the last 3 years. As a result, as per ACM editorial board rules, we have designated them as senior associate editors of this journal, and they will be executing a lot of editorial leadership roles in the next 3 years. Prof. Mitra will lead the embedded applications domain, which is organized with a number of portfolios including domain-specific embedded computing, embedded for everyone, futuristic and emerging topics in embedded computing, and so on. Prof. Patel will lead the embedded system design domain, which is organized with portfolios such as design methodologies, and safe, secure, and trustworthy design of embedded systems, and so on. Each such portfolio will have further subtopics, which can be viewed at <http://tecs.acm.org/editorial.cfm>.

We are also thankful to editors from the previous term who are retiring from the editorial board, and we welcome onboard the new editorial board members. We also express our deep gratitude to all editors retiring or continuing, as this is a volunteering job, and without this volunteering and commitment from the accomplished researchers, no journal can sustain its course.

Another piece of good news is that in the last 3 years we could not fill the editorial positions in charge of the subtopics under “Embedded for everyone.” Now, we have two new editors who have been working in the corresponding fields of embedded systems for assistive technology solutions and sustainable design of embedded systems.

The goal of this organization into portfolios and subtopics is not only the ease of paper assignment when a new submission comes in but also for authors to know who are the persons responsible for editing their papers based on the major thrust of the paper.

In another news, we pushed an open call for special issue proposals through ACM mailing lists, and the resulting avalanche of proposals completely overwhelmed us. We are still buried under a very large number of proposals for special issues. This shows that the field is burgeoning with good ideas and research, and there are researchers who are willing to volunteer and organize special issues in their areas of expertise. However, having been overwhelmed, we are still in the process of selecting some most relevant ones, and we will do that in the next few months.

As usual, this year also we will continue to focus on all areas of embedded computing, but we will continue our bias on cyber security issues. Recently, attacks on the DNS service through a distributed denial of service orchestrated through IoT devices made us even more nervous about where we are heading with the immense proliferation

of digital devices around us. So cyber security is still a major concern for embedded systems field and many other fields as well. Therefore, we are still looking for more cyber security–related special issue proposals.

This particular issue (Vol. 16, No. 2) contains a number of special issues within its covers. We also have a number of regular papers included here.

We wish all our readers a happy and prosperous new year in which we expect a lot more advances in the field of embedded computing and a lot of inventions in securing our digital lives.

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Editor-in-Chief