Editorial

I AM, indeed, honored to be the new Editor-in-Chief for the IEEE/ACM TRANSACTIONS ON NETWORKING (ToN). I approach these duties with a great sense of responsibility. My predecessors (Simon Lam and Jim Kurose) have made ToN the premiere journal in the networking area. My mandate, as I see it, is to continue this legacy — updating policies and processes when necessary, but leaving the strong traditions of excellence and high quality intact.

The journal is, of course, the collective responsibility of the Inter-Society Steering Committee and the entire Editorial Board. I welcome the opportunity to be a facilitator of the Editorial Board’s activities and to work with the Steering Committee as we chart the course for ToN into the next millennium. It is, indeed, a privilege to be working with such a distinguished group of people in this capacity.

Although I officially assumed the Editor-in-Chief duties on July 1st, 1999, the transition has been several months in the making and continues to this day. In fact, the issue you are reading was almost all done before I took over on July 1st. I would like to thank the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Simon S. Lam, and his very able assistant, Kata Carbone, for their help during the transition. Our goal has always been to have as seamless a transition as possible. I would, however, appreciate your patience as we reconcile our theoretical models of how things will work with our empirical experience.

A transition like this brings with it a new cast of players and indeed a new set of URL’s, e-mail addresses, and DNS CNAMES. Here is a list of what’s new.

* The new Editorial Assistant is Betsy Kidwell. Her address is the same as mine (see inside cover) and her phone number is +1 (404) 385 1127.

* The “headquarters” e-mail address is ton@cc.gatech.edu. This e-mail will reach both Betsy and me. You are, of course, welcome to contact me directly (see information on inside front cover).

* As before, submitted papers need to be sent first to the Editor-in-Chief. The new submission instructions (electronic and hardcopy) are now available on the new ToN web-page at http://www.ton.cc.gatech.edu.

Over the last few months, I have had to pore over the many details of the operation of ToN. But the soul of ToN is not in those details. Ultimately, ToN exists to serve a community whose members are the readers and authors of papers submitted to ToN. The authors’ hard work and their willingness to entrust ToN with the fruits of their labor are very much what defines this journal. The continued support and interest of authors in ToN are essential ingredients in its success. Another equally important ingredient is the volunteer effort of peer reviewers drawn from the same community of readers and authors.

ToN is the campfire around which our community sits to share its best stories. As a member of this community, I am honored to be the one charged, for the next little while, with keeping the fire going. The stories, however, continue to be yours to listen to and tell.

Mostafa H. Ammar, Editor-in-Chief
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