Editorial

MY four-year term as Editor-in-Chief for the IEEE/ACM TRANSACTIONS ON NETWORKING (ToN) will end on June 30, 2003. According to the ToN charter, selection of the Editor-in-Chief is the responsibility of the ToN Steering Committee, which has nine members (three from each of the three societies sponsoring ToN—the IEEE Communications Society, the IEEE Computer Society, and ACM SIGCOMM). In November and December 2002, the Steering Committee, with advisory input from the current and previous ToN Editors-in-Chief, engaged in a broad, careful, and rigorous selection process—the same process used on the previous two occasions when an Editor-in-Chief had to be selected.

I am delighted to inform you that the ToN Steering Committee has selected Professor Ellen Zegura, who has been a ToN Editor since 1999, to be the next Editor-in-Chief, and Professor Zegura has agreed to serve. She and I have already started working on transition planning. Over the next six months, I will continue to work with her to insure a smooth handover on July 1, 2003.

ToN is in excellent shape. We continue to experience a very healthy increase in manuscript submissions. In 2002, we received 384 submissions (a more than 20% increase from 2001 and a 35% increase from 1999). We are responding to this increase by increasing our page budget for 2003. We published 65 papers in 2002, a number that was constrained for the first time in many years by our page budget.

ToN continues to be highly ranked among scientific journals. In the latest 2001 Journal Citation Report from the Institute for Scientific Information, ToN's "impact factor"[1] was the second highest among 96 IEEE publications (including magazines), third highest among 200 electrical and electronic engineering journals, and eighth highest among 332 computer science journals. This is a significant accomplishment for us.

The production of ToN is a collaborative community effort. At the end of this issue, we list the names of the 559 reviewers who helped us in 2002. The continued success of ToN is due largely to the willingness of reviewers to put in the time and effort required to read and critique manuscripts.

The ToN Editorial Board also continues to be central to ToN's success. Over the course of 2002, there were some changes in the membership of the Board as Editors completed their terms and new Editors were appointed. The following Editors have completed their service (with many thanks to all of them) on the ToN Board in 2002: Ernst Biersack (Eurecom), Sam Chanson (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Christophe Diot (SprintLabs), Bernhard Plattner (ETH-Zurich), and Leandros Tassiulas (University of Maryland). All retired Editors continue to process papers assigned to them.

We are also fortunate to have several new Editors agree to join our Editorial Board in 2002: Reuven Cohen (Technion), Andrea Fumagalli (University of Texas at Dallas), Lixin Gao (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Ramesh Govindan (University of Southern California), Fabio Neri (University of Torino), Venkat Padmanabhan (Microsoft), Balaji Parbhakar (Stanford University), and Srini Seshan (Carnegie Mellon University).

This year, our Editorial Board nominated the following papers for the IEEE Communications Society's William R. Bennett paper award (see http://www.comsoc.org/%7Eawards/bennett.html).

Paul Barford and Mark Crovella, "Critical path analysis of TCP transactions," IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, vol. 9, pp. 238-248, June 2001.

Ian Akyildiz, Giacomo Morabito, and Sergio Palazzo, "TCP Peach: A new congestion control scheme for satellite IP networks," IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, vol. 9, pp. 307-321, June 2001.

Sally Floyd and Vern Paxson, "Difficulties in simulating the Internet," IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, vol. 9, pp. 392-403, August 2001.

The paper by Floyd and Paxson was chosen by the ComSoc awards committee as the 2002 winner of the Bennett award. Congratulations to the award winners and the runners up.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not highlight the efforts of the ToN Steering Committee. My regular interaction with the committee over the last four years has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of being ToN's Editor-in-Chief. I have always found motivation in their vision and their dedication to the success of ToN. They have been an excellent source for encouragement, advice, and support.

I have been exceptionally privileged to be given the opportunity to serve the networking community as ToN's Editor-in-Chief for the last four years. I am particularly pleased that, as my term draws to an end, ToN will continue to be in excellent hands.

MOSTAFA AMMAR, *Editor-in-Chief*
College of Computing
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332-0280 USA

[1] "Impact factor" for 2001 is the number of cites to articles published in 1999 and 2000 divided by the number of published articles in those two years.

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