

Guidelines for Topic-Based Special Issues for IEEE TDSC

IEEE TDSC welcomes proposals for topic-based special issues. TDSC does NOT publish conference-based special issues where papers are drawn from one or more specific conferences. This note provides guidelines on the concept of a special issue. Sample call for papers can be obtained from the TDSC web page for current special issues in process or by contacting the EIC.

Topic Area. Any topic area within the general scope of TDSC is acceptable. Special issues can be proposed on well established topics as well as on new and emerging topics. The topics can range from quite broad to quite narrow.

Guest Editors. Guest editors should be established researchers in the topic area of the special issue. Multiple guest editors are encouraged, with a suggested maximum of three. Prior editorial experience with IEEE Computer Society Transactions is helpful.

Number of Papers. Currently TDSC is publishing 10-12 papers per issue on a bi-monthly schedule. A special issue would require about half or more of the papers to be identified as part of the special issue. In case fewer papers are actually accepted it will be designated as a special section. Papers beyond the maximum capacity of a single issue can be reallocated to the regular publication pipeline.

Publicity. The call for papers for a special issue must be an open call and must be published in a timely manner on the TDSC home page. It can additionally be advertised in conferences including their call for papers. Guest editors can choose to invite/encourage submissions from individual authors or from specific conferences. However, all submissions to a special issue will go through the same review and decision process without any special dispensation for invited papers.

Conflict-of-Interest. Guest editors cannot be authors on a paper submitted to their special issue. Guest editors are expected to be sensitive to general conflict-of-interest issues such as papers submitted from their research groups or institutions. It is best to be conservative and avoid perception of conflict-of-interest, since papers can always be submitted through the regular channels.

Selection. The TDSC Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors-in-Chief will discuss each proposal via email. The final decision rests with the Editor-in-Chief. Proposers may be asked to make mutually acceptable modifications to the proposal before acceptance.

Process. The processing of papers submitted to a special issue is much the same as though the Guest Editors were serving as the Associate Editors for that particular set of papers. There is of course a requirement to process special issue papers on a defined timeline so the accepted papers can be published in the designated issue. Papers will be pre-screened by the usual process followed by the Editor-in-Chief, in cooperation with the Guest Editors, to determine eligibility for consideration for the special issue. In this phase papers may be judged to be (i) eligible for the special issue, (ii) out of scope for the special issue but eligible for TDSC regular submission, or (iii) out of scope for TDSC. The Editor-in-Chief and Guest Editors may also reject papers for insufficient contributions beyond prior conference publications, as may reviewers. Papers that cannot be processed in time for the special issue deadlines due to required revisions may be considered, at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion, for continued processing as part of the regular TDSC pipeline provided the authors agree.

Associate-Editor-in-Chief for Special Issues. The Editor-in-Chief may designate an Associate-Editor-in-Chief for Special Issues to help with special issues through different phases of this process.

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