IT Expanding in New Ways

As I mentioned in my last “Note from the EIC,” this is my last year as editor in chief of this exceptional magazine. When IT Professional first launched in 1999, very few people anticipated how dramatically the IT world would change. Today, as IT professionals look back over the past seven years, we can see these changes more clearly, and I—being an optimist—feel we are once again about to jump into another period of dramatic change and growth. Without our IT leaders, both in business and technology, where would our world be today? Where are we going without IT? My answer, of course, is nowhere; not unless we open the doors of expansion once again and provide our services in a unified fashion to the global community.

Among other leading features in this past year’s IT Pro, we included a milestone article on public safety communications that addressed interoperable first-response architecture. Themes focusing on the merits of Web services, changes in our global telecommunications platform from the mix we have now to an IP baseline, managing outsourcing and offshoring (including an interview with one of the nation’s leading policy analysts on offshoring, Ron Hira), and, more recently, an insightful article concerning the latest in open source programming were articles the editorial board and I provided to you. Other leading topics included an excellent review of the security and privacy issues associated with Web services, insight into the wireless market as it has expanded into developing African nations, RFID, and grids that sense and respond to support adaptive enterprise operations.

We intended these features and articles as leading-edge material and hope that you enjoyed the variety. This year’s final issue will focus on intelligent searching tools, knowledge discovery, Java scaling issues, business process engineering, and more. Again, it is our hope that these articles continue to expand your IT knowledge globally, and we look forward to bringing you next year’s new explorations in a timely and compelling fashion.

In completing this stage of my service, I wish to thank you for spending your most precious resource (time) as well as your financial resources in choosing this magazine among the many others in the IT field. It has been an outstanding adventure, and I look forward to offering my assistance to the new editor in chief, Arnold (Jay) Bragg, as a member of his advisory board. One of my activities this coming year will be to continue integrating our magazine and its topics with ongoing and future symposia, conferences, and educational training sessions. This past year saw us leading a panel on IT exploration at the International Conference on Web Services (ICWS 2005) and the Services Computing Conference (SCC 2005)—both held in Orlando, Florida; and in supporting the efforts of an excellent conference on Enterprise Computing and Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) technology (EDOC 2005)—see our article on the results from EDOC in this issue.

Jay Bragg, whom I consider one of this nation’s leaders in this new decade of technology, has been my associate EIC for these past two years and has been the major driver in all reviewing and planning of IT Pro’s outstanding feature articles. I thank him immensely and wish him well in the future. I hope you, as our readers, will continue to support him as you have so readily supported me as a contributor and reader of our issues over the years. Finally, I want to thank all of my editorial and advisory boards, including Jeff Voas, my Perspective articles AEIC, and Sorel Reisman, our stalwart Ivory Tower editorial writer. Sorel has diligently exposed you to a variety of topics, from online educational trends to the declining importance of books, with the hope that you would take heed of the changes taking place in our environment, and when moved, take action as appropriate. Please do write—it is great to hear from you and to know that you are reading IT Pro.

Frank E. Ferrante