The IT Professional Outlook: Where Do We Go from Here?

Simon Liu, Editor in Chief

As this magazine’s new editor in chief, I want to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and prosperous new year. I assume my new duties with a sense of responsibility, opportunity, potential, and drive for the future. In just 10 years, IT Pro has grown in stature and is now poised to make further leaps forward. I thank Arnold Bragg, Frank Ferrante, and Bill Chou for their exemplary service as this magazine’s previous EICs. It’s only by assuming this position that I truly realize how great their efforts have been.

For IT professionals, 2010 will bring new challenges. The dynamics of the IT workforce and workplace, the increase of globalization and diversification, the rise of health information technology, the proliferation of mobile computing, the complexity of IT asset management, the growth of outsourcing, the rise of open software, and the commoditization of IT services will continue to have significant impacts on our profession. Accordingly, you can expect to see more articles on these topics in IT Pro in the year ahead (see the sidebar for more details).

In fact, I have many plans for the next two years:

- Diversify the editorial board to broaden its reach and coverage along gender lines, geographic distribution, and disciplines.
- Establish a strong editorial leadership team that includes two experienced associate EICs (Jeff Voas and Phil Laplante).
- Expand our departments to respond to current issues, summarize recent advances, augment hot topic coverage, highlight new trends, facilitate practical debates, elevate the magazine’s visibility, and improve readership and circulation.
- Establish a branded IT Pro white paper series through the IEEE Computer Society’s ReadyNotes and TechSets programs to offer in-depth coverage of hot topics.
- Establish a strong presence on Computing Now with blogs or themes that have broad interest to IT professionals.
- Cosponsor or sponsor conferences and symposia to engage IT practitioners, facilitate interaction, highlight recent advances, and increase the magazine’s visibility within the IT professional community.

We can always improve what we already do, though, and IT Pro

New Editorial Board Members

Please join me in welcoming four new editorial board members to the magazine’s masthead.

- Jinan Fiaidhi is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at Lakehead University, where she focuses on collaborative e-learning systems, multimedia visualization, and Web services. Contact her at jinan.fiaidhi@lakeheadu.ca.
- Sunil Mithas is an assistant professor in the Department of Decision, Operations, and Information Technologies at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he focuses on strategic management and the impact of IT resource allocation. Contact him at smithas.umd.edu.
- San Murugesan is director of the Graduate Centre for Management at Multimedia University in Malaysia, where his research focuses on cloud, green, and mobile computing. Contact him at san1@internode.net.
- Bruce Potter is chief technologist and co-founder of Ponte Technologies, where he focuses on assisting organizations currently experiencing high levels of active attacker activity within their networks. Contact him at bpotter@pontetec.com.
is committed to perfecting our peer review process. This should translate into getting useful and practical information into your hands sooner, which in turn will contribute to your professional success and career advancement.

I’m looking forward to your continued support, as well as that from our authors, editorial board members, advisory board members, and staff editors at the IEEE Computer Society publications office. I welcome your feedback on how we’re doing and how we can make the magazine even more useful to you, our readers. Send your comments to itpro-ma@computer.org.