Welcome to IT Professional 2015! In the last 16 years, IT Pro has presented 96 issues, offering useful information on various topics of interest, tracing advances in IT and discussing their effect on our work and lives, and addressing IT challenges and risks. We’re pleased that you, our readers and supporters, view IT Pro as valuable.

Recently, in a brief readership survey, 90 percent of respondents rated IT Pro as “excellent” or “very good” (while 98 percent rated it “good” or higher). Respondents said they read the magazine to get a general overview of developments in the field, to maintain currency in their field, or to find specific information related to the field. Some looked to IT Pro for outcomes of ongoing research of practical relevance. Readers particularly valued application-oriented feature articles, our various departments, and research articles related to the issue’s theme. The vast majority of our readers are practitioners, professionals, and executives working in industry or government. Researchers in industry and academia and students are also part of our readership.

I thank everyone who has contributed to IT Pro’s success and prominence—the readers, authors, reviewers, editorial and advisory board members, and editorial and production staff. (For a list of the 2014 reviewers, please see www.computer.org/cms/Computer.org/dl/mags/it/2015/01/extras/mic2015010002s.pdf.) I’m confident we will continue to work together to advance IT Pro to greater heights and to further enrich its value to you.

A Look Back at 2014
Last year, each of our six issues focused on a specific theme of interest to the IT professional community: IT risks, NIST’s contributions to IT, mobile commerce, life sciences computing, the consumerization of IT, and advancing cloud computing. We introduced three new departments—Data Analytics, Life in the C-Suite, and Mastermind—and continued with or reinvigorated four departments (IT Trends, IT in Emerging Markets, Smart Systems, and Securing IT). We also published some timely Spotlight departments, including “IT Enhances Football at World Cup 2014,” “Bitcoin: Benefit or Curse?” and “Mobile Commerce: A Broad Perspective.” Our theme issues and selected articles were highlighted in Computing Now, IEEE Life Sciences Newsletter, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, and social media, bringing them to the attention of a wider audience.

We also organized and conducted the first IT Professional conference on Information Governance Challenges, held on 22 May 2014 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg (see http://tinyurl.com/itproconf).

What’s in Store for 2015
As outlined in my previous editorial,1 as an IT professional, you’re expected to develop creative IT-enabled solutions, harnessing ongoing advances and trends in IT to address real problems facing society. You also must satisfactorily address new and ongoing challenges facing IT systems and applications; uphold your professional, social, and ethical responsibilities; and work collaboratively with other professionals, managers, and colleagues. You should always be looking toward the future—what might happen in the next five to 10 years, and what actions can you take now to prepare for this future? You should look for points of potential disruption—what will change “business as usual”? You must stay abreast of advances in IT, emerging novel applications, new challenges and issues, and potential opportunities. IT Pro will be of value to you in meeting these demands and expectations and in succeeding as a reputable IT professional.

In 2015, IT Pro’s six issues will focus on IT security, IT-enabled business innovation, the Internet of Anything, data analytics,
We’ve diversified the editorial board and broadened its reach by inducting the following new members.

**Stephen J. Andriole** is the Thomas G. Labrecque Professor of Business Technology in the Villanova School of Business at Villanova University, where he teaches courses in strategic technology and innovation and entrepreneurship. He conducts applied research on technology management best practices, social media, big data analytics, cloud computing, and emerging (“ready”) technology adoption. Andriole is the recipient of the US Department of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his work at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and is a Charter Member of the US Senior Executive Service (SES). For more information, see www.andriole.com or contact him at steve@andriole.com.

**Haluk Demirkan** is a professor of digital service innovation and business analytics, and he’s the founder and executive director of the Center for Information-Based Management at the Milgard School of Business, University of Washington—Tacoma. His interests include business analytics, digital innovation, service innovation, and service-oriented-X. In 2014, he was ranked fifth in the Top-100 World-Wide Researchers according to the Association for Information Systems sanctioned Research Rankings. He is a co-founder and board of director of the International Society of Service Innovation Professionals (www.issip.org). Contact him at haluk@uw.edu.

**Bin Guo** is a professor at Northwestern Polytechnical University. His research interests include ubiquitous computing, mobile phone sensing, mobile social networks, and human-computer interaction. He is a senior member of IEEE. He won the 2nd Class of Natural Scientific Award of the State Education Ministry of China in 2014. For further details, see www.ayu.ics.keio.ac.jp/~bingo or contact him at guob@nwpu.edu.cn.

**Samee U. Khan** is an associate professor at the North Dakota State University. His research interests include the optimization, robustness, and security of cloud, grid, cluster, and big data computing; social, wired, and wireless networks; power systems, smart grids, and optical networks. In these areas, his work appears in over 250 publications. He maintains the GreenCloud simulator and the CloudNetSim++ simulator. He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology. For further details, see http://sameekhan.org or contact him at same.khan@ndsu.edu.

**Arpan Pal** is a principal scientist and research head at Innovation Lab, Tata Consultancy Services, Kolkata, India. His interests include mobile-phone and camera-based sensing and analytics, physiological sensing, M2M communications, and Internet-of-Things-based platforms and systems. He is on the editorial board for ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems and IEEE Transactions on Emerging Topics in Computing. He is a senior member of IEEE. For further details, see www.tcs.com/about/research/researchers/Pages/Pal-Arpan.aspx or contact him at arpan.pal@tcs.com.

**Tim Weil** is a risk manager (contractor) at the US Department of Interior and has over 25 years’ experience in the areas or data processing, communications engineering, and information assurance. His areas of interest include identity management, IT service management, cloud security architecture, and enterprise risk management for federal agencies. He is an author and editor of the 2012 ANSI standards for Role-Based Access Control (RBAC). He has received several IEEE Distinguished Service awards. For further details, see http://securityfeeds.com, or contact him at trweil@ieee.org.

We also thank Jia Zhang of Carnegie Mellon University—Silicon Valley and Liang-Jie Zhang of Kingdee Int’l Software Group, who have concluded their tenure as ed board members after several years of dedicated service and significant contributions to *IT Pro*.

Finally, we say farewell to Shani Murray, who has been the Freelance Managing Editor of *IT Pro* since 2010, making excellent contributions to the success of our magazine. As she moves on, we welcome in her place Rebecca Deuel Gallegos, who is an excellent addition to our team. We look forward to her valuable contributions.
wearable computing, and smart systems. In addition to peer-reviewed articles on these topics, we’ll also feature articles that address other topics of interest. We’ll continue to offer our highly valued department line-up and will present From the Editors, Spotlight, and other special columns.

Starting this year, IT Pro will primarily be published as a digital edition, which provides several welcome features (subscribers can choose to receive print edition for an additional $149 per year). We plan to progressively include more multimedia content—video clips, interactive graphics, animation, and demos.

So, you can look forward to IT Pro continuing to provide interesting and valuable information, enriched with new features. Furthermore, to engage with IT practitioners and facilitate closer interaction, we’re collaborating with international and regional conferences and symposia relevant to IT professionals and managers. For example, we’ve partnered with COMPSAC to cosponsor and organize a unique symposium, IT in Practice (ITiP), as part of COMPSAC 2015 in Taiwan (www.compsac.org), and we solicit your participation in the symposium. Please let me know if a conference you’re associated with is interested in collaborating with IT Pro.

To serve you better, we’ve given facelift to our editorial team (see the “Editorial Team Updates” sidebar).

You, as an IT professional, can make a difference, helping change the world for the better, and we strive to make IT Pro your IT magazine of choice. We welcome your contributions (see the related sidebar). I trust you’ll find IT Pro in 2015 (and the years to follow) highly valuable to you.

Reference

San Murugesan is the director of BRITE Professional Services and an adjunct professor at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. His areas of interest include cloud computing, green IT, the Internet of Things, and IT applications. He’s the editor in chief of IT Professional. He is co-editor of the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Cloud Computing (Wiley 2015) and serves on the editorial board of Computer and edits its bimonthly column, Cloud Cover. He is a fellow of the Australian Computer Society and the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE). Contact him at san@computer.org, or visit his webpage at http://bitly.com/sanprofile.

Selected CS articles and columns are available for free at http://ComputingNow.computer.org.