Senior Editors’ Introduction

Richard C. Jaeger
Peter R. Rony

With this issue—which begins our second year of publication—we are expanding into two new areas of interest: computer law, and applications of microcomputers to aid the handicapped.

Our lead article, a full legal brief from a Federal Trade Commission case concerning the legal protection of object code, initiates a commitment by this magazine to the evolving and important field of computer law. The authors of this brief, Richard H. Stern and Jeffrey L. Squires, have outstanding credentials in the field.

Since the labor of many engineers and programmers ultimately ends up as object code in ROMs, we believe this paper will arouse both your interest and concern. With the encouragement and cooperation of the authors, we have inserted our own reactions to the arguments presented. We are publishing the full brief so that you can examine the same arguments that are being presented to the judges. In doing so, we hope that you will share our belief that computer professionals must become more active in the area of computer law. Either we participate in developing legal precedents that influence our profession, or we accept what others decide for us.

We will begin a new department—called MicroLaw—in our May issue. Richard Stern will contribute material on legal topics of interest to microcomputer designers and users. We hope and expect that this department will become an interesting and useful continuing feature of IEEE Micro.

Our second article, by Ware Myers, presents an overview of a recent competition on applications of microcomputers to aid the handicapped. The competition, sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and directed by APL’s Paul Hazan, sought innovative applications from contestants from across the nation. We plan to publish more articles on this important application area and have scheduled an issue on computing and the handicapped for February 1983. Associate Editor Jim Aylor is serving as the editor for this special issue. Authors who wish to submit a paper for consideration for publication in this issue should send six copies of the manuscript to

Professor James H. Aylor
Electrical Engineering Dept.
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Please contribute and help make this an outstanding issue!

We would like to reiterate that this publication reflects the quality of the manuscripts that you, our readers, submit. We encourage professionals from all disciplines to submit papers, thereby strengthening and broadening the scope of IEEE Micro. Our audience includes professionals who are active in the design and use of microprocessors and microcomputers, from chips through systems. Hardware configuration, interprocessor communication, analog signal interfacing, software design, numerical algorithms and software, benchmarks, microcomputer networks, multiprocessor applications, transform transforms, buses, programmable peripherals, data encryption, and process control are just a few examples of topics of interest to our readers. We particularly welcome articles on communications (token passing, collision detection, layered protocols, packet switching), operating systems (Xenix, Unix, CP/M-86, IBM’s DOS, UCSD p-system), and robotics.
Authors should strive to make their papers interesting and enjoyable to read, and should keep in mind that people with a broad range of backgrounds will be reading their articles, not just electrical and computer engineers. We encourage authors to use as many clear, explanatory figures as possible—they can make a substantial contribution to the readability and vitality of a technical article. Tutorial material explaining important concepts or introducing terminology should be included, and should be separated from the main text.

An excellent example of tutorial material appears on page 10 of our May 1981 issue, in “Sequence Controllers with Standard Hardware and Custom Firmware,” by Tabachnick et al. The original manuscript had no tutorial material; we are grateful to the authors for adding the introductions to information chunking, finite-state machines, and the BNF language.

Tutorial articles on a wide range of subjects are also welcome. Subjects such as digital filtering, fast Fourier transforms, operating system concepts, numerical software, z-transforms, and data acquisition techniques are appropriate for such articles. However, submissions of the “this-is-what-we-have-done-and-isn’t-it-wonderful” variety, which simply describe a microprocessor application but are devoid of technical detail, are not appropriate.

To have an article considered for publication, the author should send five copies of the complete manuscript to the senior editor:

Richard C. Jaeger  
Senior Editor, *IEEE Micro*  
Electrical Engineering Dept.  
207 Dunstan Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849

The papers will be reviewed by three referees; the review process has averaged 14 weeks over the last year. Author guides may be requested from the senior editor at the address above, or from the associate senior editor:

Peter R. Rony  
Assoc. Senior Editor, *IEEE Micro*  
Chemical Engineering Dept.  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this magazine during its first year of publication: the rest of the editorial board, the authors who submitted papers, and those individuals—listed below—who served as reviewers, to whom we extend special thanks.

H. Alles, C. Kim  
J. Archer, P. Koeppen  
D. Aspinall, C. Kornfeld  
C. Baker, R. Krutz  
T. Balph, G. Langdon  
J. Bernitt, R. Linser  
D. Bhavsar, J. Lowry  
J. Birdwell, K. McDonough  
D. Bradley, T. Miller  
M. Braff, K. Muehlemann  
T. Brubaker, S. Nilsson  
B. Carey, C. Nunnally  
R. Carr, J. Quanstrom  
G. Carson, C. Ramamoorthy  
A. Collins, R. Ramey  
G. Cook, J. Raymond  
H. Cragon, N. Rich  
J. Cross, T. Saadawi  
J. Deliyannis, D. Siwek  
B. Derivisoglu, S. Starks  
S. Director, R. Stewart  
D. Doyle, J. Stoughton  
K. Elmqquist, M. Varanasi  
J. Fong, J. Wakerly  
D. Frailey, R. Wedig  
C. Gritton, J. Wener  
J. Howard, C. Ziegler  
P. Jessel, W. Zwaenpoel

We are looking forward to a great second year and encourage you to help us by contributing suggestions as well as articles.