By way of thanks...

Many people have given freely of their time and technical talents to referee manuscripts submitted for publication in IEEE Software. We are using this forum to publicly acknowledge and thank these referees, listed below and on the following pages, for their efforts on our behalf.

Because all members of the IEEE Software Editorial Board have authored papers, we know from experience the time and effort it takes to develop a manuscript. We also know how important a good, detailed review of our work is in improving its overall quality. Therefore, we do not take the refereeing of manuscripts lightly.

A manuscript sent to IEEE Software for consideration is typically forwarded to six persons for review. We expect referees to have constructive comments that will help the author:

- correct errors and misconceptions;
- make the article technically consistent and technically complete;
- organize the material in a way that will help the reader understand the issues presented;
- verify the appropriateness, accuracy, and relevancy of conjectures and results;
- use contemporary and relevant references;
- employ better diagrams, tables, graphs, and examples.

If a referee's report does not cover at least several of these issues for the author, we typically “reject” it and submit the manuscript to additional reviewers, just as we would if the referees gave detailed but conflicting views about a manuscript. We expect there to be a strong consensus for accepting a manuscript.

All of this does, of course, take time. There have been many manuscripts that were in process for over a year (taking into account revisions, which are in the reviewing process as well), but the vast majority of manuscripts complete the process in four to six months. This is certainly an enviable record, considering the refereeing standards we employ and the number of people involved.

If you are interested in assisting with this worthwhile endeavor, please send me your name, address (both physical and electronic), phone number, the subject areas of the Computing Reviews Classification System of the manuscripts to be sent to you, and the number of articles per year you can referee.

Bruce D. Shriver
Editor-in-Chief

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