Thanks!

Many people have given freely of their time and technical expertise to write and referee manuscripts for consideration for publication in IEEE Software. In particular, the members of IEEE Software's Editorial Board have given an extraordinary amount of their time to maintaining the high-quality standards set for this magazine.

I acknowledge and thank the referees, listed below and on the following pages, for their efforts on our behalf.

Because all members of the IEEE Software Editorial Board have written a number of technical papers, we know from experience the time and effort it takes to develop a manuscript that is both readable and technically relevant.

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 people for review. We expect referees to have constructive, detailed technical comments that will help the author:

- correct errors and misconceptions;
- make the article technically consistent and technically complete;
- organize the material to help the reader understand the issues presented;
- verify the appropriateness, accuracy, and relevancy of conjectures and results;
- use contemporary and relevant references; and
- 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. We then submit the manuscript to additional reviewers, just as we do if the referees gave detailed but conflicting views about a manuscript. We expect there to be a strong consensus for accepting a manuscript. Having technically responsible referees is critically important to the livelihood of IEEE Software.

All of this does, of course, take time. There have been some manuscripts that have been in this 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.

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Editor-in-Chief

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