Logging off

This is my last message to the readership of IEEE Software in the capacity of editor-in-chief.

It has been an extremely rewarding challenge and a privilege to have played a role in beginning this magazine for the Computer Society of the IEEE. The editorial board worked very hard indeed to bring to you, the readers, timely and high-quality articles on many aspects of software technology.

In particular, I must single out the contributions made by Dennis Allison, Mary Shaw, Ted Lewis, Wiley McKinzie, and Dick Eckhouse: They have been a source of ideas and challenges, and I was fortunate that they accepted my offer to join the editorial board from its very beginning.

Editorial board. In the first three years of the magazine, the editorial board refereed scores of manuscripts, books, and software for potential inclusion in IEEE Software.

It was truly a Herculean task. I employed my editorial board in a technical rather than an administrative context. I felt very strongly that in addition to soliciting articles for those we knew were doing interesting work, we must have high-quality refereeing.

I elected to involve a few hundred other persons in the review process, not only to do the obvious solicitation of reviews with technical substance, but also to establish a diversified pool of industrial and academic referees who themselves might eventually author manuscripts for IEEE Software.

Over the last three years, a significant number of the authors have remarked to me about the quality of refereeing that is undertaken by IEEE Software. Together the editorial board and volunteers have established the standard for the quality of both the refereeing and the technical articles appearing in IEEE Software.

Staff support. The people behind the scenes in our West Coast office, have played an integral part in birthing this magazine and get well-deserved kudos. Marilyn Potes, our first managing editor, brought to the magazine years of experience that was evident in the copy editing and layout of the magazine. When Marilyn became managing editor of Computer magazine last year, Angela Reilly took over Marilyn’s position and soon her own perspectives and style were felt in IEEE Software.

Just as numerous authors have commented to me about our quality control processes, many have also written or called to indicate how delighted and pleased they were with their interactions with our West Coast staff. Marilyn, Angela, and I were always given as much support from True Seaborn as he could muster, given the difficult financial situation that the Computer Society has had in the most recent past. True has always been enthusiastic about IEEE Software.

Lastly, I must thank Faith Compo here at IBM. She has provided professional and courteous service to the scores of referees, authors and guest editors I have dealt with in the last three years. She has made all of our jobs easier.

Thus, it has taken a complete and cooperating team to make this magazine a success: a talented editorial board, an excellent managing editor, publisher support, contributions from my office, and an incredible amount of work from authors and referees.

Logging in. Ted Lewis is taking over as editor-in-chief of IEEE Software. I am fully confident that he will do an excellent job in expanding the role of this periodical as a viable component in the technical computer science community.

Looking back, I am somewhat disappointed that we have not been able to cover a number of topics that are extremely important in software technology. As there is so much to study about software, I cannot help but believe that Ted will have similar feeling when it comes his time to write a logoff message some years from now.

It was over three-and-a-half years ago that Oscar Garcia, then president of the Computer Society, called and explored with me the editorship of IEEE Software. I am very happy that some few weeks after our initial discussions that I accepted the position.

Bruce Shriver
Editor-in-Chief