

Editorial: State of the Journal Address

Jeff Kramer

How is *TSE* doing? I am happy to report that the journal continues to maintain its excellent reputation as a well-cited archival journal. The recent figures for journal impact from Thomson indicate that *TSE* has continued its steady improvement moving from 1.503 in 2004 to 1.967 in 2005 and 2.132 in 2006, making it the most highly rated journal in software engineering. The impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year. It is calculated by dividing the number of current citations to articles published in the two previous years by the total number of articles published in those years.

I believe that this rise can be attributed to our steady improvement in the relevance and quality of the papers that are submitted and finally accepted for publication. This means that we have to be extremely selective about the papers that we accept for publication. The acceptance rate for 2007 was around 10 percent.

This is the first bimonthly issue of *TSE*. As mentioned in my editorial in October, we have decided to change from 12 monthly to 6 bimonthly issues per year. The intention, however, is not to reduce the content. We aim to publish issues that are healthier with more papers per issue, and that are easier and less costly to produce. Bimonthly issues will not penalize authors or readers. We already have electronic publication (Rapid Posting) on acceptance, the maximum increase in paper publication delay will be a month, and all subscriptions include both online access and printed copies of the journal.

Paper Submission and Reviewing

TSE continues to receive a healthy selection of papers covering a wide variety of topics relevant to software engineering. Submissions are up, with more than 350 papers submitted during the calendar year 2007 compared with 302 in 2006. Even with this impressive number of submissions, the journal has additional publication capacity. I encourage all authors in the software engineering field to submit their best work to *TSE*. Furthermore, please note that, although there is a recommended maximum length for regular papers submitted to *TSE*, there is no length limit.

The current reviewing process is rigorous and efficient. Despite receiving around one paper submission every day, we have managed to keep our average times from submission to first decision for 2007 to 3 months, to final decision to 6 months, and to publication to 13 months.

Editorial Board

Board members are responsible for selecting reviewers, overseeing the reviewing process, and making the final recommendations regarding acceptability. The Board is the foundation upon which *TSE* is built and it is essential that we have the right composition of software engineering experts as members.

I would like welcome those editors who joined the editorial board last year: Antonia Bertolino, Ross Jeffery, Patrick McDaniel (see October issue), and Leon J. Osterweil, (see below for his brief biography).

My sincere thanks to those editors who retired from the board last year: Annie Anton, Tom Ball, Marsha Chechik, Bill Frakes, Dan Hoffman, Pankaj Jalote, Robyn Lutz, Dieter Rombach, and Avi Rubin. These colleagues have voluntarily given their time and effort to the task of paper management and peer review, helping to maintain the reputation of the *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering* as a first-class journal. I am very grateful for their support.

Thanks...

Finally, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank all of the superb staff and volunteers at the IEEE who have helped me during the past year. The day-to-day operations of *TSE* are handled by the following dedicated staff at the IEEE Computer Society Publications Office in Los Alamitos, California: Mari Padilla, Transactions Assistant; Kathy Santa Maria, Production Editor; Suzanne Wagner, Peer Review Manager; and Alicia Stickley, Publications Production Manager.

Jeff Kramer
Editor-in-Chief



Leon J. Osterweil is a professor in the Department of Computer Science, co-director of the Laboratory for Advanced Software Engineering Research (LASER), and founding co-director of the Electronic Enterprise Institute, all at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he also served as Interim Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics from 2001-2005. Previously, he was a professor in, and chair of, the Computer Science Departments at both the University of California, Irvine, and the University of Colorado, Boulder. He was the founding director of the Irvine Research Unit in Software (IRUS) and the Southern California SPIN. Professor Osterweil was awarded the ACM SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award for Lifetime Excellence in Research in 2003. His ICSE 9 paper was awarded a prize as the most influential paper of ICSE 9, awarded as a 10-year retrospective.

Professor Osterweil is a fellow of the ACM. He has been a member of the editorial boards of the *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering Methods*, *IEEE Software*, *Automated Software Engineering*, and *Software Process Improvement and Practice*. He has presented keynote talks at several meetings and conferences and at the Inaugural Symposium of JAIST (the Japan Advanced Institute for Software Technology) in Kanazawa, Japan. Professor Osterweil has been the Program Committee chair for such conferences as the 16th International Conference on Software Engineering, The Second International Symposium on Software Testing, Analysis and Validation, the Fourth International Software Process Workshop, the Second Symposium on Software Development Environments, and both the Second and Fifth International Conferences on the Software Process. He was also the general chair of the Sixth ACM Sigsoft Conference on the Foundations of Software Engineering, and the 28th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE '06). He has consulted for such organizations as IBM, Bell Laboratories, SAIC, MCC, and TRW, and SEI's Process Program Advisory Board. He has been a Distinguished Visitor to such organizations as National ICT Australia, the Institute of Software of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Tata Consultancy Services (India).