

Farewell

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1 Farewell (December 2010)

In the early 1990s, I was Editor for Network Management for the *IEEE Transactions on Communications* when I was approached by Sy Marchand of Plenum Publishing about starting a journal focusing on network management. As I was involved in network operations and management projects at Bell Labs at that time, it seemed like a natural fit. I agreed to launch this new publication.

The first issue of JNSM came out in March 1993. The editorial board consisted of 30 well-known researchers, managers, and executives in the field. As you might expect, most of the journal operations were done via letter and snail mail. Over the years the use of email and electronic files increased, and in 1995 a web site was established for the journal by Prof. Deep Medhi, then a new member of JNSM editorial board.

JNSM has been published continuously every quarter since March 1993. Online publication began in 2000. Since 1995, we have published at least two special issues each year. These issues have focused on various specific topics of network, service, and systems management. The special-issues program has proved very popular, with paper acceptance rates as low as 20%. Thus far, we have published more than 30 special issues. One of the most memorable was the December 2008 issue commemorating 15 years of JNSM publication. The acceptance rate of papers for the general issues, which was about 70% in 1996, stands at about 30% now.

From March 1993 to March 2008, JNSM published a column called *Thresholds*, edited by Mr. Larry Bernstein, with timely and refreshing short articles on network/service/systems management, and a column called *Toolbox* from September 1998 to December 2001, edited by Dr. Lawrence Ho, highlighting recent research and practical issues related to building and using network and systems management.

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The journal still publishes a *Report* column, edited by Dr. Paul Brusil, which includes short articles about recent conferences on network/service/systems management.

The reason for my moving on: Since taking early retirement from Lucent Bell Labs and joining academia full time in 2001, I have been gradually moving away from network management to computer science. About two years ago my long-time friend and former colleague, Prof. Mo Jamshidi, Editor-in-Chief of *Computers and Electrical Engineering* (CEE), asked me if I was interested in taking over as the Editor-in-Chief of that journal. I was subsequently made the formal offer, and I accepted. It was a bitter-sweet decision, as I take much pride in JNSM. But a new challenge beckoned.

During the past 18 years, I have had the pleasure of working with many authors, editorial board members, and reviewers. With their help, JNSM has continuously improved and a high standard of quality for the journal has been established. It is now recognized as the archival journal for the network and systems management community.

There are too many names to mention here, but I wish to thank all editorial board members and reviewers with whom I have worked over the years. In particular, I wish to thank Senior Technical Editors Prof. Deep Medhi and Prof. Carlos Westphall for their diligence and support. I would also like to thank my colleagues at Springer Science and Business Media with whom I have worked most closely in recent years: Ms. Melissa Fearon, Publishing Editor, Ms. Laura Lander, Journals Editor, and Ms. Anitha Sankar, Journals Editorial Office Assistant. Finally, I wish to thank my wife, Lynn, for putting up with me while for many years, in addition to holding a full-time job at Bell Labs, I was teaching and running JNSM.

I am pleased to announce that Deep Medhi will be the next Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Network and Systems Management. Over the past few months Deep and I have been working together to ensure a smooth transition. With years of experience in academia, particularly, with journals and conferences, Deep is well-suited to take the helm. I wish him best of luck.