

Greetings

Michael D. O'Dell Editor-in-Chief

*H*ello again.

This issue marks the beginning of the sixth volume of *Computing Systems*. The complete set is beginning to be a recognizable stripe of grey on the bookshelves! And if your collection is incomplete, contact office@usenix.org for information on any back issues needed to complete the set.

One fascinating aspect of technological evolution is that “solved problems” don’t always stay solved. Our first paper revisits an old problem which is generally considered to have been beaten to death by the mid-seventies: sorting. Processor speed and memory sizes have changed by several orders of magnitude since then and the paper “Engineering Radix Sort” by McIlroy, Bostic, and McIlroy reexamines the conventional wisdom about choosing general-purpose sorting algorithms. I think you will find the results quite interesting, especially if your default answer is *quicksort*.

Our second paper is a Controversy piece offered by Steve Johnson. In “United We Fall, or Killing the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg,” Johnson reflects upon some industry trends which may not bode well for some members of our community. I suspect this piece will generate a bit of correspondence. This is to be encouraged!

We have kept to only two technical articles in this issue so that we can supply our readership with a comprehensive index of our first five years of publication: authors, titles and subjects. I hope you find it useful when trying to find something in our nearly 2K pages of text.

At the beginning of this sixth year, it’s appropriate for me to thank all our volunteer readers who review manuscripts under stringent deadlines while contributing to the quality of the papers that appear. A

personal note of thanks goes to our ever-industrious Managing Editor, Peter Salus, who works quite hard to keep things running smoothly, even when the road is pretty unsmooth. I also want to thank Gene Spafford, who has been Guest Editor in both 1990 and 1991, and has now become Associate Editor: Gene will be herding the sheep into several special-topic issues each year beginning in 1993. Thanks, too, to Ellie Young, the Executive Director of USENIX, and to the staff at the University of California Press. And finally, our deepest thanks to all our authors, without whom there would be nothing to review, edit, or publish.

So we close this issue by mentioning one final section: the Instructions for Authors. This is the information you need to submit the manuscript you've been mulling over, or the Controversy piece you've been meaning to write. The instructions are not complicated (but they are important), and I very much look forward to reading your submission.

See you next time.