

FOREWORD

It is the purpose of the IJCEM to provide a forum for a wide range of information concerning the theory and use of computers. The most critical emphasis of the journal, and one that is very appropriate to Assumption University's mission as a business university, has to do with the use of computers within the managerial environments of modern business. The computer is central to that environment and at the University we have made a major commitment to allow our students to gain the competence that will allow them to be effective managers. In this issue we particularly focus on articles that consider aspects of management that will be of interest to the Information Technology community.

The importance of technology to the modern organizational environment cannot be denied, but it is often quite difficult to determine the task effectiveness of the introduction of the new technology and this has led to a strong emphasis among many professionals for standards and methods of evaluation. Ms. Isabella SY Ng and Dr. Kenneth Yiu, both of the Department of Accountancy of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, consider such a system for the analysis of information technology in a financial context in their article "An Application of Event-Study Methodology on Evaluating Information Technology Investment".

Also critical for making the best possible use of information technology in an organization is good cooperation between end-users, who best know how information is to be used to achieve the organizations goals, and IT professionals, who have competence in the technology by which information is processed and distributed. It has long been felt that the gap that often forms between these groups could be bridged if end-users could participate in the development process themselves. In "C.A.S.E CDFD: A Cooperative Data Flow Diagram Tool, by A. Guevara-Plaza, A. Aguayo-Maldonado, J. Falgueras-Cano, and F. Triguero-Ruiz of the Faculty of Information of the University of Malaga in Spain, describe a tool that can help such cooperative approaches become an organizational reality.

User-friendliness is not, however, only important to end-users. Environments that allow programmers to more intuitively grasp the syntactic and semantic aspects of computer languages allow them to be more productive and these benefits are, in the end, passed on to those who will use the information generated or processed by the program. Such an intuitive environment is described by three professors of the State Technical University in Saint-Petersburg, Russia in "A New Approach to Engineering of Programming Systems with Visible Semantic and Meta-Control."

Dr. Mike Metcalfe of the Department of Commerce of South Australia does not directly consider the impact of computers on business but he does analyze an important element of management that must be of great interest to those in Information Technology departments: decision-making. In every managerial project there are many decisions that

must be made and the way the decision-making process is structured will have an impact on both the nature and quality of the decision. Dr. Metcalfe's article considers the variable of size of the decision-making group in "Decision Making in Small Groups".

"A State Space Approach For Solving Project Scheduling Problems", by Li-Yen Shue and Reza Zamani of the University of Wollongong in Australia, also presents a description of an information technology tool that contributes to project management, in this case by helping solve the scheduling problems that often threaten the efficiency of projects and the ability of teams to complete them in a timely manner.

Jessica W. K. Chiu, of the Department of Information Systems of the City University of Hong Kong directly considers the training of undergraduate students in computer technology. This is a very important topic because if those students do not have a strong competence in this area they will be at a very serious disadvantage as they enter the business and professional worlds. In "The Applicability of Cooperative Learning Methods: A Training Selection Model for Asian Undergraduate Students" she considers the significant problem of educating students whose prior experience with computers differs greatly.

A paper, whose emphasis is less focused on the direct application of Information Technology to management and training, serves to remind us that basic as well as applied research is necessary to the development of optimal methods of using computer technology in business and organizational environments. In "Using Event Links to Model Object State Transitions and Role Evaluations", Professors Stephen S. Y Liao and John F. Schleich of the City University of Hong Kong contributes to the expansion of the techniques used in object-oriented programming by focusing on the dynamic properties of objects. We are certain that information about their model will be useful to systems designers and thus will eventually play a role in helping organizations operate more efficiently and effectively.

Finally, we should never forget that although the work of information processing departments must be designed to facilitate business tasks, that can only be accomplished if they have fully mastered the intricate technical details of their systems and of the information that flows through them. For this reason, it is not inappropriate that an issue that centers on computers and management should include " Results of Not Adjusting Schwartz \bar{X} Control Charts for Positively Autocorrelated Data", by Howard R. Clayton and Victor R. Prybutok, both of the University of North Texas in the United States.



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