

Backscatter

And There's More ...

In the article "Diplexer design using EM and circuit simulation techniques," [1] a very useful technique utilizing both electromagnetic (EM)- and circuit-based simulators is presented for diplexer design. It may be helpful to point out that EM- and circuit-based simulators have also been used for the design of microwave ceramic filters for mobile communications handsets [2]–[4].

References

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- [2] S. Tsitsos, A.A.P. Gibson, and L.E. Davis, "A new technique for the extraction of equivalent circuit parameters from 3-D monoblock filters," *Int. J. RF Microwave Comput. Aided Eng.*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 210–217, Mar. 2005.
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Publishing Operation of IEEE

To paraphrase Mark Twain [1], one should support one's professional organization all the time, and its organizers when they deserve it. In a recent description of IEEE operations appearing in this Magazine (December 2007 issue), we were introduced to the organizational structure of IEEE at the top level [2]. The IEEE and the MTT-Society, as we know them, could not exist without the numerous unnamed volunteers (not to be confused with the organization men), whom I salute. The underbelly of the organization is, however, rarely discussed, and many members are undoubtedly unaware of the real nature of their organization, with such bureaucratic characteristics as these:

1. *Inefficiency and bloat.* The article [2] mentioned that there is an economy of scale achieved in IEEE's publication activities, which include most of the IEEE periodicals, but not all. Here is why. The cost of composing and publishing the IEEE Microwave Magazine, around \$160 per page, is more than twice the cost paid by IEEE Computer Society for publication of its magazines through publish-

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ing operations outside of IEEE, and is more than three or four times the cost of publishing IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine, also published outside the IEEE operations.

2. *Sluggishness and inertia.* Consider the printing time of our publications, starting with the receipt from the editor of the (reviewed, revised, edited, accepted) content at the IEEE headquarters, to the publication date of the issue. The IEEE Microwave Magazine has a three-and-a-half month lead time for printing, along with a penalty for any revisions made subsequently. This explains why when Don Parker (the past President of the IEEE MTT Society) passed away, that news was carried by microwave trade publications (such as Microwave Journal) in the next month's issue, but only many months later by IEEE Microwave Magazine. For a rapid communication journal like Electronics Letters, the total time (six to eight weeks) required from receipt of an author's submitted manuscript to its appearance in print, including the review process, is shorter than just the printing time alone (ten or eleven

weeks) required by IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters, also purported to be a rapid communication journal. The IEEE publications operations appear to be as nimble as an elephant.


3. *Power concentration.* According to the article [2], policies related to publications are governed by the Publications Services and Products Board (PSPB) voting members, up to 29 of them, who are required to be ex-officio and TAB appointees (thus effectively requiring past service as a Society President), but with no requirement that even one of them have ever served on the editorial team of any Transactions, Letters, or

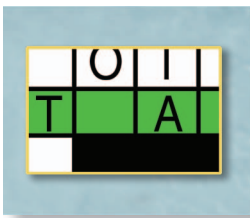
Magazines published by an IEEE Society. In our MTT Society that elects a new President every year, only two Society presidents in the past quarter century had served as an editor of a Society publication, while the rest have had experience in other sorts of things—running conferences, committees, power point presentations, and delegations—but not in direct editorial involvement with any of their Society periodicals (which are overseen by a Publications Committee composed of past and present editors). If the people who have edited and managed the publications, developed an understanding of the publications activi-

ty, and volunteered at least as much time as a Society President but for three years instead of one, are not suitable voting members on the publications board, could it be because they also have a first-hand knowledge and experience of the dealing with IEEE publishing operations?

The marvels of bureaucracy!
—Madhu S. Gupta

References

- [1] What Mark Twain said was: "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."
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Enigmas, etc.

