Editorial: State of the Journal Address

Ravishankar K. Iyer

I N this issue, our first of 2005, the fingerprint of the journal emerges clearly and sharply. The articles demonstrate a balance of dependability and security issues. The topics cut across the line between dependability and security, and by necessity, their reach is broad.

Bertino and Sandhu's "Database Security—Concepts, Approaches, and Challenges," surveys the most relevant concepts underlying the notion of database security and summarizes the most well-known techniques, focusing on access control systems and security for advanced data management systems. "Unification of Transactions and Replication in Three-Tier Architectures Based on CORBA," by Zhao et al. describes a software infrastructure that unifies transactions and replication in three-tier architectures, and provides data consistency and high availability for enterprise applications. Li et al. in "Fingerprinting Relational Databases: Schemes and Specialties," extend Agrawal and Kiernan's watermarking scheme by proposing a technique to embed arbitrary bit-string marks in applications. "Simple and Efficient Oracle-Based Consensus Protocols for Asynchronous Byzantine Systems," by Friedman et al., presents two kinds of Byzantine, asynchronous consensus protocols based on two types of oracles: a common coin and a failure detector. Finally, Nguyen and Redinbo's "Fault Tolerance Design in JPEG 2000 Image Compression System," develops fault tolerance error-detecting capabilities for major subsystems that constitute a JPEG 2000 standard.

In the coming year, we look forward to publishing several special issues. One special issue will contain papers for the IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy, which will take place in Oakland, California, later this year. The papers for this issue have been selected, and the authors are working on their final drafts. We are also working on an International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks special issue, for which a subcommittee of the DSN Program Committee is currently selecting papers. In addition, details are being worked out with John Knight, Editor-in-Chief of *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, for a joint special issue with that journal.

A statistic of interest is that during the past year, *TDSC* received 184 manuscripts; 24 have been received so far in 2005. Last year, we published 15 papers with an average time from submission to decision of almost 138 days. We anticipate that our submission-to-decision time will decrease dramatically in 2005, simply because in the first part of 2004, the editorial board was not in place to make decisions. With our editorial process is in full swing, we enthusiastically encourage potential submitters to send their papers.

Speaking of our editorial board, we wish to thank outgoing members Mike Reiter and Crispin Cowan for their time, effort, and contributions to the journal. We also extend a warm welcome to our two new associate editors: Giovanni Vigna and Lorenzo Alvisi.

On this first anniversary, I wish to thank all of our 2004 associate editors, submitters, authors, and reviewers, each of whom cast a vote of confidence in this new journal-without you *TDSC* would not have gotten on its feet. I also wish to thank the wonderful Publications staff at IEEE Computer Society Publications in particular, Suzanne Werner and Selina Norman without whose support and dedication this journal would not be possible. Here, at the University of Illinois, I thank Tammi O'Neill for providing wide ranging support during this critical first year. Thanks to all of you, *TDSC* goes forth into its second year, and it is hoped, a long and exciting future.

Ravishankar K. Iyer
Editor-in-Chief