Editorial

After eight years of being the chairman of Information Technology Interfaces conferences, known simply as ITI, for the last time I have the honour and opportunity to make a selection of papers from an ITI conference for our CIT readers. This has always been a rather difficult task because the number of papers to be printed in CIT is limited, as for the space, so to maintain the high level of quality. I considered it natural to offer the invited speakers the right to publish first. Few of them could not accept the CIT request to modify or expand their papers for printing in the Journal. However, in my opinion, there has remained a list of papers of high quality, representing the ITI 2001 Conference properly.

My selection starts with an important and highly readable paper by our invited speaker. It is about lifelong learning in the knowledge society. A valuable review paper follows about building the knowledge economy, as an important part of the knowledge society. To remain in the field of e-commerce, a more mathematically oriented paper has been selected, which deals with very important security issues in distributed environments using symbolic model checking.

After these articles, where the first two are aimed for general professional audience, statistics is chosen as an important and rather broad field of interest. Statistical apparatus has been applied to improve the learning. It deals with measurements and decisions regarding courses improvements and innovation. Another hot topic follows, a statistical evaluation of the air pollution problem and its effects.

Operational research and especially optimisation has always been significantly present at the ITI conferences. The year 2001 was no exception. I have selected a paper which investigates and optimises the design of optical networks as essential infrastructure of modern computing. To continue with optimisation and connect it to software solutions, there is a paper describing the object-oriented framework for iterative optimisation algorithms.

The importance of image processing, computer graphics and GIS systems is well known. Therefore, we included an article related to handling of spatial data and computational geometry. An extension of the new emerging standard for representation and data exchange, XML, to add the temporal dimension is discussed in the next article which is followed by a paper describing and visualising the program analysis by using graphs. And last, but not least, there comes an article about real-time kernel for Motorola microcontrollers, to remind us on system software and real-time issues which are the backbone of computing.

I hope that this selection will provide for most CIT readers at least some interesting material. I expect that under new leadership the ITI conferences will probably and hopefully undergo some changes, but I am convinced, and will give my full support to my successors, that we should attract the traditional but also new audience. This selection of articles from ITI 2001 is also aimed to help present these conferences to the broader audience of CIT readers.

Damir Kalpić

September 24, 2001