

## *Greetings*

Michael D. O'Dell Editor-in-Chief

*H*ello again,

The Internet has changed dramatically over the past few years. For the longest time, Internet services were largely limited to remote logins of various flavors, electronic mail, file transfer, and remote filesystem access over modest distances (i.e., essentially local area networks). While there have always been experimental (and often entertaining) services coming and going at a healthy pace, there have been very few real, distributed applications which in any way capitalized on the true nature of the Internet.

The explosive growth over the last several years, however, has changed all this rather forcibly, one might say. The Internet is now a rich fabric of resources and capabilities, and it is no longer possible to simply *know* all the places where interesting stuff is available. We now need tools with which to discover and navigate this world-wide treasure trove, and several such applications are the subject of this special issue of *Computing Systems*.

We are privileged to have Peter Deutsch, of Bunyip Information Systems, and late of McGill University, as our Guest Editor. Peter is the co-creator of "archie," one of the first Internet resource discovery programs. Archie is rapidly attaining the reverential status of the photocopier: you can't imagine how things got done before they were invented. Likewise, the ease with which one can "shop the FTP servers" for the latest goodies is incredible when compared with previous methods. Peter has done a great job of surveying this new, exciting area of computing and collecting a set of papers presenting an overview of this work. Much remains to be done and I hope that others will be inspired by the papers here.

Two final items and then I'll cede the Editorial Soapbox to Peter. First of all, our sincere thanks to the readers who are not listed as Advisory Board Members: Carol Botteron, Tim Budd, Geoff Collyer,

Ralph Droms, Ray Essick, Paula Hawthorne, Steve Johnson, Rob Kolstad, Andy Lynn, Anne Rogers, Barry Shein, Len Tower, and Jim Waldo. Without the many volunteers who give time and energy to this journal, we would never have made it through five years. Second, our next issue, 6.1, will contain a cumulative index of all the papers we have published since our inception. We hope this information will be of value to you, and it will be available electronically via the USENIX Publications Index.