This Report

- The IEEE Communications Magazine (ComMag)
- Progress in improving the magazine content and structure
- Why these changes? ... just a reminder
- Publication and submission Statistics
- In the Works
- Q&A
The IEEE Communications Magazine

ComMag

ComMag: the team

- EiC and AEiCs
- Four Senior Editors
- 21 Series Editors (SEs)
- 14 Technical Editors (TAs)
- 92 Associate Technical Editors (ATE)
- Column Editors
- FT Guest Editors (GEs)
- A database of ~ 20 K reviewers
- ComSoc Publication Staff (for multiple magazines)
  - Assistant Publisher, Associate Editor, Online Production Manager, Production Specialist, and Managing Editor position vacated and not filled
- Editors listing: https://www.comsoc.org/publications/magazines/ieee-communications-magazine/editorial-board
ComMag ...

- is ComSoc’s flagship publication
- is the world’s most respected magazine in telecommunication
- has attained highest level(s) of professional quality and scholarly standards
- Bibliometric Figures
  - 9.27 Impact Factor
  - 0.05644 Eigenfactor
  - 3.332 Article Influence Score

Progress in improving content and structure

*September 2018 through today*
Three publication tracks (1/4)

- ComMag is becoming more self-sustained based primarily on two pillar tracks
  - 1) Series: each focusing on a general area within of today’s Telecom landscape. The new ComMag Series attempts to span this landscape as much as possible, and attract more submissions than the old ones used to
  - 2) Open Call: open for submissions not focusing on a particular Series scope, crossing the boundaries between Series, etc.

- The editorial work of both tracks is carried out by the magazine’s Series Editors (SEs), Technical Editors (TEs), and Associate Technical Editors (ATEs)
  - Well trained and experienced editors, who are familiar with IEEE, ComSoc, and ComMag’s policies
  - Maximize utilization of available editorial resources

Three publication tracks (2/4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Series</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data science and Artificial Intelligence for Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet of Things and Sensor Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Communications and Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Communications and Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network and Service Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical Communications and Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and implementation of Devices, Circuits, and Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecom Software, Network Virtualization, and Software Defined Networks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three publication tracks (3/4)

▸ 3) **Feature Topics (FTs)** or Special Issues (SIs)
  - Have different editorial role
  - An FT is one-time narrow-scoped event
  - Focus on emerging hot topics, issues, and/or challenges
  - Can attract a collection of submissions in such topic(s) that may not be easy to compile in the other two tracks
  - Successful FT proposals MUST exhibit a great deal of creativity, and should have minimum overlap with Series scopes

▸ Editorial work of FTs is carried out by Guest Editors (GEs)
  - New blood, ideas, and incubation of future ComMag editors
  - Lack of experience can be an issue sometimes
    • Having a team that mixes experience w/ youth is important
    • Magazine editors are encouraged to take a lead
    • New guidelines to enhance chances of success
    • More work/effort needed on our part

Three publication tracks (4/4)

▸ Sample of new (2019-2020) Feature Topics
  - Multi-Sensory Human Bond Communications
  - Crowd Management
  - The Quest for Information Centric Networking
  - Future Internet: Architectures and Protocols
  - High-Speed Copper and Coaxial Broadband
  - Modern Railways: Communications Systems and Technologies
  - Secure Wireless Communications for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X)
  - Telecommunication and Network Engineering Education
  - The Evolution of Telecom Business, Economy, and Policies
New submission guidelines and policies

- For authors, reviewers, editors, and for FTs
- These go hand-in-hand with content and structural improvements
  - Discussed next!

Why these changes? ... just a reminder
Why content and structure changes?

▸ To make our content more current, more relevant, and more in-line with today’s state of the art
  - Maintain and advance ComMag leadership as the world’s top magazine in the field, in a competitive – rapidly changing – market
▸ To strike a better balance between Series, OC, and FTs (recall our Abu Dhabi meeting), and to attend to issues and difficulties the magazine has experienced with FTs in particular
▸ Broaden our readership base and try to restore the industrial/practitioner segment of it
▸ Have an editorial/review process that incorporates diversified high-quality contributions and attracts best authors, reviewers, and editors

Why update submission guidelines and policies?

▸ Unify the editorial and review processes across all three tracks (fairness for authors)
▸ Improve, and increase the efficiency of, the review process
▸ Enhance the diversity of our community’s contributions (authors, reviewers, and editors)
▸ Have better control over our budget in order to continue to deliver the same service to our community.
▸ Several adaptations implemented already in Manuscript Centeral (MC), many templates improved, and automated features activated to streamline processes
Publication and submission statistics

Submissions and publication

*Six-month window from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracks</th>
<th>Number of Articles Published ( Earlier Submissions)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Call</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTs</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>38.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>100</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracks</th>
<th>Number of Submissions</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>53.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Call</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>26.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTs</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>
Top 3 in terms of submission are Data Science & AI (27.1%), IoT and Sensor Networks (19.7%), and SW, Virtualization, and SDN (17.4%)
Top performer include IoT and Sensor Network, Mobile, and Optical

Largest submissions: Railways Communications
Three-track publication statistics
Six-month window from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019

April 2018- Sept 2018 Interval
Series (13.55%)
Open Call (18.71%)
Feature Topics (67.74%)

Oct. 2018- March 2019 Interval
Series (15.2%)
Open Call (46.4%)
Feature Topics (38.4%)

Acceptance Rate ~ 19%

Three-track submission statistics
Six-month window from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019

April 2018- Sept 2018 Interval
Series (26%)
Open Call (34%)
Feature Topics (40%)

Oct 2018- March 2019 Interval
Series (53.2%)
Open Call (26.6%)
Feature Topics (20.2%)
Observations

- We are still in a relatively transient/transition state, but moving steadily toward a stable steady-state
- Trends:
  - Series and OC are becoming the two main pillars, run by ComMag editors
  - OC filled up a gap throughout the transition from the old Series structure to new one. Now, Series are picking up momentum and taking the lead
  - FTs are repositioned to properly complement Series and OC, have an important role and value, while following same review process
- Performance of some series is still not up to speed

In the Works
In the works

- Reviewer database project lagging a bit
- Columns
  - Book Reviews
  - News?
  - Advertising and budget matters
- Editors
  - New hires, promotions, and retirements (service terms ending)

Thank You for your contributions to the success of the IEEE Communications Magazine
Questions!