

Editors' Comments

From the Editor-in-Chief:

Dear Readers,

I would like to begin this editorial by congratulating the winners of the *MISQE* Best Paper Award of 2017. In May of each year, the *MISQE* senior editors read the papers from the previous year and vote on the best paper. The winning paper from 2017 is "Options for Transforming the IT Function Using Bimodal IT" by Ingmar Haffke, Bradley Kalgovas, and Alexander Benlian. It was published in the June 2017 issue.

Each December, *MIS Quarterly Executive* publishes a special issue on a highly relevant topic. This year's topic is Optimizing the Digital Workforce. The special issue was preceded by two workshops – one at ICIS 2017 and one at HICSS 2018 – where interested authors gathered to present and discuss their research on the digital workforce. The workshops and special issue were organized by the four guest editors – Michelle Kaarst-Brown, Fred Niederman, Jeria Quesenberry, and Tim Weitzel. In order to keep our December issue current and timely, the process of submission, review, revision, and publication is very tight, occurring within the span of less than 12 months. I sincerely thank Michelle, Fred, Jeria, and Tim for their excellent work on the special issue and workshops. The guest editors have written a thought-provoking editorial that both introduces the specific articles featured in this issue as well as provides their unique insights into the issue, including their thoughts on future research into the digital workforce.

In addition to the special issue editorial and four papers, this issue includes a preview of the results of the annual SIM IT Trends Study. Prepared by Leon Kappelman, Ephraim McLean, Vess Johnson, Russell Torres, Chris Mauer, and Kevin Kim, the preview provides a succinct overview of what to expect in the full results that will be published in the March 2019 issue. Even as we publish this special issue, we already look forward to ICIS workshop on the special theme

"Delivering Business Value through Enterprise Blockchain Applications." Mary Lacity, Rajiv Sabherwal, and Carsten Sørensen are the guest editors for this workshop and for the related December 2019 special issue. The submission deadline for the special issue is March 18, 2019. We hope those of you doing research on blockchain will consider submitting to the special issue.

With this issue, I reach the conclusion of my 5-year term as editor-in-chief. It has been a pleasure serving as editor-in-chief of *MIS Quarterly Executive*. I wish to thank the many senior editors that have served the journal during my term – Carol Brown, Yolande Chan, Kristine Dery, Jens Dibbern, Varun Grover, Michelle Kaarst-Brown, William Kettinger, Hope Koch, Mary Lacity, Martin Mocker, Gabriele Piccoli, Jeanne Ross, Siew Kien Sia, Christina Soh, Leslie Willcocks, and Philip Yetton. I'd especially like to thank Carol, Varun, Bill, Mary, and Jeanne who were with me for the entire 5 years, always willing to provide their thoughts and guidance. Their strong and continued support of the journal is a major reason why it continues to grow and prosper. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to Bill, Mary, SK, Philip, Gabe, Hope, Jeanne and Michelle for their work on various of the special issues during the last 5 years. The special issues entail significant time pressure with little margin for error. Their professional approaches to managing the special issues kept *MISQE* at the forefront on emerging topics of relevance to practice. I also thank Alan Dennis for all he has done for *MISQE*, serving as production editor for so many years and then overseeing the transition of *MISQE* to AIS and to the Scholar One submission system. Alan's stewardship has ensured the financial and operational success of the journal. I am very pleased to pass the editor-in-chief baton to Gabe Piccoli. A senior editor since 2014, Gabe has authored 4 papers for *MISQE* over the years. He has served as senior editor on numerous papers and was a guest editor of the special issue on Digital Data Streams. One of his *MISQE* papers was a winner of the 2015 AIS Senior Scholars Best Information

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Systems Publication Award. Gabe's competence and enthusiasm will make him an outstanding editor-in-chief.

Happy Reading!

Dorothy Leidner
Editor-in-Chief