



## The IPSI BgD Transactions on Advanced Research

Multi-, Inter-, and Trans-disciplinary Issues in Computer Science and Engineering

A publication of IPSI Bgd Internet Research Society New York, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Belgrade  
July 2019 Volume 15 Number 2 (ISSN 1820-4511)

Special issue: „Special Issue on Haiku Wisdom about Research Experiences“

Guest Editors: Veljko Milutinović, Blumington, Indiana, USA and Belgrade, Serbia  
Jakob Salom, Petah Tikva, Israel and Belgrade, Serbia

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# Editorial

Guest Editors: Veljko Milutinović, Blumington, Indiana, USA and Belgrade, Serbia  
and  
Jakob Salom, Petah Tikva, Israel and Belgrade, Serbia

This Special Issue includes para-haiku pearls of professional wisdom of 10 different young researchers that the editors cooperated with within the past 10 years.

The term "para-haiku" means that the contributions are one paragraph long (that is why the prefix "para"), and that the wisdom is expressed, conditionally speaking, in a short and a poetic way (that is why the postfix "haiku"). The idea is that contributions act in a proverbial manner - short messages are best remembered. Hopefully, this experiment will be liked by the readership.

# Do Not Forget Passion!

Aleksandar Kavčić, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Do Not Forget Passion! In any human endeavor, exceptionally driven people are those who account for most advances. There is no substitute for drive. It helps you persevere and reach your goals when faced with adversity. However, without passion, drive alone can dwindle, especially when goals, or even partial goals, are within reach. But, if you have passion for what you do, you will simply love your journey, regardless of where it will take you. Passion will ensure that you remain creative, driven, engaged, happy, and ultimately successful. When choosing your endeavors, make sure you choose those that you are passionate about and you will be fulfilled.

# No Situation is Absolute

Božidar Miladinović, Belgrade, Serbia

No situation is absolute, from each one we have the ability to extract something good, as well as something bad, if we surrender. We just need to master the methods to do something like that, and one of the methods could be this one.

# The Three Victories

Dejan Mirčevski, Toronto, Canada

To learn -- that is the first victory, after which many proudly stop.  
There remain, however, two bigger and harder victories:

1. To question what we have learned.
2. To realize the (in)significance of that what we have learned.

# A Task You Really Don't Want

Goran Rakočević, Belgrade, Serbia

When given a task you really don't want, do it first and complain later! In every career there will be situations when one is asked to do some work one really does not want to do. Perhaps we feel it is not within our job description, perhaps the task seems beneath our status and capabilities or otherwise unbecoming. In these situations it is very tempting to nip this notion in the bud, outright refuse and reject this wretched labor. Yet, this hasty reaction is possibly the worst thing to do. Every endeavor, be it industrial or scientific, has its sight primarily focused on delivering the sought results. From this fact stems the primordial classification of people in an organization: Those who deliver (results) and those who do not. As any good foreman will tell you, the happiness of the former is infinitely more important than that of the latter. It is therefore prudent to establish oneself as person who does the job and delivers the results. At that point one should make their discontent clear, and it will be taken more seriously.

# Blagodati Božije\*

Igor Ikodinović, Toronto, Canada and Belgrade, Serbia

Svaki kao što je primio blagodatni dar, njime služite jedni drugima,  
kao dobri upravitelji raznovrsne blagodati Božije.  
(prva saborna poslanica svetog apostola Petra, glava 4)

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\* The wish of the author was that this haiku wisdom remains displayed in Serbian language only.



# On Ideas and Intentions

Ivan Ratković, Barcelona, Spain

If you have the strength and will to put the idea through, do not be afraid of crazy ideas! Undiscovered treasure is often undiscovered because inventors do not have the courage to walk the steep and foggy path that leads to it. Follow the small signs on the sides of the road and you will not go astray. The non-standard route gives the treasure a greater shine. Ignore the critics. Only you know why your idea is the best, and therefore you cannot expect others to know the same. Great things only happen if our intentions related to our idea are big.

# The Earth and the Heavens

Miloš Kovačević, Belgrade, Serbia

Walk on the engineering earth, live in the scientific heavens.

# From Learning to Lecturing

Nemanja Trifunović, London, UK

Learn so you can understand,  
Understand so you can think,  
Think so you can do,  
Do so you can Lecture.

# On Systems' Complexity

Nenad Korolija, Belgrade, Serbia

Only repeatable is worth observing! The growing computing community increases entropy in both computer hardware and software. As they become more and more complex, so do the commands that control them. Commands could include: human interaction, software instructions, and scripts that run them. Today's complex systems are either meant to be used solely for special purposes, or they might finally find their place in conventional computers. In both cases, running the system has to be both easy to use and repeatable, in the first case due to the necessity for repeating the process, while in the second case it is due to the user friendliness. For that to happen, human interaction should exist only if absolutely necessary, and even then, it has to be minimized, or the growing system would eventually become too complex, erroneous, and unstable. New hardware often assumes new programming languages. While new systems should attract engineering community, as such, they do the opposite. Therefore, new systems should adopt to the existing infrastructure, adding not much more complexity than needed. Finally, scripts are usually hard to read, even if they reach only a few lines. They often include regular expressions that are hard to read, as well as calls to programs with many parameters. Their complexity tend to grow with the system that they are designed for. This should be avoided. Therefore, as each component grows, its complexity should be hidden from the component user. While more complex systems require more control, their number of components might stay constant. We propose a component-based model, where each component would be followed by a script for installing, running, setting up, and uninstalling it. As the system becomes a component of a bigger system, the whole complexity of the component should be hidden from the new system. However, in order to control a particular feature, one would still have to invest all the components in the tree (starting from the root of the system), over the nodes in the tree (components), until the features itself (leaves). Therefore, we suggest forming a virtual system configuration file by connecting the system configuration with the whole configuration of each component separated in a separate namespace. This XML-like structure would contain all the configuration values of the system, where each one of them would be easy to find.

# On Persistence in Research

Stevan Stanković, Belgrade, Serbia

There is a great hill between you and you meeting the goals.  
Persistence will dig a tunnel, which will lead you to the success.

# Five Little Monkeys

Vladisav Jelisavčić, Obrenovac, Serbia

Five big data, running down the (data)flow,  
one was left for held-out, remaining data four.  
Four big data, processing on the cluster,  
one was false and insecure, made a big disaster!  
Three big data, playing on the GPU,  
soon became way too hot, one threw error 43.  
Two big data, on computing spree,  
one was way too big to fit the RAM, so he went out-core.  
One big datum, went through the pipeline all way through,  
our metrics turned out all bad and wrong, let's go back for more!

# On Discoveries in Science and Engineering

Zoran Babović, Lazarevac, Serbia

Our curiosity of spirit encourages us to examine and understand how the world works and we strive to design better and more efficient systems and solutions to problems that will make our daily lives easier. Still, we have to work hard to discover these solutions, yet, the greatest advances made in science and engineering have been given to us by the God. So without Him we can do nothing ... (Jn. 15: 5).

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**CIP – Katalogizacija u publikaciji  
Narodna biblioteka Srbije, Beograd**

ISSN 1820 – 4511

**The IPSI BGD Transactions  
on Advanced Research**

COBISS.SR - ID 119128844

ISSN 1820-4511



9 771820 451006