

# Editorial

---

The International journal of Engineering Education moved from Germany to Ireland in 1997. Ever since, the website has been operated and updated by Donal McCarthy of the Dublin Institute of Technology. The **IJEE Web Server** that has been running non-stop since July 1997, was replaced on 25th January 2006 by a new rack-mounted server installed in the server room of the Dublin Institute of Technology at Bolton Street, Dublin, Ireland. The old server was a **Sun SPARCstation 4** running on SunOS 4.1.4, with 500MB and 2.1GB disks. It ran on Apache 1.3.6 software. The new server is a **HP Proliant 320** with 512MB RAM, running on Linux 2.4.20 and Apache 2.0.40, with Pentium 4 processor, and twin 80GB ATA disks. The new machine serves journal articles at much greater speeds, which is important when some of the interactive papers can be as much as 12MB in size. Downtime will be minimised, as the server racks are supplied with uninterrupted power, and automatic backup. It is to be hoped that the new server will also run for 8½ years without breakdown! I am most indebted to Donal for his sterling help and real devotion to the cause—running the only comprehensive engineering education site anywhere.

This issue is the first after some time not having a special issue section. The pressure to publish a regular issue has been great as many papers have backed up. There is much special material also lined up for publication and the coming issue is planned as a bumper design issue edited by Clive Dym.

On another point—subscriptions. Journals depend on subscriptions in order to survive. As the only independent engineering education journal not supported by a society we are even more dependent on subscribers. Unfortunately, there is a prevalent practice by libraries to call upon interlibrary loan to obtain journal papers requested by faculty, rather than subscribing. The cost of loaning papers, up to a fairly large number is often less than the cost of a subscription. Libraries rely on lists of subscribing institutions in order to obtain ‘loaned’ papers. Survival of journals is at stake here, and authors and libraries need to realize that unless journals are subscribed to they will eventually disappear and academics will be left without a high level publication outlet.

Michael Wald