

FOREWORD

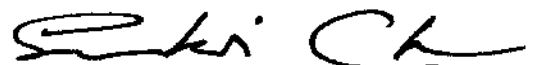
This issue of the IJCM presents its usual multi-course meal of interesting articles, as always addressed to as wide an audience as possible. As in any feast, some of the dishes will appeal to some and others to different diners, but certainly all will be interested in tasting widely and there will be several dishes for everyone. So, bon appetit!

Khong PohWah's contribution is an excellent survey of the technological management of health care. Health care, as we all know, has become increasingly technological in practice and it takes a high level of technology to organize that practice. As in many areas of life, computers and the internet provide an increasingly important underlying basis for health care. An important specific example of the importance of technology is to be found in N. A. Mat-Isa, M. Y. Mashor, and N. H. Othman's examination of a neural network technique for the diagnosis of cervical cancer. This technique is shown to establish a greater level of clarity than previous diagnoses.

Efficiency is also the topic of Chin-Tai Chen, John Yuan and Ming-Han Lin's paper, which looks at the transient throughput of unreliable work centers which are subject to downtime, a study that can be used to determine how efficient such systems might be. Efficiency of travel is an important aspect of George Kochumman and Wilfrid Nixon's study of information systems that can provide drivers information about wintry road conditions that can significantly affect movement. While the topic may seem slightly exotic for Thailand, the general techniques considered might have applications in many circumstances, including those in areas which are lucky enough to avoid the travails of snow and ice.

After all these weighty dishes it might be well to cleanse the palate with an article somewhat more ephemeral and Jia-Chi Tsou and Hsing-Pei Kao's article does just that. It is not, of course, that their article is any less serious or erudite than the others, but whereas the others examine the nuts and bolts of actual applications, this one turns to the airy reaches of philosophical metaphysics in its attempt to bring practical clarity to the world of e-commerce by providing an ontological classification of e-commerce.

Wafers are not the most substantial of deserts but after an especially hearty meal such as that offered in this issue they can just be what the diner needs to cap off a pleasant meal. The wafers considered in Chih-Hung Tsai, Yun-Min Feng and Rong-Kwei Li's article are, alas, made of silicon not sugar but their considerations may help the manufacture of such wafers more efficient, which would be a special treat for both manufacturers and purchasers, both of whom would realize savings.



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