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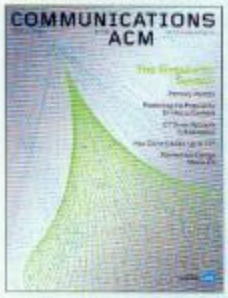

About the Cover:
The Singularity system, Microsoft Research's effort to build a microkernel-based operating system, is the focus of this month's cover story as told by the projects' lead researchers James Larus and Galen Hunt. The system draws parallels to the singularity model where physical laws as we know them are no longer valid. Rendering this concept for the cover is Paul Farrington from Studio Tonne, an illustrative agency based in Brighton, England. For more on the studio's work, see http://www.studiotonne.com.

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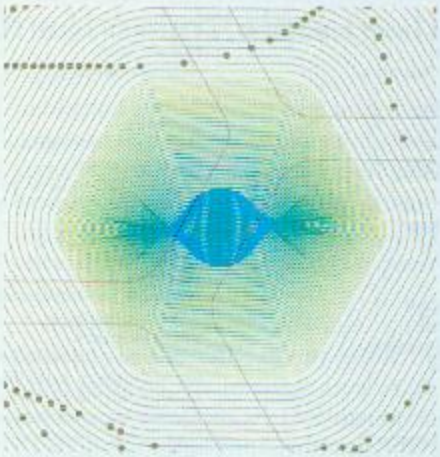
Contributed Articles



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Virtual Extension

As with all magazines, page limitations often prevent the publication of articles that might otherwise be included in the print edition. To ensure timely publication, ACM created *Communications*' Virtual Extension (VE).

VE articles undergo the same rigorous review process as those in the print edition and are accepted for publication on their merit. These articles are now available to ACM members in the Digital Library.

Intelligent Service Machine
Wei-Feng Tung and Soe-Tsyer Yuan

Thinkflickrthink: A Case Study on Strategic Tagging
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Plat_Forms: Is There One Best Web Development Technology?
Lutz Prechelt

How a Service-Oriented Architecture May Change the Software Development Process
Marc N. Haines and Marcus A. Rothenberger