Dear authors and readers of our journal,

First of all I wish you all the best for the New Year 2011. I hope that you will find this second volume our journal of interest and that it will bring you valuable insights into the topic of systems integration.

The term "systems integration" came into vogue about twenty years ago and it has become an umbrella term for a wide variety of IT services that are typically performed by third party contractors. Nowadays the integration requirements are much broader and systems integration has become a multilevel and multidimensional task. There is a need to integrate not only hardware, data, software functions/processes and information, but also organizational and legal aspects, user interfaces, social and ethical aspects, human resources and security aspects.

Systems integration has changed its focus to business solutions with emphasis on customer service and more efficient operations. A range of complex products are typically built by a large number of people and companies so that inter and intra company information and knowledge integration has become an important topic. In spite of the enormous technological progress, human factors are becoming increasingly more important and critical creating interest in human systems integration.

System integration is a complex technological and human task, and infrastructure decisions that seem right today might become obsolete tomorrow. Systems, even if artificially created by humans, are living organisms that constantly evolve and interact with external environment so that human communication has become central to systems integration resulting in a new phenomenon - social networking.

Please, send your comments and suggestions for future system integration issues to zdenek.molnar@vse.cz.

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