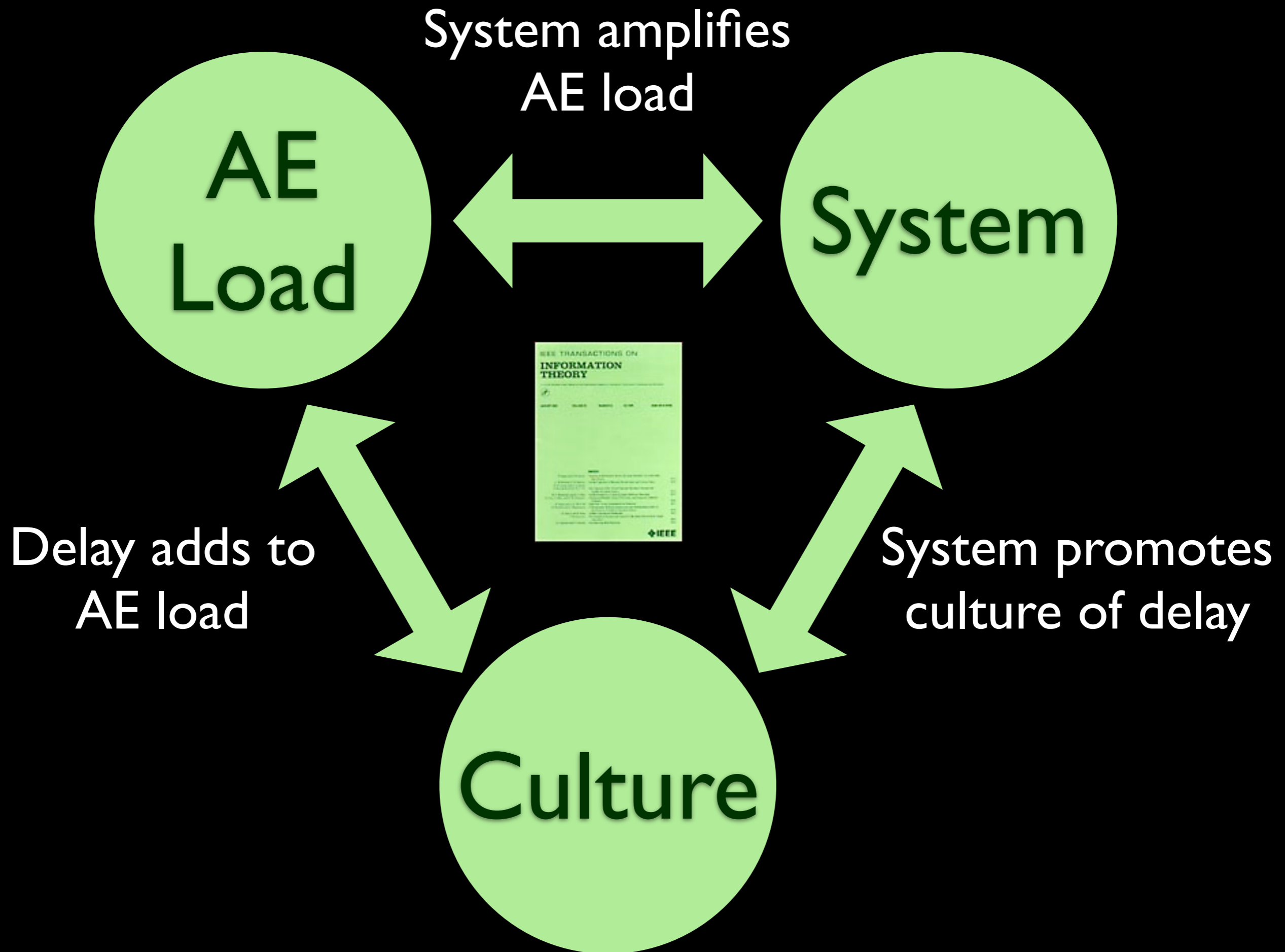


An Improved Editorial System for the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory

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Background

- Ad-hoc committee formed at request of EiC
- Wish list of requirements for web-based paper handling
- Associate Editor perspective
- *Reduce sub-pub time*

Guiding Principles

- Consult with Associate Editors
- Identify requirements
- Some features are “controversial”
 - This was set aside
 - Simply listed all identified requirements
- Technology neutrality

AE Global View

- Highlight *actions* required by AE

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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- Compact status summary

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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reviews requested/returned/days overdue/
days decision overdue/days revision
overdue/days final MS overdue

- “Action required” page

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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- “Send reminder” page
(*for semi-automatic reminders*)

MC ✗	Pareja ✗
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Email Handling

- System should handle emails
- Independent of email client
- Maintain email archive
- Easily customized templates

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
MC ✓	Pareja ✗
MC ✓	Pareja ✗
MC ✓	Pareja ✓ <i>broken</i>

Reminders

- Focus on actions required by
 - Reviewers
 - Associate Editors
 - Authors
- Customizable templates
- Customizable timing & repetition
- Turn off/opt-out/semi-automatic reminders

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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MC ✓	Pareja ✓ <i>broken</i>
------	---------------------------

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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MC ✗	Pareja ✗
------	----------

Paper History

- Keep every revision of manuscript
- Keep all correspondence
- Papers should not “disappear”

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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MC ✗	Pareja ✓
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Author Status Check

- Authors can check progress
 - Awaiting reviewer selection
 - In review
 - Awaiting decision
 - Decision made
- Authors can access all their papers easily from one place

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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MC ✓	Pareja ✗
------	----------

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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Confidentiality

- Manuscript watermark
- Strip user specific metadata from PDF files

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
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MC ✗	Pareja ✗
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Reviewer/Author Database

- Additional fields

MC ✓

Pareja ✗

- Technical areas, keywords, reviewer load, average review time...

- Expanded search capability

MC ✓

Pareja ✗

- Search by any field, compact results

- Flag conflict of interest/unavailability

- Easy Maintenance & “Cleaning”

MC ✓

Pareja ✗

System Aspects

- User-based access
(instead of paper-based)

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
------	----------

- Client neutrality

MC ✓	Pareja ✓
------	----------

- Robust, high capacity server

MC ✓	Pareja ✗
------	----------

- Direct interface to IEEE

MC ✗	Pareja ✗
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Paraphrasing the Discussions...

culture vs function

Manuscript Central

- “I don’t like it”
- “Someone I know does not like it”
- “I have never used Manuscript Central but...”
- “I don’t like automatic reminders”
- “I am happy with Pareja”

Pareja

- Specific broken features
- Specific shortcomings & missing features
- Archaic Implementation
- Upgrading is re-inventing the wheel

Cost

	Pareja Upgrade	Manuscript Central
Upgrade/ Setup	\$40,000 ??	\$26,350*
Ongoing Annual Cost	High-Capacity Server Cost	\$17,666

** includes first year of operation*

Looking Forward

reinvent the wheel?

Manuscript Central

- Large company (Thompson Reuters), significant resources
- Training, Support, Implementation
- Ongoing development (currently v4.1.2)
- **280** societies & publishers, over **2800** books & journals, **100,000** monthly submissions and **12 million** users

Pareja

- Single developer
- Limited capacity for support
- Incremental development (v1.x.x)
- One society, one journal, 80 submissions per month, $O(1000)$ users
- Adhoc committee has concerns over ability to deliver and actual cost (*guesstimate*)

Recommendation: Migrate to Manuscript Central

- Due diligence required
- Details of migration to be worked out
- Future features?
- IEEE plans?