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IEEE Internet of Things Journal

Special Issue on Kind Computing for the Internet of Things: Intelligent Sensing, Reasoning, and Human-Centered Systems

Kindness is a psycho-social phenomenon with proven benefits for individuals, communities, and society at large. Acts of kindness, actions performed by a giver intending to benefit a receiver, can enhance well-being and foster social connectedness. However, the design of the Internet of Things has remained largely neutral with respect to kindness. IoT systems are engineered to optimize efficiency, safety, or resource utilization; whether they promote or inhibit prosocial behavior among human stakeholders has rarely been considered as a first-class design concern.

Existing IoT research has addressed trust, fairness, privacy, and user experience but has not systematically engaged with kindness as a target behavior to be understood, modelled, and promoted. Smart homes, wearables, community microgrids, connected healthcare devices, and smart city infrastructure continuously sense physical and behavioral signals, such as location, energy consumption, physiological state, and activity patterns. These are directly relevant to identifying when an act of kindness is needed, possible, or appropriate. The convergence of IoT and kind computing raises research challenges that span multiple layers of the IoT stack, such as sensing layer, networking layer, processing and analytics layers, and application layer.

Topics of Interest:

- Foundations: Modelling Kindness for IoT Systems
- IoT Sensing for Kindness
- Privacy-Preserving and Ethical Kindness Computing
- Edge and Fog Intelligence for Real-Time Kindness Mediation
- Human-Centred Interaction and Behaviour Design
- Application Domains and Case Studies

Important Dates

- Submission Deadline: May 15th, 2027
- First Review Due: July 15th, 2027
- Revision Due: August 15th, 2027
- Second Reviews Due/Notification: October 15th, 2027
- Final Manuscript Due: November 15th, 2027
- Publication Date: January 2028

Submission

The original manuscripts to be submitted need to follow the guidelines at: https://ieee-iotj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/IEEE-IoTJ-Author-Guidelines.pdf, which should not be concurrently submitted for publication in other venues. Authors should submit their manuscripts through the IEEE Author Portal at: https://ieee.atyponrex.com/journal/iot. The authors must select as "Special Issue on Kind Computing for the Internet of Things: Intelligent Sensing, Reasoning, and Human-Centered Systems " when they reach the "Article Type" step in the submission process.

Guest Editors

1. **Dr. Aamir Akbar (Post-Doctoral Researcher)**
   University of Limerick, Ireland. **Email**: Aamir.Akbar@ul.ie

2. **Dr. Hadis Karimipour (Associate Professor, IEEE Senior Member)**
   University of Calgary, Canada. **Email:** hadis.karimipour@ucalgary.ca

3. **Dr. Mian Ahmad Jan (Associate Professor, IEEE Senior Member)**
   University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. **Email**: mjan@sharjah.ac.ae

4. **Prof. Kuo-Hui Yeh (Professor, IEEE Senior Member)**
   National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. **Email**: khyeh@nycu.edu.tw

5. **Dr. Sheeba Backia Mary Baskaran**
   Lead Security Architect - Lenovo, Motorola Mobility, Germany
   Email: smary@lenovo.com