The IEEE Computer Society is the world's leading membership organization dedicated to computer science and technology. Serving more than 60,000 members, the IEEE Computer Society is the trusted information, networking, and career-development source for a global community of technology leaders that includes researchers, educators, software engineers, IT professionals, employers, and students.

The IEEE Computer Society sponsors more than 200 technical conferences and events each year. These are all over the world, aimed at research and industry professionals. Its publications are peer-reviewed, indexed, and authored by technology thought leaders worldwide. It includes 17 scholarly journals and 13 magazines featuring the latest technology trends. Magazines like, Computer, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Computing in Science and Engineering which focuses on the bridge between computer science and other disciplines. IEEE Annals of the History of Computing which looks back into the history of computing. Intelligent Systems which is a forum for discussions on Artificial Intelligence. Security & Privacy which discusses these important issues. The Computer Society has a Digital Library that has more than 550,000 articles and papers spanning the full spectrum of computer science and technology that I have used often.

In addition to conferences and publishing, the IEEE Computer Society is a leader in professional education and training. It has forged development with major institutions and corporations. These rich self-paced programs help companies improve the quality of their technical staff.

The Computer Society is on the cutting edge of current issues in technology. It has a wide range of networking and volunteer leadership opportunities for its members, including over 400 local and regional chapters as well as more than 40 technical communities. The Computer Society recognizes the field's pioneers and visionaries through a robust awards program and it works to support the next generation of technology leaders through our student scholarships.

The IEEE Computer Society is a volunteer-led organization with an active and engaged membership driving excellence at the governance level. The publications are led by volunteer Editors-in-Chief and editorial boards. All these activities are supported by a professional staff,
led by an Executive Director, with offices in Washington, DC and Southern California. IEEE offices in Tokyo, China, India and Singapore also lend support to Society activities.

The IEEE Computer Society is the community for technology leaders. It is the computing professional's single, unmatched source for technology information, inspiration and collaboration. It is the organization that industry leaders, innovators, and researchers trust.

That is internationally. What about locally? The Chattanooga IEEE Section is committed to reconstitute our Chattanooga Section of the IEEE Computer Society this year. We will be holding planning meetings and technical workshops during the year. Which the website and your inboxes.

For me personally -- Why is the Computer Society so important to me? Let me take a quick minute to explain why the Computer Society is so important. My craft was in a completely different place when I started 30 years ago. The vast majority of my work was performed to support collecting accounts receivable, paying accounts payable, filing insurance claims, or tracking one type of inventory the other. Software engineers still do that type of thing but the world has changed. The opportunities changed with it and the demands changed with it. Now work products may be systems that enable blind people to take the correct medicine, or systems that optimize road space for autonomous cars, or systems that help multicrop farmers strike an optimum balance to maximize nutrition for a hungry world.

The opportunity for any software engineer to do good is huge. But, that opportunity comes at a high price. Consequences of software faults can be dire. In our days of software controlled automobile breaking and AI cancer diagnosis, near perfection is required. In my opinion, the IEEE Computer Society is the best enabler of professionalism in our craft. That is why the IEEE Computer Society is so important.