



**Thomas B. Tabor**

Publisher

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## Letter from the Publisher

Looking back over three decades of information technology (IT), and the monumental progress that's been made in computing, communications, and networking, it's quite amazing to think that we can barely keep up with an insatiable global IT appetite. Worldwide, those responsible for global IT infrastructures are still on a quest for efficient resource utilization and finding new and better ways to do business.

Back in the 1970s, the high end of mainstream computing was represented by very large and very expensive mainframes—mainframes that today would barely keep up with the processing power of a PC. The IT challenge of the mainframe era was learning how to operate those goliaths with as few wasted CPU cycles as possible. More than three decades have passed, and efficient resource utilization is still a primary concern for those planning enterprise IT infrastructures.

Has nothing really changed? Or has some cloud of confusion and an overabundance of market hype masked the reality of our current situation?

As you read this book and share in the journey of many of the early adopters of Grid and Service-Oriented IT, I believe it will become obvious.

Everything has changed. We are entering a new era of information technology.

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And, considering how far we've already come, the journey of computational achievements—including the significant progress made in data-intensive, high-end computing—is only beginning.

Today, in a number of industries, 'Grids' of computing resources are assembled as 'virtual' environments in which the compute, data, and network resources can be dynamically and automatically allocated. But Grid is about much more than just saving money or better utilization of resources. Grid, as part of a new computing and data infrastructure, has the potential to improve the quality of life.

The emphasis on Grid continues to grow. What has changed is the realization that Grids are not the stand-alone solution—but rather a key building block of an exciting new approach to redesigning the enterprise IT infrastructure. Grids are the enabling component of Service-Oriented IT.

Yes, everything has changed. We are in fact entering the dawn of the next-generation data center.

As a pioneer in launching the industry's first Grid-focused publication, *GRIDtoday*, we have been very close to the excitement, anticipation, and in some cases, disappointment surrounding this industry. We've worked hand-in-hand with many industry thought leaders to collaborate on education and information distribution.

The marriage of Service-Oriented IT and Grid, and the onset of a powerful new environment based on Grid and Web Services, brings a new level of versatility to traditional applications. More important, this gives us an architectural framework that enables new usage models that span the computing spectrum from Voice-over-the-Internet to on-demand computing.

The realization of these new usage models will start to gain traction as we get our hands on the next generation of application development and system management tools.

The need for education based on real-world experience is paramount. We are proud to have played a small part in helping bring together this collaborative effort—the articles in this book represent a wide array of companies and a number of different perspectives on technology solutions, yet they all have a common theme and common interest.

This book will take you on a journey. We hope the contributions in this publication will help you explore the different paths that are possible—over various types of terrain—all leading toward the same destination: a new level of business efficiency and success.

Join us now on a journey to discover “The Emergence of Grid and Service-Oriented IT.”

*Thomas B. Tabor, Publisher*

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