An FAQ for EICs on New IEEE Policy Regarding Authors Rights to Post Accepted Versions of Their Papers

For many years, IEEE has allowed authors liberal reuse of their IEEE copyrighted papers, even so far as to allow authors to post on their personal or institutions' server the final, published versions as found in IEEE Xplore®. However, with continued advances in search engine technology, IEEE policy inadvertently came to limit the effectiveness of its own online publishing platform. In November 2010, the IEEE Publication Services and Products Board revised author posting policy in order to exercise better control over IEEE's intellectual property, while still offering authors essential reuse of their own created works. The new policy retains substantial rights for authors to post on their personal sites and their institutions' servers, but only the accepted versions of their papers, not a published version as might be downloaded from IEEE Xplore®.

- **How does IEEE define an "accepted" version?**
- **How is "published" version defined?**
- **What other versions of authors' manuscripts are defined by IEEE?**
- **Why does IEEE allow the accepted version of the paper to be posted by authors and not the final, published version?**
- **Are authors required to remove any final, published versions of their papers previously posted on their web sites?**
- **Can instructors post copies of their own papers online as part of their course material?**
- **Does the new policy affect how authors post their manuscripts on preprint servers such as ArXiv?**
- **If an author's work was supported by a funding agency, which version of the paper may be posted in the agency's free-access repository?**
- **If authors opt to use IEEE's Open Access program, which version of the paper may they post?**
- **Is it possible for a third-party to post an IEEE paper online?**
- **Where can authors find a copy of this new policy?**
- **What other steps are necessary for authors who would like to post their accepted papers?**
- **What if authors have other questions about the new policy?**

How does IEEE define an "accepted" version?
An accepted manuscript is a version which has been revised by the author to incorporate review suggestions, and which has been accepted by IEEE for publication.

How is "published" version defined?
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What other versions of authors' manuscripts are defined by IEEE?

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Why does IEEE allow the accepted version of the paper to be posted by authors and not the final, published version?

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Are authors required to remove any final, published versions of their papers previously posted on their web sites?

No. The new policy was approved in November 2010 and applies to work published beginning in January 2011.

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