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Editorial

Dear Reader,

Today, while writing this editorial, the United Kingdom, where I live, has a national holiday to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II and give people the chance to witness her State Funeral. The late Queen was Head of State for 70 years and lived a full and productive life of 96 years. This morning I have had messages from friends and collaborators from many parts of the World who are watching today's proceedings in real-time on televisions in their own homes. The messages have come via mobile, WhatsApp, Facebook, and email.

Paradoxically, what I find most remarkable about the technology used to convey the messages received is that we do not consider them remarkable! We now take the live streaming of television news and instant global communication via mobile telephones and computers so part of our everyday life that we do not stop and consider how much progress has been made in such a short time. Old news footage of the Queen's coronation from 1953 shows a different world where communication was a far more protracted procedure than today.

Today, as Queen Elizabeth II is buried in London, her funeral will be attended by many world leaders who have flown to the United Kingdom for the occasion. Again, this global mobility demonstrates how far technology has progressed in a relatively short period. Only eighty-two years ago, King George VI was the first reigning monarch of the United Kingdom to enter the United States (a journey undertaken onboard a ship). Again, stopping and thinking about how far technology has evolved in such a short time is good!

As we face the future, there is, however, still much progress needed. We face ongoing issues of endemic poverty in many parts of the World, glowing alarm at the impact of climate change and an increase in social divide caused by the Covid pandemic. Technology advance is not a panacea for all the World's problems, but, hopefully, it will provide some answers. To that end, I hope that our work, as researchers and practitioners in computing and its allied disciplines, will impact the good of the societies in which we live.

It is remarkable how we have come so far in such a short period, let us hope and work to ensure that that positive trajectory continues!

With best wishes,

Professor Andrew Ware,
On behalf of the Editorial Board,
Annals of Emerging Technologies in Computing (AETiC).