

“FrontMatter.”

Handbook of Emerging Communications Technologies: The Next Decade.

Ed. Saba Zamir

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Preface

The field of communications technologies is an extremely volatile one, with new technologies emerging even as I write this preface. This *Handbook* provides comprehensive coverage of the upcoming developments for those technologies that are expected to have a major impact in this field. The *Handbook* encompasses a broad spectrum of topics: RSVP, video transmission, JMAPI, electronic commerce, WDM, MBONE, MPLS, optical networks, HDTV, Digital Audio Broadcasting, to mention a few. The articles written provide up-to-date descriptions and salient features of these emerging communications technologies along with comprehensive reference lists on where to acquire additional information.

Although the majority of the articles are technically oriented, the “casual” or “non-technical” reader can also benefit from the *Handbook*, since there are several chapters (DVD, HDTV, Internet Commerce, Broadcasting in the Internet age) that present the subject matter in an informative but easy-going, non-technical style. There is no specific ordering to the articles, and it is not necessary to read the *Handbook* from start to finish; simply turn to the chapter of interest and enjoy.

I am pleased to say that the chapters have been contributed by some of the most prominent and seasoned professionals immersed in the world of voice, data, and video technology today, and they have delivered excellent discourses in their specific areas of expertise. I have included a chapter on emerging security testing and standards evaluation. Although this is not an “emerging communication technology” in itself, it is important to note that the progress and impact of emerging technologies is in many ways dependent on the existence of accurate security testing and solid, uniform, standards hence the importance of this chapter. This is the last chapter of the *Handbook*.

I trust you will find the *Handbook* to be an invaluable reference.

Rafael Osso

Editor

Rafael Osso is a senior technology executive, with specific expertise in areas of network and systems management. Mr. Osso has held senior key management positions with major financial, brokerage, and manufacturing services where he gained extensive experience in implementing cutting-edge technology systems. He has also been responsible for the successful implementation of NetWORKS®, a remote network management services program at Unisys. Mr. Osso's work has been reviewed by major industry analysts such as Meta, Forester, Dataquest, etc. and has received acclaim through articles written for *Enterprise Systems Journal* and *Unisphere*. He is currently working on another major project relating to outsourcing, which is scheduled for release in late 1999.

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The compilation and completion of a handbook of this nature is a unique experience. Its ultimate success is dependent on dozens of people, and thanks are owed to all. I am grateful to each of my authors for giving selflessly of their time and their expert contributions that have made this the valuable reference it was intended to be. Many thanks are owed to my special guest advisors, Saba Zamir and Jay Ranade, for making this Handbook a success. I wish to thank Dawn Mesa, for keeping track of the status of the project, contributor agreements, permission forms, and much more.

In conclusion, I must thank Saba Zamir, a very unique dear friend, very loyal and sincere, for her dedicated support and encouragement in times of need. Also, I cannot forget my friend Jay Ranade (we have faced numerous challenges together) for being a true friend, always; and most important, my spiritual second mother, Gertrude, for her unique wisdom, love, and valuable advice in helping me understand why and how. Thanks to all.

Rafael Osso

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Dedication

To my beloved wife, my best friend, who taught me how to love and trust, and who has given me the courage to reach my goals in life.

To my children, Jacob, Jarod, Christine, and Rafael Jr., whose unconditional love has enriched my life, taught me the meaning of love and hope and made me a better person today. May your lives be filled with success and love.

To my dear friend Saba Zamir, whose persistence, faith, unique kindness, and friendship gave me the inspiration to write this book.

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