

Editorial

WE have been experiencing a growing trend of defeating the purpose of this LETTERS journal by a number of authors. First, we have an increasing list of authors whose manuscripts have been accepted, but did not respond to our request of "final check" in a timely fashion. As you are aware, when the manuscript is accepted by this office, we request authors to send us the final corrected version together with a diskette. Even if the author considers no corrections needed, we need to receive such information before the printing process takes place at IEEE. Publications of many letters are delayed by the lack of a timely response by the author. We are implementing, immediately, the following policy.

- If the author does not respond to our request for final check and confirmation within one month after we mail the acceptance notice, his/her manuscript will be removed from publication and the respective file will be closed. Any closed manuscript in this manner will have to be resubmitted and be treated as a new submission that undergoes another review cycle. We request the author's cooperation because we will not send any reminder notice in order to save our publication costs.

Another disturbing trend is an attempt to defeat the length limitation provision of this LETTERS. For instance, after a manuscript is accepted, which meets the length limitation, the author returns the final manuscript by significantly inflating the length; such as, more figures and more text. Suggestions by the reviewer to clarify some points or provide additional information does not justify increasing the size of the manuscript significantly. Revised manuscripts still must be within the length limitation. All of these manuscripts will be returned to the author for correction and this time delay associated with this transaction will be included in the one month response time referred to previously in the second paragraph. If this practice does not improve the situation, we will then implement more drastic measures.

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Editor-in-Chief