

## 40 Years of Computer Science in Germany

### 35 Years of „Introduction to Computer Science for Natural Scientists and Engineers“

The roots of computer science in Germany colleges lie in Karlsruhe. It is almost surprising that computer science as a university discipline, being founded with the first Computer Science Department at the Technical University Karlsruhe, is no older than a good 40 years, which means that in the past 40 years, we have been experiencing the emergence of computer sciences in Germany with massive consequences for society and the economy.

The unbelievably broad and rapid expansion of this new discipline and its permeation into all areas was set into motion by a first generation of computer scientists, who were mathematicians or electrical engineers by education. In this context, the first book focusing on the education of applied computer scientists, initiated by Ulrich Rembold (chairman of the first department of Applied Computer Science) and published by Hanser in 1977, played a pioneering role: *“Introduction to Computer Science for Natural Scientists and Engineers/Part 1”*, written by **Guenter Koch** and **Ulrich Rembold**, whereas Guenter Koch, having witnessed first-hand the historical beginnings of Computer Science as a discipline of study, can be credited with the initiation, conception and the greater part of the actual content of this book. Part two under the authorship of the initiators and a third contributor followed in 1980.

The complete work was compacted and condensed into one volume 14 years later under the significant auspices of Ulrich Rembold and **Paul Levi**. With this new edition the original conception was kept intact and the content revised to include current developments. This pioneer opus is still published in this form today and is currently available under the original title through Hanser in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

The publisher is aware of the fact that this standard computer-science textbook could not have survived through so many generations had it not been for the farsighted concepts and principles laid out by Koch and Rembold in the 1970's. Thanks are due to Ulrich Rembold evident shaping of this work and ensuring it's continuance as editor and author since 2002. Guenter Koch was greatly responsible for the conception and preparation of the content. Paul Levi -as his successor- is currently the leading author responsible for the continual revision and development of the work.

Hanser would like to take this opportunity at the 35<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of this work to sincerely thank the authors Ulrich Rembold, Guenter Koch and Paul Levi for this work and it's inception. *“Introduction to Computer Science for Natural Scientists and Engineers”* was and still remains a cornerstone publication in computer science, its authors leading pioneers, to whom we express deepest gratitude.

Munich, in November 2013