

CrossTalk Policy on Authorship

Adopted on XXX XX, 2026

August 2, 2026

1 Introduction

The computing community expects CrossTalk to adhere to the highest standards for quality and trustworthiness and for CrossTalk authors to engage in ethical practices while conducting research and reporting on the results of that research in CrossTalk publications. The community also expects CrossTalk authors to respect the intellectual property rights of others by providing proper credit to all those contributing to the published work and to give proper attribution to all those whose work is included in any new work published by CrossTalk. Likewise, the community expects CrossTalk and its volunteer reviewers to provide the highest quality of service throughout the publication process, including an ethical process for managing submissions and peer review, free from bias, collusion, plagiarism, deception and other forms of misconduct that erode trust in CrossTalk Publications and in science more generally.

We recommend adherence to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)¹ for clarifications needed on aspects of authorship and policy,

- Authors must be the “creator or originator of an idea” and/or work
- Authors must make a substantial contribution to the work
- Authors must be accountable for the work that was done and its presentation in a publication

2 About the journal

2.1 Aims and scope

CrossTalk publishes research surveys and expository overviews of open problems in software engineering and software development within the context of national defense.

¹<https://publicationethics.org/>

All articles are aimed at a general computer science audience seeking a full and expert overview of the latest developments across software engineering.

Articles from other fields are welcome, as long as their content is relevant to and has impact on the development of computer science. In particular, articles that review the application of well-known Computer Science methods to other areas are in scope only if these articles advance the fundamental understanding of those methods.

Contributing authors are expected to be recognized experts in the areas that they survey, they often have a significant publication record in the specific domain and the experience to provide a clear and well-balanced treatment of the subject.

2.2 Article types

We welcome articles of varying length and scope. This section describes some of them, but authors interested in a different format are welcome to make proposals.

Survey or review articles should be of sufficient scientific interest and help to advance the fundamental understanding of ongoing research, applied or theoretical, for a general computer science audience. The treatment of each topic should be more than a catalogue of known results. Expanded versions of primary research papers are generally not acceptable. The optimal length for a survey paper is considered to be approximately 30 printed pages or about 20,000 words, including tables and diagrams. Emphasis should be on clarity and originality of presentation. The survey should add deep insight to the topic under review.

A survey would typically contain the following elements:

- Introduction, including motivation and historical remarks
- Outline of the survey
- Basic concepts, definitions of key problems, examples, and a review of known results (with sketches of the proofs), or a review of existing approaches to the stated problems
- Comments on the relevance of the results, comparison of the approaches and critical review of the relevant literature
- Open problems
- Comprehensive bibliography

Full articles present original research or comprehensive experience reports and should aim for 30 pages.

Short articles may present early, rather than mature or comprehensive research efforts or experience reports. They should aim for 10 pages.

Book review articles may be two pages or more.

Position papers are short statements of opinion, suggesting directions for further research or applications. They will generally be considered only if written by senior recognized experts and may be two pages or more.

3 Peer review

This journal follows a single anonymized review process. Your submission will initially be assessed by our editors to determine suitability for publication in this journal. If your submission is deemed suitable, it will typically be sent to a minimum of two reviewers for an independent expert assessment of the scientific quality. The ultimate decision as to whether your article is accepted or rejected will be made by our editors.

Our editors shall not be involved in making decisions about papers which:

- they have written themselves
- have been written by close family members or colleagues without other unrelated reviewers, and disclosing the potential conflict of interest
- relate to products or services in which they have a financial interest

Any such submissions will be subject to the journal's usual procedures and peer review will be handled independently of the editor involved and their research group.

Authors may submit a formal appeal request to the editorial decision, provided it meets all the requirements and follows the procedure outlined in the CrossTalk Appeal Policy². Only one appeal per submission will be considered and the appeal decision will be final.

4 Special issues and article collections

The peer review process for special issues and article collections follows the same process as outlined above for regular submissions, except, a guest editor may send the submissions out to the reviewers and may recommend a decision to the journal editor. The journal editor oversees the peer review process of all special issues and article collections to ensure the high standards of publishing ethics and responsiveness are respected and is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles.

5 Ethics and policies

When authors submit an article to CrossTalk the authors assert that:

²TBD

- the work described has not been published previously except in the form of a preprint, an abstract, a published lecture, academic thesis or registered report.
- the article is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- the article's publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out.
- if accepted, the article will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically, without the written consent of the author.

5.1 Authorship

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following:

- the conception and design of the study described in the paper
- or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
- drafting the article or revising it for important intellectual content
- final approval of the version to be submitted

Authors should appoint a corresponding author to communicate with the journal during the editorial process. All authors should agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work to ensure that the questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

5.2 Changes to authorship

The editors of this journal generally will not consider changes to authorship once a manuscript has been submitted. It is important that authors carefully consider the authorship list and order of authors and provide a definitive author list at submission.

The policy of this journal around authorship changes is:

- All authors must be listed in the manuscript and their details provided to the editor (at some future point CrossTalk may adopt a submission system). Changes can only be made prior to acceptance, and only if approved by the journal editor. This includes additions, deletion, or rearrangement of author names.
- Requests to change authorship must be made by the corresponding author to the editor. The corresponding author must provide the reason for the request to the journal editor with written confirmation from all authors, including any authors being added or removed, that they agree with the changes. Requests which do not comply with these instructions will not be considered.

- This journal does not allow authorship changes after acceptance. This includes additions, deletions, or the rearrangement of author names, including changes to the corresponding author
- The review process may be paused while a change in authorship request is being considered
- Change requests made by the authors without editor approval may result in the rejection of the manuscript, or retraction if the article has already been published

6 Declaration of competing interests

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence or bias their work. Examples of potential competing interests include:

- Employment
- Consultancies
- Stock ownership
- Honoraria
- Paid expert testimony
- Patent applications or registrations
- Grants or any other funding
- Affiliation with the journal in an official capacity as an editor or board member

Editorial disclosure statements will be included as a footnote and/or in the declaration of competing interest section of the article.

Authors with no competing interests to declare should select the option “I have nothing to declare”.

7 Funding sources

Authors must disclose any funding sources who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article.

8 Declaration of generative AI use

Authors may not use generative AI to create any substantial text for their articles. Authors may use AI tools to check spelling and grammar but not to create summaries or substantial rewording.

9 Jurisdictional claims

CrossTalk respects the decisions taken by its authors as to how they choose to designate territories and identify their affiliations in their published content. CrossTalk’s policy is to take a neutral position with respect to territorial disputes or jurisdictional claims, including, but not limited to, maps and institutional affiliations.

Institutional affiliations: Authors should use either the full, standard title of their institution or the standard abbreviation of the institutional name so that the institutional name can be independently verified for research integrity purposes.

10 Delayed publication

If you need to delay the publication of your article for any reason, please contact the editorial office of the journal at the earliest possible opportunity. While we will try to ensure that your article is not published before a certain date if you make your request on a timely basis, we cannot guarantee this. Please also note that once the agreed period of delay has expired the article may be published at any time thereafter.

11 Writing and formatting

11.1 File format

Provide editable source files for your entire submission (including figures, tables and text graphics). A PDF is not an acceptable source file. We encourage you use our LaTeX template when preparing a LaTeX submission. You will be asked to provide all relevant editable source files upon submission or revision. Overleaf.com is a good resource for authors who are new to LaTeX or lacking a local installation of LaTeX.

- Title page: You are required to include the following details in the title page information:
 - Article title. Article titles should be concise and informative. Please avoid abbreviations and formulae, where possible, unless they are established and widely understood, e.g. DNA.
 - Author names. Provide the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author. Carefully check that all names are accurately spelled. If needed, you can add your name between parentheses in your own script after the English transliteration.
 - Affiliations. Add affiliation addresses, referring to where the work was carried out, below the author names. Indicate affiliations using a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author’s name

and in front of the corresponding address. Ensure that you provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the email address of each author.

- Corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence for your article at all stages of the refereeing and publication process and also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about your results, data, methodology and materials. It is important that the email address and contact details of your corresponding author are kept up to date during the submission and publication process.
- Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in your article was carried out, or the author was visiting during that time, a "present address" (or "permanent address") can be indicated by a footnote to the author's name. The address where the author carried out the work must be retained as their main affiliation address. Use superscript Arabic numerals for such footnotes.
- Abstract. Provide a concise and factual abstract which does not exceed 250 words. The abstract should briefly state the purpose of your research, principal results and major conclusions. Abstracts must be able to stand alone as abstracts are often presented separately from the article. Avoid references. If any are essential to include, ensure that you cite the author(s) and year(s). Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. If any are essential to include, ensure they are defined within your abstract at first mention.
- Keywords. Provide 1 to 7 keywords for indexing purposes. Keywords should be written in English. Please try to avoid keywords consisting of multiple words. We recommend that you only use abbreviations in keywords if they are firmly established in the field.
- Math formulae
 - Submit math equations as editable text, not as images.
 - Present simple formulae in line with normal text, where possible.
 - Display equations separately from your text, numbering them consecutively in the order they are referred to within your text.
- Tables. Tables must be submitted as editable text, not as images. Some guidelines:
 - Place tables next to the relevant text or on a separate page(s) at the end of your article.
 - Cite all tables in the manuscript text.
 - Number tables consecutively according to their appearance in the text.

- Please provide captions along with the tables.
- Figures, images and artwork. Figures, images, artwork, diagrams and other graphical media must be supplied as separate files along with the manuscript. When submitting artwork:
 - Cite all images in the manuscript text.
 - Number images according to the sequence they appear within your article.
 - Submit each image as a separate file using a logical naming convention for your files (for example, Figure_1, Figure_2 etc).
 - Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position. If you are working with LaTeX, text graphics may also be embedded in the file.
- Figure captions. All images must have a caption. A caption should consist of a brief title (not displayed on the figure itself) and a description of the image. We advise you to keep the amount of text in any image to a minimum, though any symbols and abbreviations used should be explained.
- Artwork formats. When your artwork is finalized, "save as" or convert your electronic artwork to the formats listed below taking into account the given resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations:
 - Vector drawings. Vector drawings are preferred. Use of LaTeX libraries such as TikZ, with the drawing commands embedded in the LaTeX document are preferred.
 - Color or grayscale photographs (halftones) and all other raster images: Save as TIFF, JPG or PNG files using a minimum of 300 dpi (for single column width: min. 1063 pixels, full page width: 2244 pixels).
 - We do not permit the use of Generative AI or AI-assisted tools to create or alter images in submitted manuscripts.
- Supplementary material. We encourage the use of supplementary materials such as applications, images and sound clips to enhance research. Authors are responsible for hosting any large files and providing a URL in the paper. Any server location should be archival, and be assured to be available for several years. Some guidelines:
 - Supplementary material should be accurate and relevant to the research.
 - Cite all supplementary files in the manuscript text.

- Submit all supplementary materials at the same time as your manuscript.
- Include a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file, describing its content.

12 Research data

We are committed to supporting the storage of, access to and discovery of research data, and we work with the research community to support a more efficient and transparent research process.

Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

All data needed to reproduce the work described in the submitted article should be submitted along with the article. In some cases however, this will not be practical and should be discussed with the editors.

13 Article structure

Article sections Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Number subsections 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), then 1.2, etc.

Use the numbering format when cross-referencing within your article. Do not just refer to "the text."

You may give subsections a brief heading. Headings should appear on a separate line.

Do not include the article abstract within section numbering.

14 Theory and calculation

The theory section should lay the foundation for further work by extending the background you provided in the introduction to your article. The calculation section should represent a practical development from a theoretical basis.

15 Footnotes

We advise you to use footnotes sparingly. If you include footnotes in your article, ensure that they are numbered consecutively.

You may use system features that automatically build footnotes into text.

16 Acknowledgements

Include any individuals who provided you with help during your research, such as help with language, writing or proof reading, in the acknowledgements section.

Acknowledgements should be placed in a separate section which appears directly before the reference list. Do not include acknowledgements on your title page, as a footnote to your title, or anywhere else in your article other than in the separate acknowledgements section.

17 Appendices

We ask you to use the following format for appendices:

Identify individual appendices within your article using the format: A, B, etc.

Give separate numbering to formulae and equations within appendices using formats such as Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc. and in subsequent appendices, Eq. (B.1), Eq. (B. 2) etc. In a similar way, give separate numbering to tables and figures using formats such as Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

18 References

Any references cited within your article should also be present in your reference list and vice versa. Some guidelines are:

- Use the LaTeX natbib package and `bibliographystyle{plainnat}`
- References cited in your abstract must be given in full.
- We recommend that you do not include unpublished results and personal communications in your reference list, though you may mention them in the text of your article.
- Any unpublished results and personal communications included in your reference list must follow the standard reference style of the journal. In substitution of the publication date add "unpublished results" or "personal communication."
- References cited as "in press" imply that the item has been accepted for publication.
- Linking to cited sources will increase the discoverability of your research.
- Before submission, check that all data provided in your reference list are correct, including any references which have been copied. Providing correct reference data allows us to link to abstracting and indexing services such as Scopus, Crossref and PubMed. Any incorrect surnames, journal or book titles, publication years or pagination within your references may prevent link creation.
- We encourage the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) as reference links as they provide a permanent link to the electronic article referenced.

19 Submitting your manuscript

Before completing the submission of your manuscript, we advise you to review the following submission checklist:

- One author has been designated as the corresponding author and their full contact details (email address, full postal address and phone numbers) have been provided.
- All files have been provided, including keywords, figure captions and tables (including a title, description and footnotes) included. This includes any supplementary materials and videos.
- Spelling and grammar checks have been carried out.
- All references in the article text are cited in the reference list and vice versa.
- Permission has been obtained for the use of any copyrighted material from other sources, including the Web.
- Cover Letter: Include a brief cover letter or email note with your submission to introduce your manuscript to the editor and encourage its peer review. A cover letter should not include funding information, author declarations, or suggested or opposed reviewers. If these details are needed, they will be requested separately. Guidelines for your cover letter: Keep it short (ideally less than one page) and focused. Be concise. Clearly articulate the study's aim and main findings without unnecessary details. Explain how your study fits the journal's aim and scope. Emphasize the research's novelty and broader implications to demonstrate its potential impact on the field. If you have been invited to submit, acknowledge this in the letter.
- Editable files (LaTeX is preferred and other formats are allowed with permission of the editor of the journal issue) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by email.

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To ensure a fast publication process we will ask you to provide proof corrections within two days.

The purpose of the proof is to check the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of your article text, tables and figures. Significant changes to your article at the proofing stage will only be considered with approval of the journal editor.

22 Responsible sharing

We encourage you to share and promote your article to give additional visibility to your work, enabling your paper to contribute to scientific progress and foster the exchange of scientific developments within your field.

23 Language and editing services

Only articles written in English are accepted

If you feel the English language in your manuscript requires editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English, you may wish to employ an editor as our capacity to advise authors on language usage is limited and widespread disfluencies may cause your manuscript to be rejected.

24 Criteria for Authorship

CrossTalk has established a more detailed criteria for determining if an individual's contribution to a Work rises to the level of authorship or if they should be acknowledged for their contribution in the acknowledgements section of a work.

Anyone listed as author on an CrossTalk submission must meet all the following criteria:

- They are an identifiable human being. Anonymous authorship is not permitted. Authors must assert by their submission that they have made substantial intellectual contributions to some components of the original. Work described in the manuscript, such as contributing to the conception, design, and analysis of the study reported on in the work and participating in the drafting and/or revision of the manuscript.
- They take full responsibility for all content in the published works.
- Note: All individuals who meet the above criteria should be listed as authors on the work. The practices of gift authorship, guest authorship, ghost authorship, and purchased authorship are violations of our policy.

Those who contributed to a work, but whose contribution does not rise to the level of authorship, may be acknowledged at the end of the work, before the Bibliography.

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