

## SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ABET/CSAB INTEGRATION

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**Abstract:** *The ABET/CSAB integration promises many benefits to the public, industry, and academic institutions. These benefits place greater responsibilities on the sponsoring professional societies to ensure a smooth transition and to provide a long-lasting asset to the profession. The society perspectives on the integration are presented.*

The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and the Computing Sciences Accreditation Board (CSAB) have been integrating their accreditation services since their 1998 October announcement of intent. By combining their efforts, both groups believe that they will better serve the computing profession, the public, industry, and institutions of higher learning. The integration promises to strengthen the computing and engineering communities, foster greater commonality among accredited computing programs, and improve the quality of computing education. The integration should be fully operational by the summer of 2001.

But how will the pending integration affect previously accredited programs? What will the new structure look like? What is CSAB's role in the integration? What will happen to the CSAC of the CSAB? What will happen to the EAC of the ABET? How are the ACM and the IEEE Computer Society involved in the new integration? Who will be responsible for selecting the evaluators of computing programs? Who is responsible for training evaluators and team chairs under the new structure? What about software engineering, information systems, and information technology programs? How will the new structure benefit liberal arts programs? These and many other questions will be addressed.

This panel is a follow-up of the FIE'99 panel that focused on the perspectives from the two computer societies. The panel, a subgroup of ACM and IEEE Computer Society leaders, will discuss the recent progress on the integration from viewpoint of both societies. The panelists will address the above questions and explore other issues related to the ABET/CSAB integration. The panelists will share their experiences and provide insight to the restructure. They strongly encourage audience interaction and participation.

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