

Sad news with regard to Wil Kreuwels

Working Group 9.2 on the social accountability of computing is sad to announce the death, on January 5, 2012, of Ir. Wil Kreuwels, one of the co-founders in 1977 of the working group.

Wil contributed to the first decade of the work of both working groups 9.1 and 9.2. The rich experience he garnered from his work environment with regard to both the ethics and social implications of computing

became deeply embedded in this domain of IFIP's work. Indeed, Wil's intellectual input still impacts study in the field of eCommerce, and his articles in this field continue to be cited today.



In the 1970s, Wil was the head of the research group at Philips on technology and computer-aided design of integrated circuits. He was the first Dutch representative to serve on IFIP's TC9 on Computers and Society, and was active in expanding an understanding of the technical committee and its work in the Netherlands. He was very dynamically involved in "saving" a TC9 newsletter that existed at that time: when he became associated with its editing, its subscription rate went up from several tens of readers to almost a thousand. Wil was also very active in organising the second Human Choice and Computers conference which took place in Baden, Austria in 1979, which was the first of this series of conferences to focus on computers and society.

In its first years, the meetings of working group 9.2 were held in IFIP's then premises in Paulus Potterstraat in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Since the building was opposite the Van Gogh Museum, it permitted the group's members to make lunchtime visits to see the famous paintings on show. Professor emeritus Klaus Brunnstein remembers Wil Kreuwels as a great host to the city of Amsterdam, who introduced working group 9.2 members to many fascinating facets of Amsterdam life.

Indeed – as his Dutch language obituary indicates, and as his best friend and former working group 9.2. member, Heinz Klamet, is happy to explain – Wil Kreuwels was, on the one hand, a person of great integrity, a real gentleman, generous and a *bon viveur* and, on the other, very clever, wise and modest. His was the perfect combination of the personal characteristics of Sir Oliver B. Bumble and Tom Puss, two fictional characters created in the 1940s by Dutch cartoonist, Marteen Toonder.

Wil Kreuwels (Wilhelm Gerardus Joseph Kreuwels) was born in Noorbeek, on May 3, 1940, and died in Geldrop, on January 5, 2012. He leaves behind him two sons, Eric and Michael.