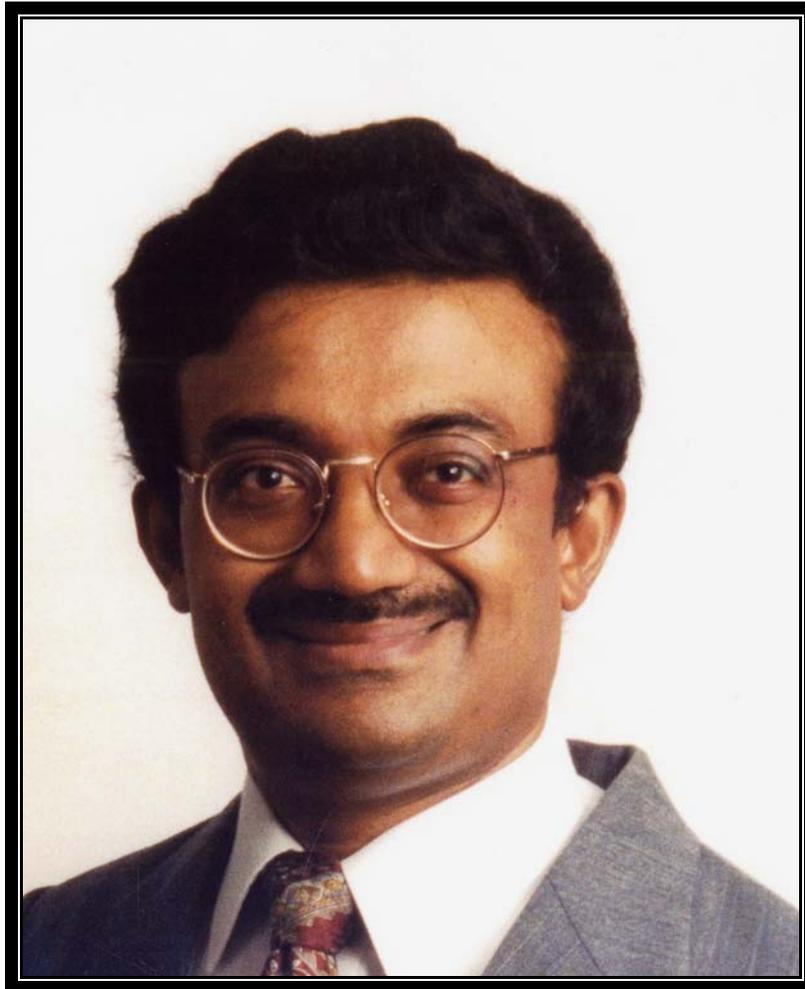


This Special Issue is dedicated to
Prem Premkumar



G. "Prem" Premkumar passed away during the late stages of preparing this Special Issue. Prem, the Union Pacific Professor of Information Systems at Iowa State University, was Bill King's former doctoral student; he was a gentle person who was loved and respected by all who knew him. He had completed his work on the SI at the time of his death. It is with great regret and sadness that the co-editors acknowledge his significant contributions as Guest Associate Editor to be among his last professional acts. We shall miss him.