

## Professor Bernard Levrat - a remembrance and celebration of his work with IFIP TC3 12.9.1936 - 17.8.2020



Professor Bernard Levrat was the Chair of IFIP TC3 WG3.2 from 1990 to 1995.

When, in 1980, Professor Bernard Levrat proposed to Raymond Morel that he should become his successor as the Swiss IFIP TC3 representative, Raymond was unable to understand at that time what a fabulous gift this was. After 40 years of intensive activity, Raymond can now see what a big and generous action that was. For Raymond, this action was not only a measure of confidence in him, but also a remarkable way and opportunity for continuing Bernard Levrat's great work, which led to a special form of collaboration. Effectively, Bernard always continued to support Raymond's activities (actions and innovative proposals) for 4 decades, without imposing his views but giving collaborative advice to enlarge Raymond's ideas.

Bernard Levrat was a physicist in the atomic domain, and handled huge quantities of data (namely from activities at CERN). With his concerns for handling data, he came quite naturally to ideas of working with ICT, at the beginning of the emergence of informatics. A particular merit of Bernard's in the informatics field was his abilities to anticipate and develop the evolution of ICT, rather than keeping a narrow approach to adopting and using programming languages only.

Bernard Levrat was Dean of the Science Faculty in Geneva University (UNIGE) from 1977 to 1980, then vice-rector of that University from 1991 to 1995. He strongly contributed to the creation in 1976 of the Centre Universitaire d'Informatique (University Computer Center), which was the first center of its type in Switzerland, dedicated to research and education. In addition, he played a central role in setting up the network at the University, which gave links to the Internet in the 1980s. As he said, "I was confident with the Internet, but the real difficulties were the political challenge in bringing University professors to use the infrastructure!"

Due to the proximity of UNIGE to CERN, and working as an initial gateway to the European Internet, Bernard Levrat's wider vision for networking development was quickly put into action from 1985. With colleagues, he continued to put in place networks at all Swiss universities. In addition, Bernard Levrat was very active in developing networking for the Swiss French and Swiss Italian libraries. In 2002, Bernard Levrat received the University of Geneva medal.

After his retirement from IFIP business, he was still always willing to offer relevant observations, comments or ideas in a collaborative and enthusiastic manner.

Whilst we have lost Bernard Levrat, we will look to his high-level scientific competencies and strong humanistic values, and seek to maintain these for ourselves.

Our thoughts are now with his family, to whom we extend our most sincere condolences.

May he rest in peace.

*Past and current members and officers of IFIP TC3*