MICHAEL NYGARD strives to raise the bar and ease the pain for developers across the country. He shares his passion and energy for improvement with everyone he meets, sometimes even with their permission. Michael has spent the better part of 20 years learning what it means to be a professional programmer who cares about art, quality, and craft. He's always ready to spend time with other developers who are fully engaged and devoted to their work—the "wide awake" developers. On the flip side, he cannot abide apathy or wasted potential. Michael has been a professional programmer and architect for nearly 20 years. During that time, he has delivered running systems to the U.S. government, the military, banking, finance, agriculture, and retail industries. More often than not, Michael has lived with the systems he built. This experience with the real world of operations changed his views about software architecture and development forever. He worked through the birth and infancy of a Tier 1 retail site and has often served as "roving troubleshooter" for other online businesses. These experiences give him a unique perspective on building software for high performance and high reliability in the face of an actively hostile environment. Most recently, Michael wrote *Release It! Design and Deploy Production-Ready Software* (Pragmatic Programmers), which won a Jolt Productivity award in 2008. His other writings can be found at *http://www.michaelnygard.com/blog*.

IAN ROGERS is a Research Fellow in the University of Manchester's Advanced Processor Technology research group. His Ph.D. research work in the Dynamite binary translator was exploited commercially and now forms part of many binary translator products, including Apple's Rosetta. His recent academic work has been in programming language design, runtime, and virtual machine environments—in particular how to allow them to automatically create and efficiently exploit parallelism. He is a leading contributor to the Jikes Research Virtual Machine, where he serves as a core team member.

BRIAN SLETTEN is a liberal arts-educated software engineer with a focus on forward-learning technologies. He has worked as a system architect, a developer, a mentor, and a trainer. He has spoken at conferences around the world and writes about web-oriented technologies for several online publications. His experience has spanned the defense, financial, and commercial domains. He has designed and built network matrix switch control systems, online games, 3D simulation/visualization environments, Internet-distributed computing platforms, P2P, and Semantic Web-based systems. He has a B.S. in computer science from the College of William and Mary and currently lives in Fairfax, Virginia. He is the president of Bosatsu Consulting, Inc., a professional services company focused on web architecture, resource-oriented computing, the Semantic Web, advanced user interfaces, scalable systems, security consulting, and other technologies of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

DIOMIDIS SPINELLIS is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management Science and Technology at the Athens University of Economics and Business in Greece. His research interests include software engineering, computer security, and programming languages. He has written the two "Open Source Perspective" books published by Addison-Wesley: *Code Reading* (which won the Software Development Productivity Award in 2004), and *Code Quality* (which won the Software Development Productivity Award in 2007). He has also