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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Q. Feng received his Bachelor's in Computer Science from the Hunan University in 2003, Master's in Computer Science from Hunan University in 2006 and PhD in Computer Science from Central South University in 2011. Currently, he is a Fully Professor in the School of Computer Science and Engineering, Central South University, and his research included machine learning, cloud computing and big data.

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Nowadays, online social media (OSM) represent the main communication channel in the real life of people. Social media are virtual worlds where people can communicate and share their personal information. However, the more importance they have, the more issues related to their usage arise. Privacy issues, like the famous Cambridge Analytica Scandal, raise several questions concerning the storage of private data into these centralised social platforms. During the last few years, several proposals to overcome the privacy issues have been proposed, as well as the introduction of new paradigms. Decentralisation, blockchain and other new important technologies have been considered in order to overcome the privacy issues of current OSM. However, OSM issues are more general and concern also fake news, (mis)information and censorship. In particular, decentralised social networks (DSONs) and blockchain-based social media (BOSMs) represent today a valid alternative to the current OSMs.

The goal of this special issue is to collect research contributions, applications, analyses, methodologies, or strategies that strengthen or face the management of social media issues, and the application of decentralised solutions and technologies in order to overcome the current limitations of social media. We hope that this special issue will contribute to raising awareness about new proposals and the impact of new technologies on the next generation of social media.