

IEEE Computer Society, Technical Activities Committee Meeting
and
Technical Committee on Security and Privacy, Chair's Report
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Technical Activities Committee Meeting

May 4-5, 2011 Each year the chairs of the Technical Committees and other members of the

Technical Activities Committee (TAC) meet. This year's meeting was held at the Computer Society offices in Los Alamitos, California. This report is my personal perspective.

We got to hear a lot about Computer Society activities in areas other than conferences. The CS publishes magazines, notes, books, webinars, etc. The "Security and Privacy" magazine is an example of an activity that draws on many members of our S&P community as guest editors and authors, but has little direct involvement of the Technical Committee on Security and Privacy. Similarly, the CS has produced a webinar on security, without any coordination with the TCSP. There are some missed opportunities and misunderstandings that are caused by these separations, and I hope that the TCSP and CS find ways to increase cooperation on all S&P areas.

There are 42 participating entities in the TAC. Most are technical committees, but there are also technical councils and task forces. We heard quite a lot about the activities of these groups, and some good comes from the barrage of presentations. Last year we agreed to have a joint workshop with the TC on Semantic Computing, and that will be held this September. This year we got some good information about providing affordable and accessible video recording of sessions.

A few TCs mentioned that they have not been happy with IEEE copyright restrictions. Some conferences have given up CS sponsorship in order to get their papers available on the Internet with fewer restrictions. We didn't hear of any changes in IEEE policy.

Some TC chairs asked for information about CS finances. We saw a smattering, and it was interesting to note that overall conference revenue has been about constant for several years and represents a hefty percentage of overall CS revenue. The CS has reduced staff and expenses and seemed to be roughly break-even.

I repeatedly raised the issue of the visibility of technical committees within the CS and the ability of the TAC members to influence the CS. As a result, I will be chairing a TAC subcommittee to propose changes to the governance of the TAC, with the particular goal of allowing the TAC to elect its own chair. Currently the chair is appointed to a one year term by another officer of the CS. In past years many TC chairs have been frustrated by their inability to set the agenda for the TAC meetings and to determine their own subcommittees. The changes in governance will be aimed at giving TAC members a larger and more democratic role in the CS.

Another subcommittee will examine the question of how to deal with small events, like workshops with 50 attendees. Currently the Computer Society charges a minimum fee of \$5000 for these events. At least one longstanding workshop has found itself in the position of having a "debt" to the Computer Society based on differences of opinion on what constitutes a "surplus". The subcommittee will try to find a way to allow small events to be held without

undue financial burdens. A potential alternative is to have these events leave the Computer Society altogether.

TCSP Activities New Event: Security & Privacy Workshops:

Recognizing that the workshops following the S&P symposium are a good way to promote emerging research areas, and noting that workshop organizing puts additional demands on our volunteer organizers, we've initiated the process of making them an independent event with their own organizing committee. Sven Dietrich is the Chair of the new Security and Privacy Workshops (SPW), and he has a steering committee in place. The new event will work towards increasing the variety of workshops and getting uniform procedures in place for reviewing papers and publishing them. They will work with each workshop organizer to make sure each workshop gets the help it needs, and that each workshop has quality goals for its technical program and can meet them.

TCSP Finances: The TCSP last year used its funds for the Security and Privacy 30th Anniversary Celebration. These funds were from the "entitlement" from the Computer Society and was based on conference surpluses generated in 2008.

This year, funds will be used for

- The ieee-security.org domain name (10-year renewal)
- The ieee-security.org basic hosting service (one year renewal)
- Travel stipend for an invited speaker at Computer Security Foundations
- Engraved services awards for organizers at S&P and CSF
- Student travel for S&P
- The technical session lounge at S&P (streaming audio and slides)
- Archival of papers collected by the late Paul Karger.

Accidental early disclosure of S&P papers: A problem with the ftp site at Conference Publishing Services at the Computer Society was reported. The final papers for the S&P conference were available from the CPS website well before the conference. Our observations was that the folder containing the pdfs, which was supposed to be accessible via password by the S&P publication chair and electronic proceedings editor, had been mapped to two different urls, and neither had a working access control mechanism. This accident in the configuration of the website that caught CPS by surprise, and they have given assurances that they believe it is an unacceptable situation that will not reoccur.