

# Proposal for an on-going submission process for IEEE S&P

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# The Goals

Permit submission and acceptance of results any time they're ready

- Frequent submission opportunities
- Rapid turnaround to published paper
- Reduce incentives to “cram” before deadlines and submit half-baked work

Improve quality of papers and review process

- Start with papers written under less time pressure
- Create incentives for high-quality and constructive reviews
- Facilitate a more collaborative process between reviewers and authors
- Smooth the reviewing workload to a low-volume, ongoing effort

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**IEEE S&P 2017  
rejected 32+ papers  
that were accepted to  
USENIX Security 2017**

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# Design Process

Early 2016: Interviews with former and current chairs of VLDB and PETS, as well as members of those communities

Spring 2016: Preliminary, informal feedback from members of the S&P community

May 2016: S&P business meeting approves formal planning process

June 2016 – Present: Proposal deployed and discussed on GitHub:

<https://iee-security.github.io/ongoing-submission-plan/>

Advertised to:

- S&P 2017 PC members
- Everyone who expressed interest via last year's S&P symposium survey
- Community via the 2017 Call for Papers
- Members of the IEEE Computer Society's Technical Committee on Security & Privacy (TCSP)
- All registered attendees for this year's symposium

# Validating the process

Baseline: Surveys to PC members, submission authors, attendees

After 6 months: PC Chairs consult with TC and community and adjust procedures if necessary

After 1 year: Surveys to PC members, submission authors, attendees  
Discussion and review at 2018 business meeting  
Announcement of any significant procedural changes

After 2 years: Surveys to PC members, submission authors  
If metrics are bad, vote at the 2019 business meeting to revert to the old system

# Proposed Process Overview — Author Perspective

1. Submission deadline on the 1st of *every month*
  - a. No bulk submission limits
2. Guaranteed response within 2 months
  - a. Accept (estimate 1-5%)
    - i. Submit camera-ready version within 1 month
      1. **Immediately** published **open access** in the IEEE Computer Society Digital Library
      2. Same one-year blackout starting immediately after the conference
  - b. Revise (estimate 10-14%)
    - i. Resubmit within 3 months (else treated as new submission)
    - ii. Reviewed by same set of reviewers; expect ~80% accept rate
  - c. Reject
    - i. Wait one year before resubmitting the same paper to S&P
3. All papers accepted by end of February invited to appear at the Symposium



**We're still a  
conference**

See <https://iee-security.github.io/ongoing-submission-plan/> for details



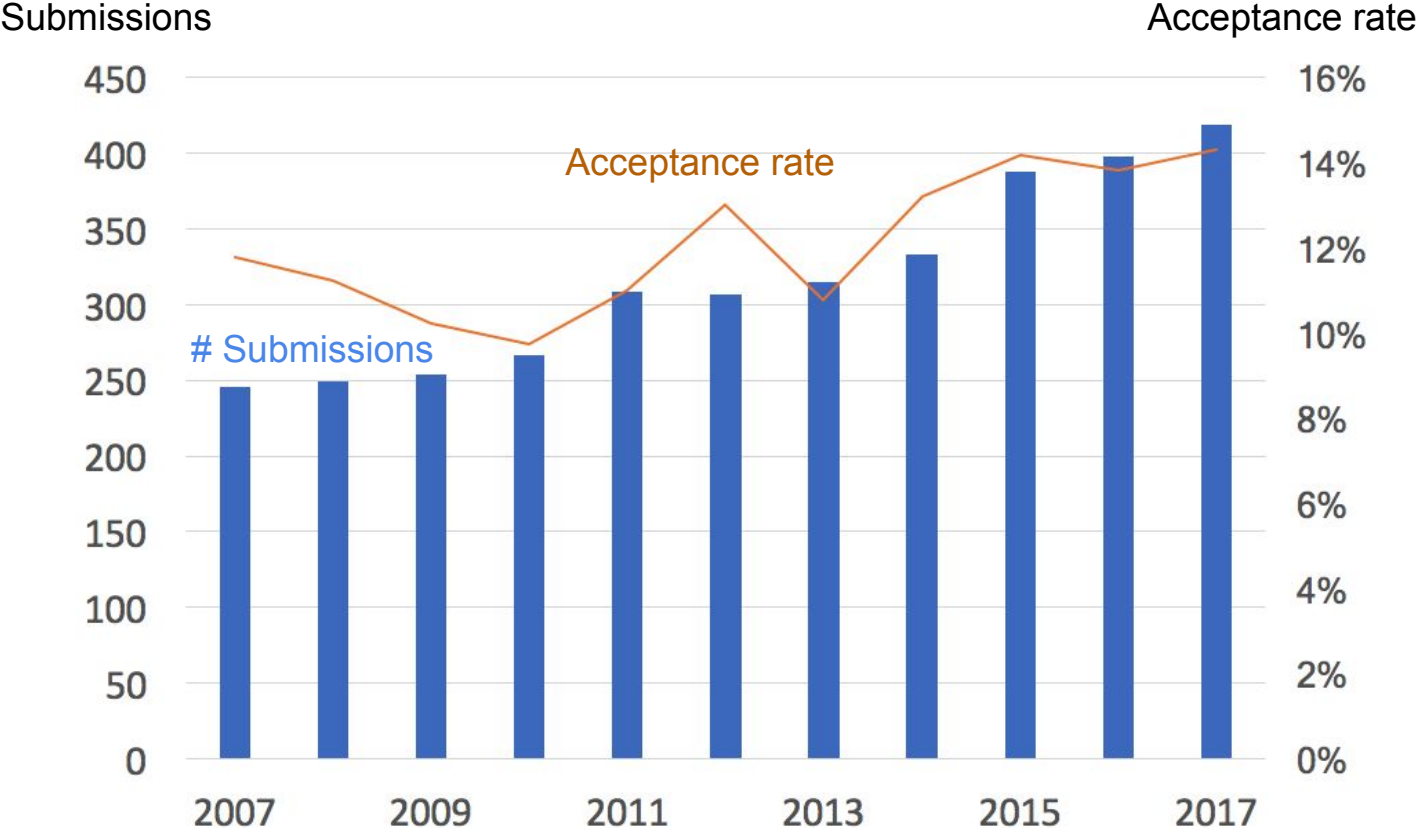
# Proposed Process Overview — PC Perspective

1. PC bidding handled largely automatically (a la CCS)
2. PC member receives new set of **3-5 papers** to review ***every two months***
  - a. With a probable spike at the very end
3. Reviews submitted within 1 month
4. Online discussion and potential additional reviews
  - a. Facilitated by PC Chairs and Associate Chairs
5. To ensure transparency:
  - a. All discussions open (modulo conflicts) as they are today
  - b. For each paper, 3-5 PC members who did not review it, are also assigned to sanity-check reviews and participate in discussions
6. PC meeting the day before the symposium
  - a. Discuss process
  - b. Select best paper awards

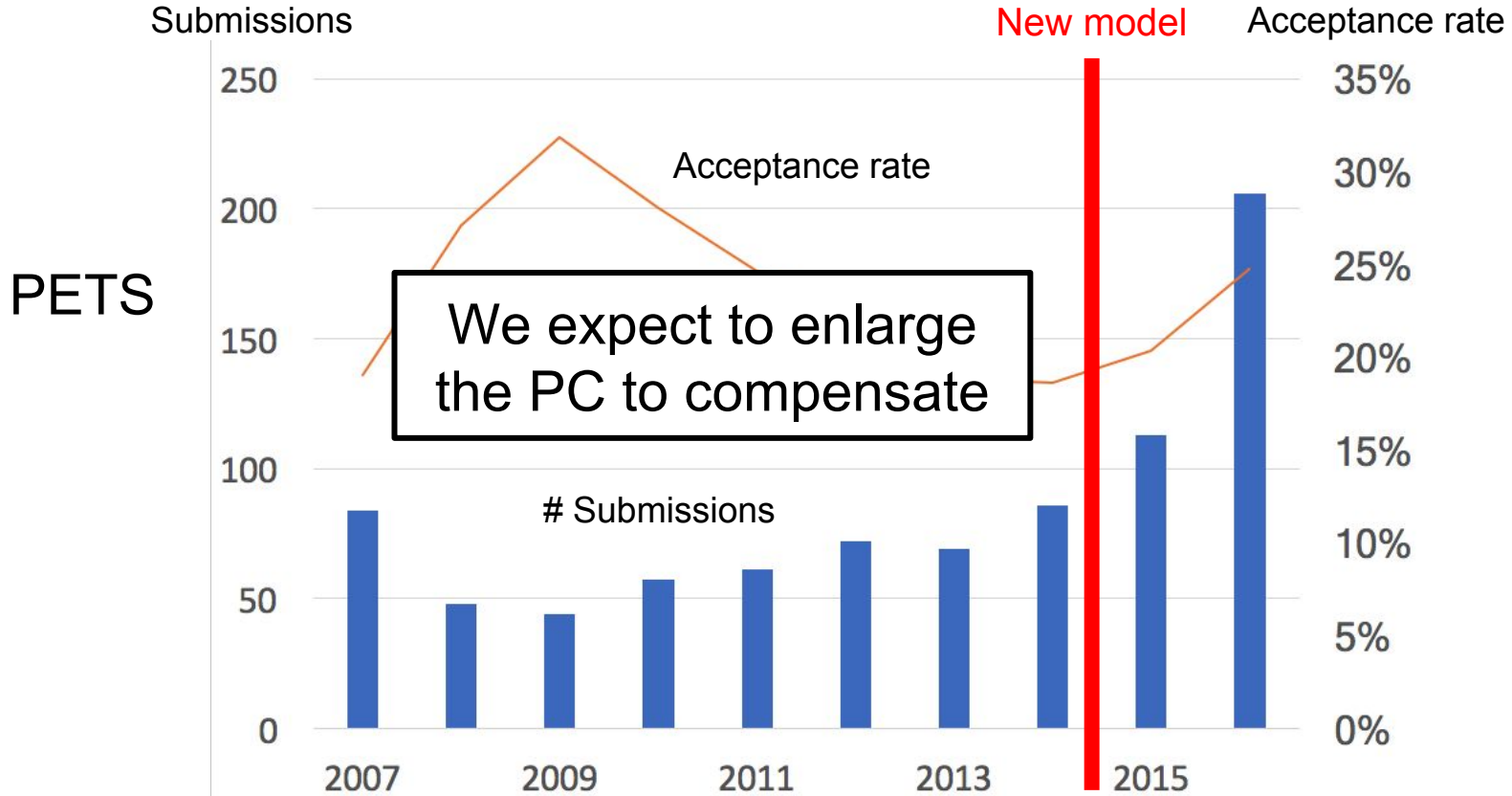
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# FAQ: How will this affect submission volume?

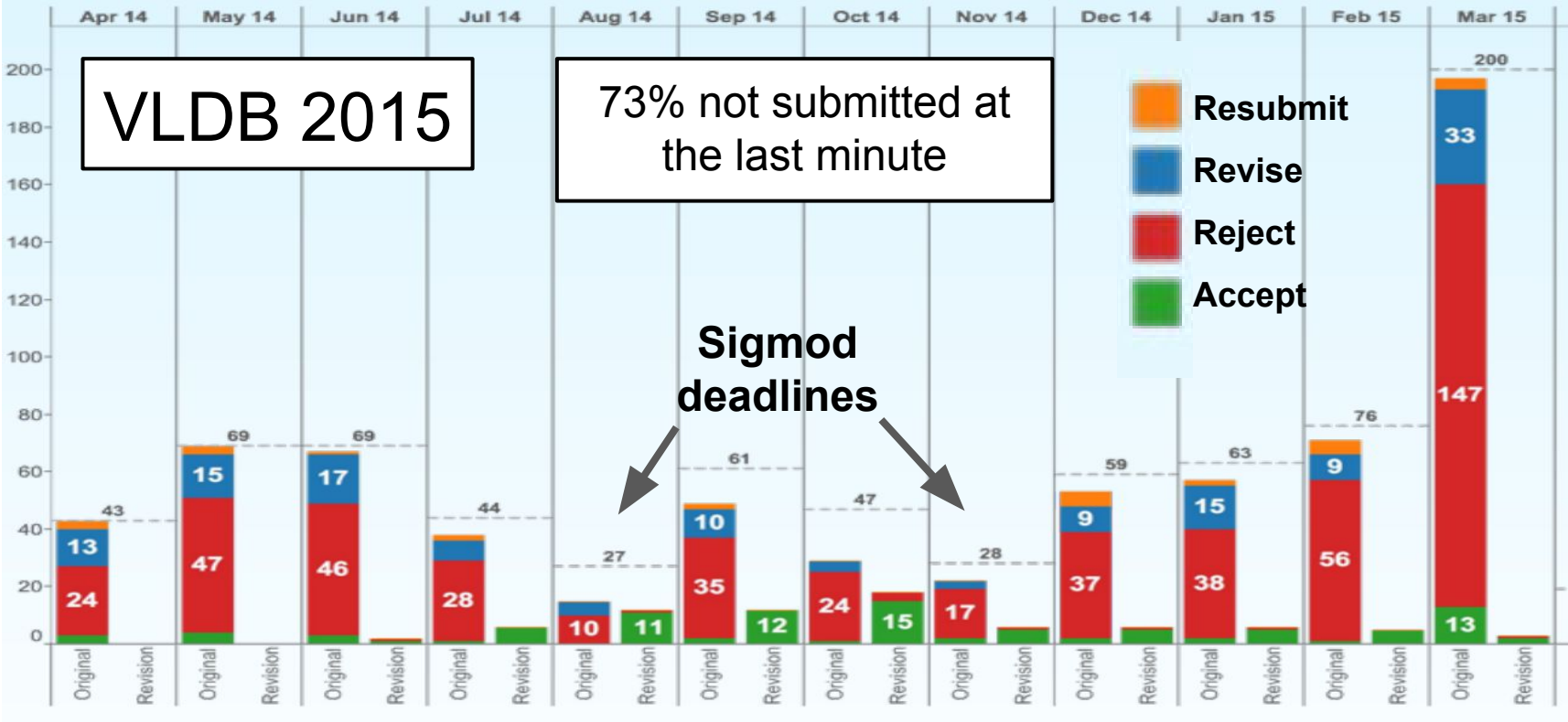
IEEE  
S&P



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# FAQ: Will people wait until the last minute to submit?



# The Ask

***We want your vote to begin this experiment to improve  
the IEEE S&P submission process***