

**USENIX Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 12, 2011
Westin St. Francis Hotel
Minutes 9/15/11**

Attendance:

Board:

Margo Seltzer, Chair
Niels Provos
Matt Blaze
Alva Couch
John Arrasjid
David Blank-Edelman
Brian Noble
Clem Cole - via telephone

Staff:

Ellie Young
Anne Dickison
Jane-Ellen Long
Casey Henderson
Toni Veglia

Dan Klein – by telephone at Noon

Guests: Dan Wallach
Glenn Samson
Dan Appelman
Lou Katz

The meeting began at 9:15 A.M; all present except for Blaze.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. It was moved by Noble, seconded by Blank-Edelman that the Board approve the minutes of the April 2011 meeting. Passed: 7 in favor, 1 absent.

Changes to the Agenda. Lou Katz's item about electronic voting policy was added to "Other Business". A report on systems revamp project and request for an increase in funding it was moved to follow the Endowment Portfolio report.

Report on USENIX Endowment Portfolio. Samson said that the volatility of the market could continue for quite a while. About half of the portfolio is invested in Bonds, with interest at 2.5%. He suggested we increase the equities portion by 5% to give us a better chance of a 6% annual return. Stocks are selling low, and he would move the

investment in increments and see how they do. Year-to-date return is a negative six thousand, and year-end projections are flat.

Office Systems Revamp Project. Henderson reported that the project had run into many functionality and integration issues, requiring more work and expense than budgeted. The work needed is lined up, consultants have submitted estimates, and this will require an additional \$162K. She said that approximately one-third of the cost is for a conversion to Drupal 7, which had been planned for 2012. Converting now adds greater functionality, replicates processes we now do manually, and allows for testing before going live.

9:43 A.M. – Blaze joined the meeting

Blank-Edelman asked how long this version of Drupal will last before needing to move to Drupal 8. Henderson said it would be about two to three years. Blank-Edelman asked about project documentation, and Henderson said she has all the email and Drupal ticketing stored, and would formalize the documentation and get all in the project to participate. **It was moved by Noble and seconded by Arrasjid to approve an additional \$162K to be spent on the office systems revamp project. Passed: All in favor.** The Board voiced their appreciation for the staff's work on this.

Action Items. Most items are covered under agenda items herein. Arrasjid reported that Kolstad had completed the Sysadmin Salary Survey, and it will be launched around LISA. He thought the survey could get sponsorship. Blaze reported that he and Young had met with the IACR representative, and we should be hearing back soon about our proposal to help them publish their proceedings via the open access model. Cole reported that the awards had been picked and the third award would be presented at LISA.

Couch reported that the CRA has set up a panel that is soliciting research on technical conferences for a new report. Blank-Edelman will contact the Hack Kid folks to see if they're interested in holding an event in Seattle/Bellevue along with Security'12.

Seltzer said that the Board should do a better job of liaising with conferences.

Nominating Committee. Blaze moved and Noble seconded that Alva Couch serve as chair of the USENIX 2012 Nominating Committee. Passed: 7 in favor, 1 abstained (Couch). Cole offered to serve on the committee.

10:22 a.m. – 10:31 a.m. Break

Report on Conferences. Seltzer reported that HotOS'11 was a phenomenal success, and she will be the liaison in 2013. Young said HotPar had a low number of submissions and lower attendance than the previous year. It was suggested that HotPar'12 contain a mix of industry and academic topics, and that the Call for Papers go out early, possibly in

September. Cole will continue to liaise.

Young said that Hot Cloud did well, had 105 submissions, and the chairs for 2012 have been selected. Noble will talk to the Hot Storage steering committee about the direction of the event. Young said that WIOV would be discontinued, and those papers would be directed to Hot Storage.

USENIX Federated Conferences Week: Noble will transition into liaison for ATC'12. Seltzer said we need to encourage more industry participation in the week's programming. She suggested having a "bring a buddy" event, which would showcase how research provides what industry (the buddy) needs, and target it towards students. Seltzer said she would look for people to form a steering committee.

Noble will contact NSDR to see if they'd like to co-locate at USENIX Federated Conferences Week.

Arrasjid noted that WebApps'11 had low numbers of submissions and participation. Seltzer said that this is not an academic topic, and that alternatives such as changing the name, adding "cloud apps", introducing bring-a-buddy, not requiring papers, etc. should be looked at. Seltzer will liaise and form a steering committee with Arrasjid and the past program chairs to figure out the future focus of this event.

Noble said that Mobisys'11 had close to 200 attendees, and did well.

Seltzer reported that TaPP had been co-located near SIGMOD'11, and many TaPP attendees also went to SIGMOD. She suggested that TaPP co-locate at USENIX Federated in 2012, and we pitch it to the healthcare community. She thinks it could attract big names in the field, and IT people not already in the USENIX community.

Young said that Security'11 attendance had been about 764 total, with 553 attending the Security Tech Sessions; up from last year when Security had 410 attendees. Provos said that WOOT and HotSec went well. Couch said that HealthSec may want to go to two days, and change the name to "Conference on...". He said it needs a new liaison, and Seltzer volunteered. Noble will be liaison to FOCI'12. Blaze said that EVT seems to draw the most people who are not part of the USENIX community.

Blank-Edelman said the LISA PC meeting went well, submissions were up, and chairs were reaching out to the DevOps sysadmin community. Seltzer suggested that for larger events, program chairs should be chosen a few years out.

Seltzer said the FAST submission deadline is in September, and chairs are considering having the two-day structure again, depending on the submissions. Noble said NSDI will start ramping up in September.

Electronic Voting Machines. Lou Katz proposed that USENIX adopt a public policy on issues concerning electronic voting machines. He suggested that a volunteer committee

could come up with some issues for the Board to think about. Seltzer said it should be small and focused and have a budget. Provos moved and Blaze seconded that Katz should assemble a committee of people to report back to the Board about potential public policy issues we should be aware of concerning electronic voting. Passed: All in favor. Blaze will be the Board liaison to the public policy committee.

Education Director's Report. Klein said that people signed for only two Security tutorials, and that at academic events, tutorials don't do well. He said FCW had similar poor results, and the highest class attendance was about 29. LISA'11 is scheduled to have 46 tutorials; 16 new, and some revised. There are no plans to have SANS tutorials at LISA'11.

Klein pointed out that LISA attendees are people who "do things", and they like tutorials; while at other events, there are people who "think about things", who don't like tutorials. Noble said that "doers" like tutorials, and could we add more components to attract them. Seltzer asked if more people would take tutorials at USENIX Federated Conferences Week it had a bigger industry focus? She also said that web and social applications topics might appeal to tutorial attendees. Setzer said that going forward the USENIX Board must make it a priority to reengage developers.

12:26 p.m. - Dan Wallach left meeting

12:34 p.m. - 1:39 p.m. - Break for lunch

Discussion of Topics from the USENIX Annual Meeting in Portland, June 2011:

Networking between conferences. Seltzer said attendees value the hallway track, and would like a place where conversations could continue. Henderson said that the new website will allow comments on conference papers, etc, using Drupal social networking features. Seltzer asked Dickison to let membership know that the Board is interested in providing a way for conference attendees to keep in contact after events, and is waiting to see the functionality of the new systems.

Barriers to entry. Dickison will report that the Board has discussed having different types of events where paper submissions are not required, and would like input from those who want to be involved with making this happen.

Marketing to undergraduates. The Board discussed providing services targeted at undergraduates, such as virtual talks, on topics like "why your 'statistics, etc' class will matter in your professional life"; how to make the transition to professional life; and how to do "x" cool thing. Provos said the videos should be shown in a social setting at universities. Seltzer said the long-term goal would be to see that these students are still members in five years. She said each Board member should get two speakers, and all should find 20 faculty members to host the talks. She said this should be done by December, and that the program could be rolled out at a LISA'11 BOF. Noble is in charge of shepherding this project. Dickison will report in ;login: that the Board is

looking into providing more services to undergraduates.

Next Board meeting: It will be held Friday, December 2, in Boston, MA.

Noble moved and Blaze seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Passed: All in favor.

The regular meeting ended at 2:46 p.m.