USENIX Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2001
Woodfin Suites Hotel,
Emeryville, CA

The regular meeting of the USENIX Board of Directors was convened at the Woodfin Suites Hotel, in Emeryville, CA at 9:10 AM.

Attendance:

USENIX Board of Directors:
Dan Geer
John Gilmore
Jon "maddog" Hall
Peter Honeyman
Andrew Hume
Mike Jones
Kirk McKusick
Avi Rubin

USENIX Staff:
Gale Berkowitz
Barbara Freel
Jane-Ellen Long
Ellie Young

Guests:
Rob Brownstein, Words and Images
Strata Chalup, SAGE Executive Committee
Tina Darmohray, *;login:* co-editor
Dana Geffner, Exhibits Coordinator
John Hart, Berkeley Capital Management
Sam Leffler, Program chair BSD Con
David Parter, SAGE Executive Committee
Glenn Samson, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter

All of the above were present at the beginning of the meeting except: Chalup and Darmohray who arrived at 10:45 AM; Samson and Hart who arrived at 1:30 PM; and Leffler who arrived at 3:45 PM.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Hume moved and was seconded by Honeyman to accept the minutes as amended. All in favor: 8.

Changes to the Agenda

Items on Linux Professional Institute, and the Foundation for Information Policy Research were added. The membership report was pulled from the consent agenda.

Action Items

Action items were reviewed. Most action items were either completed, in progress, or included in the agenda.

Marketing Services Firm Report

Rob Brownstein gave a presentation about his firm Words and Images and described their methodology for the baseline findings study. It is hoped that after the survey is completed, we will be better able to determine our public relations and branding efforts. He is interviewing various staff, Board members, SAGE Executive Committee members, and representatives from the USENIX\SAGE community. They will also conduct a web-site survey of members and non-members. He will supply a report on the study at the June meeting.

Brownstein left at 10:30 AM.

Budget 2000

Young gave a summary of the 2000-Year End budget, noting that there was $518,000 net revenue. The review and final year-end report on financials by the CPA would be done in May.

Budget 2001

Young gave a summary of the 2001 budget, noting that adjustments made at and since the last Board meeting in December have been included, as well as adjustments made based on improved estimates derived from having actual figures from the conferences held in late Fall. Even so, the budget projected a $225,000 net loss in operating. Some suggested that we budget less conservatively, given that each year we budget conservatively and end the year with a surplus. There was a discussion about ways to adjust the budget that more appropriately accounts for economic factors.

Chalup and Darmohray arrived at 10:45 AM.

Gilmore suggested that we ride out the economic downturn, with the knowledge that the Reserve Fund could be used to buffer any significant loss. Jones would like an analysis of the impact of a 20% loss of revenue across conferences this year. Young pointed out that already two of the smaller conferences had not met the projected attendance. Hall would like to use this as an opportunity to increase marketing for our events. Hume suggested that we not assume that the Reserve Fund is there to bail out the Association, but is to be used only in emergency situations. McKusick suggested that we stay the course, and reassess in three months, and make conscious decisions to change course at that time. It was suggested we reserve making funding decisions with discretionary projects until later in the year, but some disagreed with this strategy.

Honeyman moved and was seconded by Rubin to accept the budget as amended. Voting in favor: 8.

Break from 10:55 AM to 11:15 AM.

Good Works

Geer suggested reworking the strategic planning process for our good works program, and fund more projects that directly benefit our members. He suggested that distance learning and SAGE Certification would be direct contributions to our members and the community at-large. A discussion followed. Geer had an article in the last issue of *;login:* concerning his views on Good Works. Hume and Gilmore offered to write a counterpoint article on Good Works for the next issue. A BoF will be organized as a forum for discussing the Good Works strategy, with comments being solicited beforehand from the membership. The findings will be synthesized and used to develop a Good Works strategy.

EFF

Gilmore summarized a proposal that was submitted by the Electronic Frontier Foundation for a project to protect copyright and fair use rights with regard to DMCA legal cases. EFF has requested $50,000 for 2001, and a pledge for $50,000 each year in 2002 and 2003. Hume suggested that Gilmore draft an explanation about our decision to fund this project in *;login:*. A link to the project's webpage will be added to the USENIX Web site. Berkowitz suggested that the USENIX funding be acknowledged in press releases.

Jones moved and was seconded by Honeyman to accept this proposal (which pledges $50,000 for 2001, 2002 and 2003 to EFF for legal costs associated with protecting copyright and fair use rights with regard to DMCA legal cases**. It was stipulated that the support of USENIX be acknowledged in press communications. In favor: 8.**

SPI

Honeyman summarized a report that was submitted by the Software Patent Institute, including a request for a no-cost extension and additional funding for 2001 to be used for cleaning, formatting, and loading documents during 2001. No amount was requested at this time. It was noted that their trustees have committed to covering all overhead expenses through 2002. The no-cost extension can be granted. Hume suggested seeking a professional opinion about the legitimacy of SPI, and other competitors in the field, given the negative comments that have been aired publicly about SPI. It was suggested that USENIX could play a role in bringing together other players in the patent database arena and /or assessing the state of the field. Honeyman will talk with Galler from the SPI about the status of the project and future funding.

Foundation for Information Policy Research

Gilmore summarized a proposal from the Foundation for Information Policy Research, a small online civil liberties group in the UK. The purpose of the proposal is for FIPR to fight legislation whereby computer security consultants must be licensed. Gilmore suggested that USENIX could provide funding and/or public support for the fight. Parter suggested that we contact SAGE-WISE about this legislation. Hume suggested that a proposal be submitted at the June meeting.

Break for lunch from 12:40 PM to 1:40 PM.
Samson and Hart arrived at 1:30 PM.

Report on Investment Portfolio

Glenn Samson from Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and John Hart from Berkeley Capital Management gave a report on the performance of the USENIX investment portfolio. In spite of the poor performance of the market in 2000, the average rate of return for the portfolio continued to exceed 8% per the USENIX Policies. The operating account is approximately $1.1 million, but earning at a low rate. In June, the accounts and balancing will be re-evaluated. An explanation about how they arrive at advisor fees was requested from Berkowitz.

Samson and Hart left at 2:30 PM.

ReX

Honeyman and Berkowitz gave an update. As noted, $100,000 was allocated in the budget for 2000, but only $10,000 was spent (which was for production of a brochure and funding two exchanges). For 2001, one exchange has been finalized and several other requests for funding exchanges have been submitted. Some of the committee was advocating that the criteria be relaxed so as to encourage more exchanges.

Young left at 2:50 PM. Young returned at 3:00 PM.

Honeyman will be meeting with members of Stichting NLnet and will be continuing discussions on how to expand the program.

Student Research Grant Program

Honeyman provided an update, stating that the program continues to go well, and all funds were allocated during 2000. Honeyman will draft a statement of acknowledgement of USENIX support that all recipients include on any publications or website. It was suggested that press releases should be generated for these programs.

Board Alias

Hume reported that historically the USENIX Board alias has included only board members and the Executive Director, and asked if the configuration was still appropriate. There seemed to be consensus that the configuration is appropriate.

SSH

Honeyman summarized the SSH trademarking issues with regard to Tatu Ylonen. Ylonen is allowing the use of the SSH mark, and would like to license the SSH mark. Ylonen met with members of the IETF Working Group without resolution. Honeyman has been working with Ylonen to recover his reputation. In the original motion dated March 17, 2001, it was moved by Honeyman, and seconded by Rubin, that USENIX shall commit up to $10,000 to defend the OpenSSH Project's use of the mark OpenSSH.

Honeyman moved, and was seconded by Hume, that the USENIX Board rescind its decision to allocate up to $10,000 to fund OpenSSH's use of the SSH mark. In favor: 7 (Jones, abstained). Honeyman made a commitment to work things out with Ylonen and OpenSSH representatives.

Gilmore will draft a position statement about trademarking of commonly used Internet protocols.

Bylaws Review
Hume reported that the Bylaws Committee would review his revisions by the June meeting.

SAGE
Parter reported that the restructuring is the most important project, and the business plan is currently being drafted. SAGE Certification is also a major effort of SAGE this year. He stated that, at a minimum, the SAGE Executive Committee will be ready to make a statement to the membership about the vision for SAGE, including selected parts of the Business Plan, and plans for implementation by June. The SAGE Executive Committee will seek buy-in from the membership at that time. A BoF will be scheduled at the USENIX Technical Conference. The USENIX Board will be given the Business Plan to review by the June meeting.

Hume clarified that Schafer, the SAGE Executive Committee Treasurer, will have authority to approve use of already allocated SAGE funds in their budget. There will be regular management status meetings to review the status of projects to include Berkowitz, Young, Parter, and Hume.

Break from 4:05 PM to 4:15 PM.

Executive Director's Report
Young summarized her report on the activities of the Executive office. She asked for the Board's guidance with regard to our being receptive to a request for funding from the Institute for Women and Technology. There was interest and Young would follow-up.

Darmohray gave an update on *;login:,* reporting that we are up to date on getting enough content for 8 issues, and she felt that the quality of articles continues to increase. She was looking for another topic and/or editor for a special issue.

Special Membership Categories
Per the Board's request, a proposal for special membership categories was submitted. **Hume moved, and was seconded by Honeyman to accept the proposal for a retired membership category of $50, whereby the applicant indicates "Retired" in the appropriate category, and for the special circumstances category, whereby the**

applicant submits a statement attesting to their circumstances. Passed: In favor: 8.

Update on Conferences

- BSD Conference. Leffler a report on his initial efforts as program chair, especially to have representation from all the BSD groups. He didn't think it would be possible to have a committee with all the BSD groups, and it will be heavily biased towards the FreeBSD group. The Board agreed to go ahead with the conference even though it was unlikely that all groups would be represented.
- COOTS. Attendance was 90, 40% fewer attendance when it was held previously. After some discussion it was suggested that it could be incorporated into another, non-USENIX event. Young would talk to the various people in that community in the next couple of months.
- USITS. Honeyman felt that we had achieved our goals for a high quality academic conference on this topic. The next one should be scheduled in two years time.
- Java VM. Young reported that 50 submissions were received for the conference, and Saul Wold was doing an outstanding job as program chair. It was still to early to predict what attendance would be like.
- USENIX Annual. The pre-registration brochure is in the mail. Young is working on getting sponsorship from Compaq, finalizing the closing session, and doing follow-up marketing with the new marketing staff.
- Security. Rubin reported that 84 papers were submitted and that the program was just now being put together.
- ALS. Young reported that the printed Call for papers was being produced. There were concerns about participation in the exhibition and only half of the platinum sponsors had confirmed. A site has been selected for 2002, for Washington, DC in early December 2002.
- LISA. Young reported that Burgess is a very pro-active chair and is focussing on raising the technical level of the program as well as broadening it (e.g., soliciting papers on Window). A keynote, Greg Bear, was confirmed, and another two might be given.
- FAST. The Call for Papers has been issued.
- SNAC. Young explained that because of the downturn in the economy and the short length of time to launch this new conference, it was decided to move it to March 2002 in Dallas.

- OSDI. Jones gave an update, stating that the Program Committee is currently being formed. WIESS will be held again, chaired by Jeff Mogul, in conjunction with OSDI.

LPI Affiliation

Hall asked the Board to consider affiliating with Linux Professional Institute, which is incorporated in Canada. The proposal seeks a US-chapter that would be willing to act as a source for which US organizations could donate funds for developing and delivering certification tests and be able to deduct the contributions from their US taxes. The US charitable organization would then turn over the funds to LPI. The Board asked for further clarification, and Hall will follow-up with LPI.

Membership Report

Honeyman noted that there was an error in the membership report (-18% should be –1.8%). Hume will send the trends in membership to the Board and staff for their review.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled in conjunction with the USENIX Annual Conference in Boston, on Wednesday, June 27, 2001.

Rubin moved to adjourn the regular meeting and was seconded by McKusick. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Actions Taken by the USENIX Board of Directors from April 5, 2001 to June 26, 2001

The board voted in favor of raising the registration fees at LISA 2001 by $15 to cover the costs of including the Compendium of Sysadmin Papers (per a proposal from Young) with registration to the conference. Passed: 7 in favor; 1 abstain (Gilmore).

A resolution making Gilmore and Young representatives of USENIX on the Felten, et al lawsuit against the RIAA, et al. was passed. (6 in favor; 2 absent - Hall & Geer).

A resolution that USENIX will indemnify the program committee of the USENIX Security Symposium from any legal action that may be brought because of their decision to publish "Reading Between the Lines: Lessons from the SDMI Challenge" was passed. (6 in favor; 2 absent - Hall & Geer).

Appointments:

It was agreed the McKusick would serve as board liaison to Demetriou for FREENIX '02.

It was agreed that Jones would serve as board liaison to WIESS (and OSDI) for 2002.

Jones agreed to serve as board liaison and program committee member for USENIX Annual Tech in 2002.

Rubin agreed to serve as board liaison and program committee member for Security 2002.