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USENIX & SAGE

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USENIX MEMBER BENEFITS

As a member of the USENIX Association, you receive the following benefits:

FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO *;login:*, the magazine of USENIX and SAGE, published six times a year plus special issues focused on a single topic. It features technical articles on a wide range of topics, tips and techniques of system administration and workplace behavior, book reviews, summaries of USENIX conferences and other conferences of interest to computer professionals, and news about USENIX and SAGE.

Access to *;login:* online from October 1997 to last month www.usenix.org/publications/login/login.html.

ACCESS TO PAPERS from the USENIX Conferences online starting with 1993 www.usenix.org/publications/library/index.html.

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If You Read Nothing Else, Read This

by Daniel Geer

President, USENIX Board of Directors



geer@usenix.org

A democracy, as Winston Churchill so eloquently noted, is the worst of all systems except for all the others. USENIX is a democracy, and in this *;login:* you will see that the USENIX election process is upon us. If you read nothing else, read this.

To be clear, I am not running. I would like to, but USENIX has term limits and therefore my role as Board Member and Officer comes to an end. Whether I have more to offer or not is irrelevant. Therefore I have at once the freedom and the duty to suggest what makes good leaders for USENIX, and what does not.

USENIX is “The Advanced Computing Systems Association.” It has a purpose that is a given, namely

- problem-solving with a practical bias,
- fostering innovation and research that works,
- communicating rapidly the results of both research and innovation,
- providing a neutral forum for the exercise of critical thought and the airing of technical issues.

The Board of Directors is elected by the membership to discharge this responsi-

bility. In a word, the above is the job description. Anyone who runs for office had better be prepared to make those goals their only goals. If they have other goals, they are running against the organization which, though a democratic right, is between a nuisance and a disgrace even as running for personal resumé enhancement is beneath contempt. We, the USENIX membership, are lucky to have almost entirely escaped the negatives of democracy, i.e., we have almost always elected Board members who endorsed the purpose of the Association and who come to the Board filtered by a proven history of service to the Association. If numbers are how you think, consider that Citeseer (<http://citeseer.nj.nec.com/impact.html>) recently started ranking publication venues by impact (citation rate), and 3 of the top 4 spots, out of 858, belong to USENIX conferences: OSDI #1, USITS #3, USENIX Annual #4. This is the standard every successive Board has to uphold if not improve upon.

When I say that we have largely elected Board members “filtered by a proven history of service to the Association” I mean something that is very, very important. At any given moment, half of the USENIX membership is new and therefore naturally has limited scope with which to assess that “proven history” factor. At any given moment, there is almost always a negative correlation between mere name-recognition popularity and the “proven history” factor since, as we all know, you get a lot more accomplished when you take no care as to who gets the credit. This is why USENIX, like every durable organization for which institutional memory and leadership capacity are closely and eternally correlated, entrusts itself so fully to a formal Nominating Committee. There is no more thankless yet essential task than that of a nominating committee; there are no more easily bruised egos than those who think they are *deserving*

of office rather than humbled by the *prospect* of office, and there is no more easy target for interference by the insolently self-satisfied than to undermine the work of a nominating committee. And, yes, as with democracy, nominating committees are the worst of all systems except for all the others.

I write to denounce the efforts of Greg Rose to pre-empt the governance of an organization from which, in high dudgeon, he peremptorily walked away. I write to thank, beyond words, the work of the USENIX Nominating Committee whose members deserve our reverence, our gratitude, and our trust. I write USENIX members to urge in the strongest way that you make your selections from amongst those who played the game on the field rather than behind the grandstand and who are, by my inspection and their affirmation, committed to the USENIX Association and to its purpose as laid out above. I write to remind us all that there is a vast gulf between a leader and a provocateur, and that as the Good Book says "By their works shall ye know them." It is by the works of the Nominating Committee that they are known. Even more, it is by their works that those nominated for office are known, and rightly. Any choice amongst these fine people below is a choice consistent with honor and with earned appreciation; you have my word on it.

for Board President: Kirk McKusick
 for Board Vice President: Mike Jones
 for Board Treasurer: Lois Bennett
 for Board Secretary: Peter Honeyman
 for Board At Large: Clem Cole
 for Board At Large: Tina Darmohray
 for Board At Large: John Gilmore
 for Board At Large: Darrell Long
 for Board At Large: Adam Moskowitz
 for Board At Large: Avi Rubin
 for Board At Large: Ted Ts'o

Report of the Nominating Committee for the Election of the USENIX Board

The Nominating Committee for the 2002 USENIX Board Election is Eric Allman, Andrew Hume (Chair), John Kohl, and Rob Kolstad. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to ensure a slate of qualified candidates for the USENIX Board election. This report simply describes how we chose the slate of nominees and the list of nominees itself. Unlike previous years, we did not perform a detailed evaluation of the current board, nor are we providing any commentary on the nominees themselves.

Choosing the nominees is a tension between several, sometimes conflicting, guidelines. These include continuity between old and new boards, the need for the treasurer to be experienced in financial matters, and for the nominees' backgrounds to span several key constituencies within USENIX; for 2002, we took these to be researchers, academics, system administrators, and the fields of security and Freenix.

The nominees are

President: Marshall Kirk McKusick,
Author and Consultant

Vice-President: Mike Jones, Microsoft
Research

Treasurer: Lois Bennett, Harvard University

Secretary: Peter Honeyman, CITI, University of Michigan

Directors (4 positions):

Clem Cole, Paceline Systems

Tina Darmohray, Stanford University

John Gilmore

Darrell Long, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz

Adam Moskowitz, Menlo Computing

Avi Rubin, AT&T Labs - Research

Ted Ts'o, IBM

Vote for the 2002 Election for Board of Directors!

The biennial election for officers and directors of the Association is being held right now.

Ballots have been sent to all paid-up members on or about February 19. Members have until April 1st to cast their votes. The results of the election will be announced in *comp.org.usenix*, the USENIX Web site, and the June issue of *login*.

The Board is made up of eight directors, four of whom are "at large." The others are the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The balloting is preferential; those candidates with the largest number of votes are elected. Ties in elections for directors shall result in run-off elections, the results of which shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast. Newly elected directors will take office at the conclusion of the first regularly scheduled meeting following the election, or on July 1st, whichever is earlier.

Summary of the USENIX Board of Directors Actions

by Gale Berkowitz and
Ellie Young

The following is a summary of some of the actions taken by the USENIX Board of Directors between September and December 2001.

ALS Conference Registration Fees

It was decided to eliminate the registration fees to the technical sessions at the Annual Linux Showcase which was held in November 2001.

Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA)

The Board agreed to alert USENIX members of its concern regarding provisions in the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) that would treat all computer trespasses as terrorism, and was under consideration in Congress. A subcommittee was formed to draft a statement that was published on the Web site and sent to the membership.

SAGE Certification Effort

The Board adopted the resolution creating an Interim Certification Board and governance structure for the SAGE certification program. It also guaranteed up to \$200,000 per year in funding, subject to review, for the SAGE Certification Program over the next two years.

SAGE Staffing

It was agreed to increase the number of staff dedicated to SAGE to include one full-time SAGE projects director and another position of an online system administration/content editor for the SAGE website.

Registration Fees and Member Dues

The Board voted to raise the conference registration fees beginning with the June 2002 conferences as follows:

Tutorials:

- One-Day tutorial: \$600
- 2-Day tutorial: \$1100
- 3-Day tutorial: \$1500.

Technical sessions:

- Annual Technical Conference and LISA: \$595
- 3-Day events: \$645
- 2-Day events: : \$600
- Student fees: \$100

Member Dues

A modest raise in dues was approved to cover increased costs, as follows:

- Individual: \$100
- Student: \$30
- Supporting: \$2500
- Educational: \$220
- Corporate: \$430

Distance Learning Program

The sum of \$15,000 was budgeted in order for USENIX to offer Digitalthink courseware as a member benefit. A proposal was requested from the staff to fund four Web tutorial pilots in early 2002. Suggestions regarding alternatives for using non-proprietary distance learning software were discussed and will be explored.

Standards Activities

A proposal in the amount of \$14,370 to continue standards work primarily in the area of Linux Standards Base Project was approved.

USACO

It was agreed to fund once again the USA Computing Olympiad team in 2002 in the amount of \$29,300.

NordU Conference

A loan of \$25,000 to EurOpen.SE for the support of the NordU 2002 conference was approved.

USENIX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Communicate directly with the USENIX Board of Directors by writing to board@usenix.org.

PRESIDENT:

Daniel Geer geer@usenix.org

VICE PRESIDENT:

Andrew Hume andrew@usenix.org

SECRETARY:

Michael B. Jones mike@usenix.org

TREASURER:

Peter Honeyman honey@usenix.org

DIRECTORS:

John Gilmore john@usenix.org

Jon "maddog" Hall maddog@usenix.org

Marshall Kirk McKusick kirk@usenix.org

Avi Rubin avi@usenix.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Ellie Young ellie@usenix.org

STG Viability Review

The report from the STG Review committee indicated that viability of SAGE was reaffirmed. There were, however, concerns about the effectiveness of the governance. See page 65 and <http://www.usenix.org/sage/restructuring/viabilityreview.html>

Nominating Committee

Andrew Hume was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee for the USENIX Board Elections in '02. The rest of the committee is Eric Allman, Rob Kolstad, and John Kohl. The election will be conducted by paper ballots due April 1st.

Linux International

USENIX will become an Affiliate member of Linux International.

Internet Measurement Workshop

It was agreed that USENIX will co-sponsor this workshop next year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the USENIX Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2002, in conjunction with BSDCon in San Francisco, CA.

Fifteen Years Ago in USENIX

by Peter H. Salus

USENIX Historian

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In January 1982, Mike O'Brien (now the amanuensis of Mr. Protocol) hosted an annual meeting in Santa Monica. In January 1987, Rick Adams, then of the Center for Seismic Studies, was the host in Washington, DC.

USENIX met in DC in 1984 in January. The location was actually determined by `/usr/group`. The meeting was memorable for the weather. In 1987, Washington maintained its standing: we had the "second DC snowstorm," beginning around 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 22.

Thursday evening, with flights cancelled and people unexpectedly sharing accommodation, was true chaos. Friday was somewhat better, and I flew back to California on Saturday without a hitch.

But Wednesday was a full day of sessions to remember. Dave Tilbrook (now at RIM) and Debbie Scherrer (now at Transmeta) had set up seven speakers to discuss "What it is to be UNIX": John Mashey, Eric Allman, Steve Johnson,

John R. Mullen, Peter Collinson, Dennis Ritchie, and Mike O'Dell.

Allman spoke about the data forms and Johnson about the language forms. Collinson spoke about UNIX as a cult. O'Dell gave us a "world view." Mashey began with "Leverage – Past, Present, Future." Ritchie gave us his view of "why the UNIX system has succeeded." [NOTE WHAT ABOUT MULLEN?]

It was a star-studded day. The presentations were really interesting. And they gave us something to talk about besides the snow.

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Profile on Good Works

In keeping with its commitment to promoting representation of women and underrepresented groups in the computing professions, USENIX contributed \$10,000 in support of the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Symposium. USENIX funding was used for scholarships for students to attend the event. [See *letters of thanks from some of those students on page 4*]

Coalition to Diversify Computing Launches Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Series

by Valerie Taylor

Northwestern University, CDC Co-chair

The Coalition to Diversify Computing (CDC) held the inaugural Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Symposium (<http://www.sdsc.edu/Tapia2001/>) on October 18-20, 2001, in Houston, Texas. The symposium was sponsored by the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). Designed to celebrate the technical contributions and career interests of diverse people in computing fields, the symposium offered a mix of technical and nontechnical talks and panels, a poster session, and a unique awards banquet. The symposium program was designed around the theme of "Expanding Horizons," reflecting a focus on access to powerful knowledge from diverse researchers in computing, expanding the community of people in the field of computing, and sharing knowledge between the different disciplines of computing.

The celebration honored Dr. Richard A. Tapia, a mathematician and professor in the Computational and Applied Mathematics Department at Rice University in Houston. Dr. Tapia is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the

first recipient of the A. Nico Habermann Award from the Computing Research Association, and a member of the National Science Board; he is equally well known for his commitment to educational equity, mentoring, and student success. As the CDC embarked upon naming the symposium, only one name came to mind to all members, simultaneously – Richard Tapia. The members of CDC discussed Richard Tapia's significant impact on their careers, either as a role model, mentor, colleague, or very dear friend. His impact was felt throughout the symposium, at which hundreds of people shared their impressions of Tapia's influence on their lives; newcomers were able to get to know Richard Tapia and absorb his great energy and enthusiasm about increasing diversity in computing.

Tapia's keynote address, "Diversifying Computing: Its Contradictions, Challenges, and Successes," was a candid assessment of current educational policy and reform initiatives in which he urged attendees to close the education gap, engage minority youth in the world of science, and hold high the bar of academic excellence. Jackie McNab of KDH Science gave an invited plenary talk entitled "Breaking through Barriers: A Journey to Success." McNab's talk, which was targeted to the student attendees, provided examples of questions to ask and standards to use to "think outside the box," aim high, and capitalize on one's unique talents. She provided proof of her methods with her own successes and challenges.

Judging by conference evaluations, the symposium was a great success. More than 96% of the participants found the symposium intellectually stimulating. Further, 76% of the participants felt the symposium increased their desire to conduct research in the areas of science, mathematics, engineering, or technology, and 61% felt motivated to conduct

interdisciplinary research as a result of the symposium. The symposium had a profound and positive effect on those who were there.

As with the Tapia Symposium 2001, the Tapia conference in 2003 will make an effort to involve as many students as possible. Scholarships will again be provided, and students will be asked to contribute ideas for speakers and conference activities.

The Tapia Symposium 2001 was sponsored by ACM, with additional support from the National Science Foundation; the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professorate at Rice University; Argonne National Laboratory; the Computing Research Association; the Education, Outreach, and Training Program, Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure; Microsoft Corporation; NASA; Rice University; and USENIX.

The mission of the Coalition to Diversify Computing (CDC), which planned the event, is to increase the visibility of people of color in computing research and to provide networking opportunities for minority researchers, faculty, and students. CDC is a joint committee of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), the Computing Research Association (CRA), and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE) Computer Society. For more information on the CDC, see <http://www.npaci.edu/Outreach/CDC>.

USENIX Launches Distance Learning

by Catherine Vegher

Marketing Manager

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This past June, the USENIX Board authorized a three part Distance Learning pilot program to test the viability of offering conference tutorials over the Web, offering Web-based training courseware at a discount to our members, and potential affiliations with established University Distance Learning programs. We feel these programs could represent a significant benefit to USENIX and SAGE members and could become an additional revenue source for the organization. A brief outline of the project plan follows.

Part 1. Virtual Classroom: Live interactive tutorials delivered over the Web

Conducted last Fall, the first phase of the pilot program included four, one and one half hour LIVE tutorials. Each tutorial was limited to 35 participants and 'sold out' within two hours of sending an email announcement to the USENIX database. Participants in tutorials rated the content and delivery methodology very high.

Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the Board authorized an additional set of pilot programs to test the concept with full-length tutorials. Beginning in February 2002, this second installment of courses will be delivered in hour and a half sessions over three successive weeks. The registration fee for each course will be \$395. Complete course descriptions and registration information can be found at:

<http://www.usenix.org/events/elearning/>

After the completion of the pilot programs, USENIX will determine if online tutorials should be added to the educational programs offered at USENIX.

Part 2. Web Based Training

Basic online interactive courseware in a wide range of technical areas such as Linux, Java, XML, Microsoft, Cisco, and Oracle.

We explored industry standard Web-based training, in order to make additional courseware available to SAGE and USENIX members at a discount.

A committee of experts from our community, including Aeleen Frisch, John Sechrest, Steve Simmons and our consultant Richard Jaross of Global Training Solutions, examined the Web-based training courses currently available. The committee established criteria for evaluation and conducted a review of the three leading providers: Smartforce, NETG and DigitalThink.

DigitalThink was the unanimous choice of the committee due to the quality of their courseware, the ability to run it on any browser, and the live tutorial support. USENIX and SAGE members will now receive a 20% discount off the list price of any DigitalThink course.

Part 3. University Distance Learning Program

The third part of the pilot will explore relationships with leading University distance learning programs. We will be looking to make these programs available to members at a discount price. We will also explore the opportunity to have members be a resource for University Programs in a teaching or research capacity.

Thanks to our Volunteers

Ellie Young

Executive Director

USENIX's success would not be possible without the volunteers who lend the expertise and support to our conferences, publications, member services, SAGE, new projects, and philanthropic activities. While there are many who serve on program committees, coordinate the various activities at the conferences, work on committees and contribute to this magazine, I would like to make special mention of the following individuals who made significant contributions in 2001:

The program chairs for our 2001 conferences:

- Yi-Min Wang and Rajendra Raj, 6th Conference on Object-Oriented Technologies & Systems
- Tom Anderson, 3rd USENIX Symposium on Internet Technologies & Systems
- Saul Wold, Java VM Research & Technology Symposium
- Yoonho Park, 2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference
- Dan S. Wallach, 10th USENIX Security Symposium
- Ted Ts'o for organizing and moderating the Linux 2.5 Kernel Developer's Summit
- Bryan C. Andregg, 5th Annual Linux Showcase & Conference
- Keith Packard, XFree86 Technical Conference
- Mark Burgess, 15th LISA Conference
- Jan Sael for chairing the NordU2001 Conference.

The conferences' Invited Talk/Special Track Chairs:

- Doug Schmidt, Tutorial Program Chair for COOTS, and Murthy Devarakonda, Advanced Topics Workshop Chair for COOTS
- Clem Cole, 2001 Freenix Program Chair
- Matt Blaze and John Kohl for the invited talks at the USENIX Annual Tech Conference
- Lee Damon for organizing the "Guru is In" Sessions as USENIX Annual Tech and LISA
- Greg Rose for the invited talks at the 10th USENIX Security Symposium
- Jon "maddog" Hall for the invited talks at the 5th Annual Linux Showcase & Conference

All the volunteers from Atlanta Linux Showcase, Inc. who helped in organizing ALS in Oakland: Chris Farris, Marc Torres, Greg Hankins, Paul Manno, Blake Sorenson, Hunter Eidson, Vernard Martin, Levien de Braal, Ben Cooper, Danny Cox, Valerie Cox, Sam Davis, Steve DuChene, Robbie Honerkamp, Ray Knight, and Piotr Misztal.

Esther Filderman and Tom Limoncelli for the invited talks at the 15th LISA Conference

Cat Okita and Tom Perrine for coordinating the Network/Security Track at LISA

Pat Wilson for coordinating the workshops at LISA

Esther Filderman for her hard work in organizing the AFS workshops at recent USENIX conferences.

Peter Honeyman for his continued efforts in reaching out to international groups e.g., SANE and HAL Conferences, Smartcards/CARDIS, Middleware, and Stichting NLnet.

Aleen Frisch for her hard work (with assistance from John Sechrest and Steve

Simmons) in evaluating vendors for Web-based training, and selecting one (Digital Think) that will provide their courseware at a discount to our members.

Brad Johnson, Tina Bird, Jerry Carter, and Evan Marcus for their efforts in launching and evaluating the Web Tutorial Pilot program.

Rob Kolstad and Don Piele for making the USA Computing Olympiad, which USENIX sponsors, a success.

Andrew Hume for chairing the Nominating Committee for the USENIX Board Elections, and Eric Allman, Rob Kolstad, and John Kohl for serving on the committee.

Andrew Hume for serving as liaison to the Computing Research Association.

John Gilmore for serving as liaison/point person to the Electronic Frontier Foundation and its legal team during a particularly litigious year.

Darrell Long, Avi Rubin, Mary Baker, and Peter Honeyman for serving on the USENIX Scholastic Committee which oversees the USENIX scholars and student research grant programs.

The SAGE Executive Committee members for their contributions: David Parter, Trey Harris, Peg Schafer, Barb Dijker, Strata Rose Chalup, Tim Gassaway, and Geoff Halprin.

Andrew Hume and David Parter for serving as liaisons for USENIX Board and SAGE Exec committee.

The following folks who served on committees that are launching the SAGE certification effort:

SAGE Certification Policy Committee:

Lois Bennett, Stephen Berry, Mark Burgess, Barb Dijker, Bradley Donison, Tim Gassaway, Trey Harris, Andrew Hume, Mark Langston, Eric Smith,

Mark Stingley, John Stoffel, Leeland G. Artra, and Julie Thornton

SAGE Certification Exam Development Committee:

Susan Alderman, Joel Anacker, Tom McDonald, Lois B. Bennett, Jeremy O'Leary, Russell Biggs, David Parr Lyndon, M. Colvin, Eric Smith, Trey Harris, John Stevenson, Philip Kizer, Mark C. Langston, William Lovins, Christine Wanta, Leeland G. Artra, Thomas Wong, Phil Temples, Vidya Tirupathi, and Tom Treat.

USENIX is grateful to all!