

**USENIX Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 2, 2005  
Sheraton Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD  
Minutes**

Attendance:

**Board:**

Mike Jones  
Matt Blaze  
Clem Cole  
Alva Couch  
Jon “maddog” Hall  
Geoff Halprin  
Ted Ts’o

**Staff:**

Ellie Young  
Cat Allman (joined via phone at 9:15 a.m.)  
Anne Dickison  
Jane-Ellen Long (via phone)  
Tara Mulligan  
Toni Veglia (via phone)

**Guests:**

David Parter (joined at 3:40 p.m.)  
Greg Rose (joined at 2:00 p.m.)  
Pat Wilson (joined at 3:40 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m., with all of the above present except where noted.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Jones tabled entertaining a motion until after the recommended changes by McKusick regarding the dates is held in the SAGE discussion.

**Changes and Consent Agenda**

Hall asked that the summary of the April 2005 strategy session be discussed at the item on the future of the Annual Technical Conference. Jones requested that the Tutorial Report be moved out of the Consent Agenda to 4e, Outreach to Other Conferences.

## Action Items

Board members reported on their items, and most would be covered later in the meeting, except as follows:

Hall reported that the Free Standards Group is making adjustments under its new Executive Director. They are working on better funding and getting releases out within deadlines. They have recently released version 3.0, and submitted it to the ISO. They will be meeting later this month.

## Report on Conferences

**NSDI** – Couch reported that this was a good conference, and he doesn't see any need to make changes at this time. Young said the conference is highly academic, and almost all attendance consisted of students, researchers and educators. We had hoped attendance would be similar to that of OSDI, but after two, this hasn't happened. Cole said the program is research focused, so he doesn't believe it will attract many "practitioners." Young suggested we might suggest to chairs and committees that they consider industry papers. Jones will write a paragraph or two to send to program committees instructing them to be broader in their consideration of papers that are concerned with "practice."

**MobiSys** – Jones reported that the conference is technically interesting and valuable, thought not as successful as anticipated. This year attendance dropped by 20% to 124. The event is run every other year by USENIX and SIGMOBILE. USENIX asked to be able to run it on our model every year, which wasn't agreed to by SIGMOBILE. Because the collaboration does not run as efficiently as USENIX would like, Jones and Young recommended that we not continue to organize the conference, but remain as an "in-cooperation" sponsor.

**HotOS** – Jones said that this event was highly successful, and will continue to be held every other year.

**VEE** – Couch stated that this event is primarily aimed at programming languages, with many talks about languages, but not many OS talks. The open source virtualization community is not being served. He recommends that it stay with PLDI for the next two years. PLDI is an ACM conference, and he reported good communication with the SIG group once he informed them of the USENIX culture. ACM has granted rights to allow us to publish their papers in our digital library. He said a chair for the 2006 event has yet to be found.

**SRUTI** – Cole reported that this was a success, with the number one complaint being that it could have been two days long. It was very lively and active. He suggests that we consider opening the registration instead of having it by invitation/submission only, and recommends that we continue to hold it for the next few years. Cole commended Bala Krishnamurthy for his organization and garnering many sponsors. Cole and Young will

talk to Krishnamurthy about SRUTI needing to have open registration, attracting more industry and product development people, and co-locating it with Annual Technical Conference.

*Break from 10:45-10:55 a.m.*

*Cole left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.*

**Linux Kernel Summit** – Ts'o reported that it went very well, with an exceptional hallway track. The event had a larger attendance this year, partly due to the increase in the number of sponsor attendees. The invited attendees were primarily hardware vendor device driver authors and chip and CPU manufacturers. Ts'o said that there were more attendees who needed travel assistance than in the past, and that the sponsorships help cover those costs. He reported that OLS is seeing the growth of industry developer summits, such as Desktop Developers and the GNU Compiler Collection. He sees a need for networking companies to have a face-to-face forum. He suggests extending the model to other interested communities. Due to the confluence of attendees, he does not recommend that we relocate LKS away from OLS at this time. Allman confirmed the need to stay next to OLS, or at least at a similar Linux event, and suggested considering more break-out sessions.

**Security** – Blaze reported that the event is a success in terms of technical quality and attendance, as we expect to have approximately 419 attendees (400-450 was the target). Blaze said Patrick McDaniel has been great to work with as the program chair. In 2006, the event will be held in Vancouver. Angelos Keromytis will chair. Blaze expressed concern about competition for paper acceptance, and that more conservative submissions are making up the programs, as opposed to cutting edge work. He suggested we add a "HotSEC" workshop in 2006, modeled after HotOS, with an attendance of 50 or fewer, co-located with Security. He is putting together a Steering committee. Young reported that expanding the tutorial offerings hasn't been as successful as we had hoped. Even so, she said the event should break even financially.

**LISA** – Young reported that program committee received 52 submissions, fewer than in the past. We are considering ways to improve the evening and hallway tracks, and Dickison reported that we are setting up "hit the ground running" sessions. Allman reported that the exhibition sales have been slower than she hoped for, primarily due to limited funds being available at large companies. She is open to suggestions about open source and .org companies who may want a booth.

**FAST** – Young reported that Garth Gibson is doing very well, and the program committee will meet later this month. An IEEE 1-day storage workshop will be co-located. Young and Klein are considering adding a tutorial program.

**WORLDS** – Young said this would be held the day before FAST. She suggests that in the future, WORLDS be co-located with OSDI or IMC.

**OSDI** – Young said the planning for 2006 is going well, and that we may add a poster/demo reception.

**SANE** – Young reported that Peter Honeyman is serving on the committee, and continuing to assist with planning. They would like our help with promotion. The event will be held in mid-May 2006, at a university in Delft.

## **USENIX Annual Technical Conference**

Young referred to her report. She said that the results of the survey from April show that attendees were “highly satisfied” with the event. She said that a survey was also done of past attendees who did not attend this year. The primary reasons given for why they didn’t were location, time of year, and lack of funds being available to send employees to conferences.

With regards to the strategy session that was held in April in Anaheim, Young said that 2006 is too soon to implement the federated model. Young said she has been in touch with Honeyman regarding the steering committee for his proposed conference on Experimental Computing Systems. While Honeyman has received good feedback, he needs more time to pull it together.

*Cole returned at 11:55 a.m.*

Young said that the CFP is being created, and the chairs for the SP&E (Symposium on Practice and Experience) track are looking for program committee members from.

*Lunch break held from 12:30-1:30 p.m.*

After more discussions regarding Annual Tech, the 2006 program will be as follows:

Definite tracks:

- SP&E - Symposium on Practice and Experience, formerly General Sessions
- Invited Talks
- Tutorials
- Guru sessions
- BoF sessions

Since there is meeting space available, we might look into collocating the following:

- E-Voting (Couch contacting Verifiedvoting.org folks about a workshop)
- VM (Jones and Young will talk to Steve Hand and/or Mendel Rosenblum)
- Clusters workshop (Cole will check into this as a potential workshop)

Outlined for 2007:

Definite tracks:

- SP&E – (will stand alone as its own track the last 2.5-3 days of the conference)
- Invited Talks
- Tutorials
- Guru sessions
- BoF sessions

Probable tracks/conferences:

- NSDI (2.5 day track, running on days prior to SPE, overlapping with FAST)
- FAST (2.5 day track, running on days prior to SPE, overlapping with NSDI)

Possible tracks:

- Potential “pilot” workshops, e.g., Clusters
- SRUTI
- SECSE
- E-Voting
- VM

Young said she would like USENIX to come up with a statement about Freenix to go out with the ATC '06 CFP. Couch said he feels that Freenix should become a workshop. Hall will look into incorporating open source workshops into ATC.

*Rose joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.*

## **Follow-up on other conferences**

**Bio-informatics** – Couch said that he doesn't see a clear path to making this happen. Companies that are large enough are doing internal training, and those that are too small can't afford training.

**E-voting** – Couch is following up on this as a potential workshop co-located at Annual Tech conferences. He has spoken with Barbara Simon of ACM. Couch said that USENIX should consider issuing a strong statement on the subject, and scaling up our support of Verifiedvoting.org.

**Grid** – Cole and Couch reported that this would not be worth pursuing at this time. Couch reported that there would be a life sciences Grid forum in October, where he will have 10 minutes to pitch USENIX.

**Clusters Workshop** – Cole reported that he and Ts'o have been checking out different meetings. Cole got a verbal promise from Bruce Walker to get a proposal for a workshop. Hall added that if Walker didn't come through, Pete Beckman could be a possible collaborator. Ts'o mentioned that Walker ran a workshop at OLS on cluster file systems.

**OpenSolaris** – Cole will make further contacts with folks regarding this. He will contact the Apple folks about possible talks our community wants to hear about, e.g, Searchlight.

**VoIP/Asterisk** – Young reported that as of now, not much headway has been made in working with them. Hall will help Young reach into this community further.

**Eclipse** – Jones will try one more time to reach the Executive Director of the Foundation. Cole talked to the marketing folks at a recent conference, and they feel that there is nothing technical that we can help with. He said that eclipse.com is not a USENIX style developer forum.

**CodeCon** – Young reported that USENIX supported their conference in early 2005, and they are not yet preparing for their future conference.

**BSDCan** – Young spoke on behalf of McKusick, and said they would like publicity assistance from USENIX.

**FreeBSD** – Young reported that the organizers feel that unless there are more developers present, they don't see the value in coming to ATC.

**GNOME** – Young said this group currently hosts the GUADEC conference in the summer, which makes it hard to co-locate with Annual Tech.

## **Tutorial Coordinator's Report**

Jones said that he wanted to discuss this report in regards to the tutorials and planning for specific conferences, however, he will table it until he reviews the report in light of what was decided earlier regarding ATC. Young said that she and Klein are discussing not going overboard in offering too many new tutorials, as some do not pull the expected attendance and end up being canceled.

*Break from 3:00-3:10 p.m.*

## **Fraudulent Submissions**

Blaze referred to his proposed language, and suggested that it be sent with all future CFPs, as well as included in our policies. Jones suggested a minor revision in the wording. Blaze will incorporate the change, and will send it to Appelman for review.

**Cole moved and was seconded by Halprin to adopt the amended draft on irregular submissions by Matt Blaze as policy, pending approval by external legal counsel. Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (McKusick)**

## **Endowed Chair in Memory of John Lions**

Rose reviewed his proposal to have USENIX help support an endowed chair at the University of New South Wales in honor of John Lions, who is deceased and was an influential faculty member there during the early Unix days. The official title of the endowment will be the John Lions Chair in Operating Systems. Rose requested \$100,000 in support from USENIX. The Board agreed to take it under consideration, and to look into other ways of supporting the fund, such as encouraging donations. Jones asked that Rose forward the protocol document to the Board when it is ready.

*Parter and Wilson joined the meeting at 3:40 p.m.*

## **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was originally noted in the minutes that SAGE planned to complete Step 2 of the transition by November 2005. Jones said the request by McKusick to specify a precise deadline of November 18, 2005 for completion of Step 2 was based on the understanding that the agreement allowed at most one year to pass between Step 2 and Step 3. He said that timetables on the three steps of the transition are intended to ensure that a decision will be made within a bounded period of time. Jones pointed out that Halprin had taken the action item in November 2004 to produce a terms agreement between USENIX and SAGE. It would clarify the language, define the timetable and procedures for the transition, and regardless of the document not being completed and approved, the clock is running on Step 2. On November 18, 2005, Jones plans to call a vote of the USENIX Board to determine whether SAGE has successfully met the requirements for beginning Step 3.

Halprin said that SAGE is on track to complete Step 2 by November, however, he believes the evaluation phase to be a part of Step 3, not Step 2. Halprin agreed that there should be no uncertainty in the timetables, but he wants to give SAGE an opportunity to be operational prior to the evaluation, and doesn't feel that can reasonably be done in the time left in Step 2. He said that he had just recently sent McKusick the draft terms agreement, and he will work with him to finalize it in the near future.

Discussion revealed that the majority of the Board believed Step 2 was to be completed by November 2005. Some ambiguity as to whether the evaluation phase was a part of Step 2 or Step 3 was noted, but with the understanding that all listed items in Step 2 would be accomplished by November. Jones advised that Halprin conclude the terms agreement specifying the commencement and order of operations, so that SAGE may complete Step 2 by November 18, 2005.

*Blaze left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.*

**Hall moved and was seconded by Ts'o that the April 2005 minutes be accepted with the following amendments:**

- **The SAGE discussion is changed to reflect the original text.**
- **That a sentence be added to the end of the notes on the SAGE discussion that reads: "It was the understanding of the Board that Phase I had ended and Phase II had commenced, to be completed one year hence."**

**Passed: in favor: 6; absent: 2 (Blaze, McKusick)**

## **SAGE Update**

Halprin said that he has not yet sent the bank account information for the new SAGE to the USENIX office, but that he is working on it. He reported that elections had been held.

Halprin stated that the outstanding issue is the outsourcing terms agreement between USENIX and SAGE, and that he will work with McKusick in order to present it to the Board via a conference call. The terms agreement will be finalized after legal review.

Couch raised concerns about the time available for legal review of the terms agreement. Young questioned the status of their application with the IRS for a 501(c)(3) tax exemption. Halprin replied that SAGE has not yet received a response from the IRS, and said that if they do not get the exemption, they will set up a foundation branch of the new SAGE. Young suggested that SAGE follow-up with the IRS as soon as possible so that aspect of the transition can be worked out.

It was agreed that further discussion regarding the evaluation process should occur within the SAGE Committee.

*Parter, Rose, and Wilson left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.*

## **Report on 2005 Budget**

Young reported that we began the year with a balanced budget, but that has been negatively affected by the low attendance at ATC. She hopes that LISA and FAST will do well enough to help offset losses. Sponsorship revenue for Linux Kernel Summit was higher than budgeted, and that, along with the stock market doing well, may help offset the impending deficit at year-end.



## **Audit Committee Report**

Ts'o reported that he asked Young to get a proposal from the previous auditor, and that the quote came back much higher than expected (the reasons cited were a shortage in auditors, as well as new laws in California regarding NPO audits). Young will pursue other bids.

## **Board Election**

Jones reported that Eric Allman was asked to be the Chair of the Nominating Committee, and he is waiting to hear back.

## **Executive Director and Management Report**

Young referred to her written report, noting that LOCKSS is archiving *login:*, which could be good publicity. She added that the staff investigated having Springer Verlag index our proceedings, but that it would not be affordable or advisable at this time.

## **CRA Update**

Jones reported that the CRA does good work, particularly in encouraging women and minorities to get involved in computer science. They are interested in having a USENIX representative on the task forces for the Image of Computing and Federal Funding of Computing Research.

## **Awards Committee**

Hall reported that he is working toward completing his action item to recommend new guidelines for the definition of "lifetime" contributions for the Flame Award, and will submit a proposal to the Board in one month. He apologized for the delay that occurred in making the selection this year.

## **Next Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, December 5, 2005 at the LISA conference in San Diego, CA. The Board/Staff dinner will be held on Monday evening.

*Blaze returned to the meeting at 5:05 p.m.*

## **Other Business**

Young addressed the in her email to the Board concerning deferred compensation plans. She requested that the Board consider a one-time expense of \$15,000 to cover surrender fees for the annuity accounts for Young and Judy DesHarnais. Ts'o concurred.

**Ts'o moved and was seconded by Hall to allocate no more than \$15,000 to cover surrender charges for the annuities held by USENIX for the benefit of DesHarnais and Young. Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (McKusick)**

The board further agreed that presently Ellie Young and Dan Klein are eligible for deferred compensation accounts.

**Blaze moved and was seconded by Cole to adjourn the meeting. Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (McKusick)**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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## **Summary of Actions Taken by USENIX Board of Directors via email from August 3, 2005-October 27, 2005**

**In an email vote dated August 29, 2005, it was moved by Blaze and seconded by McKusick to adopt the revised language submitted by the staff concerning simultaneous submissions to other conferences, as follows:**

**Simultaneous submission of the same work to multiple venues, submission of previously published work, and plagiarism constitute dishonesty or fraud. USENIX, like other scientific and technical conferences and journals, prohibits these practices and may, on the recommendation of a program chair, take action against authors who have committed them. In some cases, program committees may share information about submitted papers with other conference chairs and journal editors to ensure the integrity of papers under consideration. If a violation of these principles is found, sanctions may include, but are not limited to, barring the authors from submitting to or participating in USENIX conferences for a set period, contacting the authors' institutions, and publicizing the details of the case.**

**Authors uncertain whether their submission meets the USENIX guidelines should contact the program chair for the event, or the USENIX office:  
submissionspolicy@usenix.org**

**Passed: 8 in favor.**