USENIX Association
Board of Directors Meeting
June 25, 2008
Boston Sheraton Hotel
Boston, MA
Minutes

Attendance:
Board:
Mike Jones (via phone)
Clem Cole
Alva Couch
Matt Blaze
Remy Evard
Niels Provos (via phone)
Margo Seltzer
Ted Ts'o

Board-Elect:
Gerald Carter
Brian Noble

Staff:
Ellie Young
Anne Dickison
Dan Klein
Jane-Ellen Long
Toni Veglia (via phone)

The meeting of the 2006-2008 Board began at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was moved by Seltzer, seconded by Cole to approve the minutes of the February '08 meeting. Passed: All in favor.

It was then moved by Ts'o, seconded by Blaze to adjourn the meeting. Passed: All in favor.

The meeting of the 2008-2010 Board began at 10:15 a.m.

Attendance:
Board:
Clem Cole
Alva Couch
Matt Blaze
Remy Evard

Niels Provos (via phone)
Margo Seltzer
Gerald Carter
Brian Noble

Mike Jones (Past President) (via phone)
Ted Ts'o (Past Treasurer)

Staff:
Ellie Young
Anne Dickison
Dan Klein
Jane-Ellen Long
Toni Veglia (via phone)

Guests:
Peter Honeyman
Michele Suski, Accountant
Jim Roberson, Auditor (joined via phone from 12:43 – 12:50 p.m.)

Changes to the Agenda. The report from Education Director was moved to after lunch. The Executive session item was removed because neither of the attorneys was available. Blaze requested that conference call with the attorneys be scheduled. Cole agreed to be the point person from the Board with regard to the lawsuit. Young would brief the new board members on the history. Seltzer added an item concerning a provenance workshop.   Cole thanked Ts'o and Jones for their service on the Board.

Action Items. The Board went over their items and most were completed or will be covered in the agenda. Carter and Ts'o   would report on code sprints under the other business item. Cole asked that the item on Open Fabrics be moved to other business as well.   Couch reported that HotAC has changed format and is now an interactive discussion session with 5 minute presentations.   Provos reported that there would be a small experiment on the living papers idea with the USENIX Security papers.   Seltzer reported on the request from John Wilkes' to have reviews from the FAST program committee included on papers resubmitted to Eurosys.   She wants to be cooperative, but will only do this if the authors give their permission.   Noble agreed to take over being the liaison for WORLDS.   Young suggested removing the GENI community action item, as there has been no traction.

FY 2007 Financial Statements and Budget for FY 2008. Suski provided a primer on how to read the financial statements and some of the accompanying reports.   Young reported that the estimates for 2008 were still pretty close to what was budgeted, even with the increase in attendance at the Xen Summit, FAST, and NSDI.   While revenue estimates for USENIX Annual Tech had been reduced because of the lower than budgeted attendance in training, we should be fine if LISA, OSDI, and Security meet

budget.   Young also clarified for Blaze that overhead for co-located workshops is listed under the main conference.

Executive Office Report: Long reported that for the Living Papers idea, we will use a prototype system to see if it is of interest, before doing a more expanded version. Some felt that it could also be a review tool. Seltzer suggested that we might invite people who are teaching a course to use it. She felt that we should get as many different constituencies as we can to use the prototype. Carter said there was a tool for GPL V3 that allows online comments, and try to find the software.

Young discussed the idea of our possibly offering subscriptions to *;login:*, and we would be doing a trial offer this summer to see if there's interest. She would also like to hire a consultant to look at how we might improve *;login:*   Cole felt that exploration is good. Young will come back with a proposal depending on what is recommended.

 Young reported that LISA is booked out as far as 2013 (in D.C.). Long reported that the database project was moving slowly because of our using experienced consultants who do not have big chunks of time to devote to this. She said that more progress would be made in the coming months.

Young reported that sponsorships are going well, and Mulligan is doing an outstanding job. Dickison went over her report that indicated we had more exchange partners, a live streaming arrangement for invited talks at our conferences with LinuxPro magazine, and a new page on Facebook and blogs.

Break   for lunch from 12:03- 12:30 p.m.

Roberson joined via phone.

Report from Auditor. Roberson thanked the Board for the opportunity of serving USENIX. He summarized that the audit went well, and there were no adjustments. He talked about risk and fraud. They suggested we adopt a policy regarding gifts.   He would like to meet with the Audit committee both before and after the audit (by phone or in person).

 Roberson left the meeting.

Education Director's Report. Klein reported that tutorial numbers are still low. Suggestions were made about marketing to corporations and overseas.   Klein asked if we should consider not offering tutorials at Annual Tech and/or possibly shifting the focus entirely to system administration. He wants to figure out what tools and instruction developers need. He said he probably needs a committee to help brainstorm for ideas. Klein then discussed the ShmooCon event, and that we might want to consider doing something like this aimed at the sys admin community.

Klein reported that partnering with SANS on certification did not pan out. He is having talks with the other major player in this space, CompTIA, and will report back.   He also thought that if we don't do certification, we might want to offer a 'USENIX degree" e.g., offer a track of training on a particular topic, with an exam offered at the end of each class.   Ts'o felt this would be risky from a marketing perspective, and Carter wasn't convinced a degree from USENIX carries any weight.

Suski   left the meeting.

Report on Conferences

FAST: Young reported that FAST went well with the highest ever attendance. She was uncertain whether the Linux workshop would be co-located in '09.   Young also noted that we need to find program chairs further out, since many of the good people are booked years in advance.   She will look at trying to book them 16-18 months in advance, and having a queue of chairs for beyond that serving on PCs.

NSDI and workshops: Young reported that NSDI had a slight increase in attendance and a big increase in submissions. IPTPS and LEET will be co-located w/ NSDI next year. Jennifer Rexford and Emin Gün Sirer will chair '09. Provos reported that LEET was very successful, and Wenke Lee has been asked to chair on '09.   Young said that UPSEC received mixed reviews, and she is not sure we have an appropriate event to co-locate it with.   Long reported that WOWCS attendees were very happy. There were reports published in *;login:* and a Wiki is up on the USENIX WOWCS text page.

USENIX Annual Tech. Young reported we may need to reformat this conference again, with perhaps fewer invited talks and/or more sys admin focused training. The Xen summit was successful and will hopefully be co-located in 2009.   She encouraged the board to seek out other open source projects and other workshops to co-locate at ATC. Carter pointed out that code sprints could be research for other projects. Seltzer reported that LASCO attendees were engaged and happy. She believes that it is a community that should be merged with WORLDS.

Klein left the meeting.

USENIX Security and workshops.   Provos reported that the symposium is going smoothly. There was a potential case of   plagiarism that didn't fit within our guidelines, as it was self-plagiarism. Provos reported that HotSec had 37 submissions and 12 accepted papers. Young reported that Metricon is going well. CSET is being put on by the Deter people, and it had 16 submissions and 8 accepted papers. She will mostly likely seek advice about whether it should continue in the future. WOOT also had a low number of submissions, and we need to monitor the final program/attendance.   Young also reported that EVT had slightly fewer submissions than previous, and will run 1.5 days.

LISA.   Young reported that LISA received 42 submissions to the refereed papers track (which is less than previous years), of which 20 were accepted. We continue to have problem attracting any Microsoft participation (both in terms of sponsors and speakers). There will also be 3 workshops per day scheduled before the conference, plus a co-located SNIA conference. CHIMIT will also be held at a hotel nearby right after.

OSDI and workshops. Young reported that OSDI papers are being reviewed. Sponsorships are slightly down compared to two years ago, and we may not be able to fund as many stipends as in the past.   Young also reported that are many more workshops would be co-located with OSDI this year: HotDep, HotPower, SysML, WASL, and Diversity. Cole suggested asking some of the workshops to co-locate with ATC in the future.

Middleware. Honeyman went over his written report. He said it is successful with 160-170 registrations and lots of international participation.   He also pointed out that it has a successful doctoral symposium, a free tutorial after, and a large poster session.

Provenance Workshop.   The group discussed the proposal from Seltzer.   She said there are two groups (practice and theory), and this workshop would bring them both together. **It was moved by Couch, seconded by Noble that we accept the provenance workshop proposal. Passed: 7 in Favor; 1 abstain (Seltzer).**

Seltzer will send Young the contact information, and we will need to figure out where to co-locate this workshop in 2009.

Awards. Cole reported that Andy Tannenbaum received the Flame Award. The D-trace awardees won the STUG and donated the cash prize back to USENIX to fund K-12/student good works.

Review of Committees List. Young and the board went over the list and new liaisons/committee members were appointed (it is attached to these minutes.)

Standards Activities.   A discussion ensued about how to evaluate whether the amount of funds/effort we are putting into this activity is justifiable.   The standards committee was tasked with getting input from the membership how much they value this. They will also discuss with Stoughton and the standards community our dual role in this effort (watchdog and reporter), and figure out how to better evaluate this activity.

Agenda for the Annual Meeting with Membership.   It was agreed that we should cover activities of the past year, emphasizing the following: our policy of offering proceedings to the general public immediately after publication; the new Hot Par workshop; that we are looking for new offerings; and we are soliciting input on our standards activities.

Provos left the meeting.

Code Sprints: Ts'o and Carter reported that code sprints try to introduce a large project code base to people who are interested in it e.g., Firefox, Mozilla. It is like a compressed version of Google's summer of code project. It is also an opportunity to contribute to open source projects by hooking up younger programmers with mentors. They suggested that we start with offering at least two projects and co-locate them at a larger conference. A steering committee was formed of Carter, Noble (has Mozilla contact); Ted Ts'o, and someone as yet to be named from Google Open source programs. A proposal would be forthcoming at the November board meeting.

Open Fabrics: Cole reported that doing something cooperatively with the Open Fabrics Alliance is still on the table, but we need to wait for them to figure out how they will engage us.

Next Meeting. It will be held on November 11, 2008 at LISA in San Diego.

It was moved by Blaze, seconded by Carter to adjourn the meeting. Passed: 7 in Favor; 1 absent (Provos).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Summary of Actions Taken by the USENIX Board of Directors since June '08 Meeting:

Via email vote on September 4-8, it was moved by Cole, seconded by Seltzer, that we raise OSDI student registration fees to $350. Passed: All in favor.

Via email vote on September 17-19, 2009, It was moved by Evard, seconded by Cole that the Board approve Young's proposal to hire 2 FTEs immediately. Passed.: All in favor.

A teleconference was held on September 19, 2009, with all the Board present (except Seltzer), and Young and Long on staff. It was agreed to try to schedule the first 2009 in person board meeting for March 30, 2009 in Berkeley, CA. Young would reconfirm with Blaze and Seltzer.

It was moved by Couch, seconded by Noble that we go ahead with crafting and negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Open Fabrics Alliance. We should also have a seat of goals and concerns to review at some future date on what we are trying to learn from this experience. Passed: 7 in favor; 1 absent (Seltzer).

It was moved by Blaze, seconded by Carter to adjourn the telecon. Passed: all in favor; 1 absent (Seltzer)

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Secretary   Date