

**USENIX Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 3-4, 2006
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**

Attendance:

Board

Mike Jones, Chairman
Matt Blaze
Alva Couch
Remy Evard
Niels Provos
Margo Seltzer
Ted Ts'o

Staff:

Ellie Young
Cat Allman
Anne Dickison
Dan Klein
Jane-ellen Long (via phone)

Absent:
Clem Cole

The meeting was called to order with all of the above present except as noted.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Blaze moved and was seconded by Couch to accept the minutes of the May 31, 2006 meeting with noted changes. Passed: 6 in favor, 1 abstain (Seltzer), 1 absent (Cole).

Seltzer moved and was seconded by Blaze to accept the executive session minutes of June 1, 2006 meeting. Passed; 7 in favor, 1 absent (Cole)

Ts'o moved and was seconded by Provos to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2006 executive session. Passed: 7 in favor, 1 absent (Cole).

Action Items

The Board reviewed their action items, most of which will be discussed in the agenda with the following exceptions:

Young reported on behalf of Cole that he was replacing Honeyman as board liaison to the Middleware Conference. He would have more to report on awards committee activity in the Fall.

Jones reported that Nick Stoughton has turned in three articles for *login:* on standards activities. It was felt that more involvement by the Board on this activity is needed. Young will schedule a conference call with committee to evaluate standards efforts and to keep in regular contact with Stoughton. Couch was added to the committee (with Ts'o and Jones.)

Ts'o explained that his idea for a websphere workshop hasn't gone anywhere because he hasn't found anyone to run with it. He will continue to look into this. Ts'o also reported that the Free Standards Group is trying to do more outreach to developers. He felt that tutorials about LSB may be of some interest and perhaps a workshop.

Young reported that the John Lions Endowed Chair campaign has about \$30K that we will have to match. She felt that our maximum exposure by the end of the year could be \$50K. Dickison reported that flyers have been inserted *login:* and have been distributed at other events.

Update on Conferences

USENIX Annual Tech: Young has booked venues for 2007(Santa Clara), 2008 (Boston), and will have to book for 2009 soon. Jeff Chase and Srinivasan Seshan have agreed to co-chair the refereed paper track, and the venue has space for three tracks of technical sessions. Young stated that 1100 is the number of attendees we need to break even at a typical Annual Tech conference. She also reported that the deficit for the 2006 conference was \$100K instead of the projected \$250K because expenses were lower and training did slightly better than projected.

SRUTI: Provos reported that the workshop was very successful, with 50 people attending and an excellent keynote. Provos offered to serve as liaison. He, Bala Krishnamurthy, and Steve Bellovin will be discussing the future of the workshop,.

Linux Kernel Summit: Ts'o reported that the attendees were satisfied and liked the smaller number of participants this year (87 vs. 100). He suggested that we look into holding small workshops alongside it. He also relayed that there is a desire to try an alternative venue, e.g., Cambridge, UK. He and the staff will be working on this in the coming month. Ts'o said he was also working on putting together a proposal for the Board for our hosting a small Linux File Systems workshop at FAST.

Security: Blaze reported that on the symposium and also that the three new workshops were successful. He also said that Paul van Oorschot was being asked to chair the 2008 symposium. Hotsec and Electronic Voting will be repeated in 2007. Couch felt that E-voting should have more participation by election officials. David Wagner agreed to serve as co-chair.

OSDI: Young reported that the program is just up, and we have exceeded our goals for sponsorship.

O'Reilly OSCON: Allman reported that it was a well-attended , very tool-focused event. USENIX had a booth where we collected names and did outreach.

NSDI: Young reported that the program committee has just been finalized, and Seltzer has agreed to serve as board liaison.

LISA: Couch reported that while submissions were down slightly, the quality was good. A discussion ensued about ways to expand the program committee.

CRA Snowbird Conference: Jones and Couch reported on the conference. A discussion ensued about the establishment of a Computing Community Consortium , and its role in guiding the design of the Global Environment for Networking Innovations (GENI). It was suggested that if the NSF grant goes forward we might look at targeting an invitation to that group to host a workshop of the CCC with USENIX. Couch offered to look into this further.

In cooperation sponsorship of Symposium on Computer Human Interaction for Management of Information Technology (CHIMIT)

After some discussion that we would like digital library rights to the proceedings in exchange for our help with promoting and being involved in the program committee, **it was moved by Seltzer, seconded by Couch that we propose to ACM the in-cooperation status package for CHIMIT. Passed: 7 in favor; 1 absent (Cole)**

Discussion on Criteria for Successful Workshops

A discussion ensued about what criteria should be applied to a workshop beyond whether it breaks even break-even or not. We also need to better gauge whether a topic is growing or not. It was suggested that we have a list of questions for people proposing workshops about their goals vs. USENIX's. Some of these might ask if the workshops are: helpful in filling room block/supplementing a conference's attendance; experimental in new areas; good works (put together people in a venue); break even; how well are we serving existing communities; how well are we forming new communities. The goals should be stated in the budgeting process as well. Evard summarized that there are four areas we can evaluate :

1. Financial Value
2. Community Building Value (checking reputation win other
3. Academic Quality (proceedings)
4. Value to USENIX Visibility (Branding and direction)

Ts'o suggested an access control wiki for the Board, with a dynamic page status of events as a way to collaborate in between meetings .

It was also suggested that we have a different exit survey at workshops that will take into account our criteria/goals.

Several workshops that will be co-located at NSDI in '07 were discussed: Sysml's goals would be for community expansion. IEEE NetDB would have no brand risk for USENIX and might bring more people to NSDI, plus we would get digital proceedings.

Update on Offering Accreditation Teamed with Training

A discussion on whether we could provide a service to the community by having meaningful exams (i.e., market it as an educational experience to set up a real server), and still collaborate with SANS/GIAC in a new market. It was generally agreed that we could work with them in offering a basic curriculum exam and use the funds generated from this to fund the next level. The following model of testing was discussed:

- Level 1: info regurgitation (we advertise this familiarity)
- Level 2: higher level multiple choice (literacy). This would look the same as GIAC, but have better questions.
- Level 3: hands-on (fluency-practical-hands-on)

Couch moved and was seconded by Seltzer that we proceed with this program of collaboration with GIAC, and make an effort towards a high quality exam. Passed: In Favor 6, 1 opposed (Blaze), 1 absent (Cole)

USENIX Annual Technical Conference

Issues and problems that we are attempting to solve were discussed, especially ways to increase attendance and participation by a younger demographic. It was decided that each board member would discuss the suggestions/issues raised that evening, and make a case for what to do in tomorrow's session.

Couch moved and was seconded by Evard to adjourn the meeting. Passed: In favor: 6, Absent 2:(Blaze, Cole)

Friday, August 4, 2006.

The meeting was resumed at 8:15 a.m.

USENIX Journal

Young said that a request was made for the revitalization of the USENIX Journal. Blaze suggested that we partner with an existing journal and arrange for our best papers to be a special issue. Jones summarized that we do not see a compelling need at this time to start a journal.

Hosting a Repository of Computer Anomaly Data

Young reported that we were approached by Garth Gibson to host a repository. Young felt that it would not be a lot of work and excellent publicity for USENIX. She would be discussing licensing issues with Gibson and the steering committee. Provos offered to liaise.

Experimental Computer Science

Seltzer reported that currently there is no champion for the proposal that was put forward by Honeyman the previous year. There is a workshop on this topic being sponsored in June 2007 at the ACM Federated Computing Conference, and she is discussing the possibilities for participating in this with those organizers. She proposed we get in cooperation status for ACM workshop to see if there is a future of working with them for next year. Seltzer would serve as liaison.

USENIX Annual Technical Conference (continued)

After much discussion and each board member putting forward his or her suggestions, Seltzer provided a summary as follows:

Put together a “USENIX Computing Systems Summit” with three parallel events that might have a shared plenary and training.

1. General Session papers- Academic. Papers may also include invited talks.
2. Real-World /User-focused: Organizing committee has a target demographic of high-end users, system builders
 - a. Talks by people who have built interesting real systems.
 - b. Infrastructure update talks (what’s happening in Samba, MySQL –talks w/follow up BoF.
 - c. “Sharing Best Practices”
 - d. Large Scale administration
 - e. More general invited talks.
3. “Risk Event”
 - a. Organizers are from open source community
 - b. Target people are not from OSCON or OLS.
 - c. Self-organizing conference/ program is popularity driven
 - d. Software focused
 - e. Cool hacks Hackers for under 30 crowd

Ts’o stated that for the third track would need to provide the right environment, and we would need to organizers to back it. It was suggested that we contact Jerry Carter and Brian Akers.

Young issued a deadline of early September for figuring out the rest of the program beyond the refereed papers, and to have committees formed right after that .

Couch, Seltzer, and Blaze left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

**It was moved by Evard , seconded by Ts'o to adjourn the meeting.
Passed: 4 in favor; 4 absent (Couch, Seltzer, Blaze, Cole)**

Actions Taken by USENIX Board via email as follows:

On September 7 it was moved by Blaze, seconded by Couch that USENIX sponsor a workshop on Hot Topics in Understanding Botnets (HotBots '07) to be held alongside NSDI, per a proposal by Niels Provos. Passed: 7 in favor; 1 abstain (Provos).

On September 11 it agreed that USENIX would be listed as a co-sponsor of the SETIT 2007 conference.

On September 26, it was unanimously agreed to co-sponsor the Distributed Event-Based Systems workshop and fund \$3,000 in student stipends.