

**USENIX Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
Minutes
Berkeley, CA
November 14-15, 1999**

The regular meeting of the USENIX Board of Directors was convened at the Claremont Hotel, in Berkeley, CA on November 14 at 9:10 a.m.

Attendance:

USENIX Board of Directors:

Dan Geer, Treasurer
Jon "maddog" Hall, Director
Peter Honeyman, Secretary
Andrew Hume, President and Chairman
Pat Parseghian, Director
Hal Pomeranz, Director
Greg Rose, Vice President
Elizabeth Zwicky, Director

USENIX Staff:

Ellie Young, Executive Director
Gale Berkowitz
Jane-Ellen Long
Judy DesHarnais
Monica Ortiz
Toni Veglia
Peter Collinson
Dan Klein

Guests:

Barb Dijker, SAGE
Evi Nemeth, Nominating Committee Chair and ISC rep
Nick Stoughton, Standards Liaison
Ellen Brodbine, Marketing Consultant
Steve Johnson, CRA rep and Past President

All above were present at the beginning of the meeting except Brodbine and Johnson.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Rose moved and was seconded by Honeyman that the minutes be accepted as amended. Passed: All in favor.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda: Student stipends for the Fast Software Encryption Workshop; a proposal from the Electronic Frontier Foundation; sponsorship of MobiCom; and sponsorship of a Java VM workshop.

Action Items

Action items were reviewed and updated. Most action items were either in progress or included in the agenda.

1999 Budget Report

Young presented a report on the budget activity through August, which also included estimated year-end projections. She reported that we would probably come closer to break-even than is shown in the Estimated Year-End, because the actual LISA conference attendance was slightly higher than when she did her report.

Berkowitz will check the formulas for the calculation of the estimated end of the year for interest/dividend income, which appeared to be low. She noted that it was difficult to accurately budget for this, since it is dependent on fluctuations in the investment markets.

Rose requested a complete copy of the investment report, and will work with Geer on developing a new format.

Rose commented on the percentage of staff allocated for SAGE (13%), seemed to be low given the percent of membership that SAGE members represent. Young explained that this was based on estimates for staff time based on the additional SAGE member benefits, and there has not been much activity. Dijker, Hume, Young, and Berkowitz will discuss the allocations to SAGE.

First Draft 2000 Budget

Young presented a First Draft Budget for the coming year for discussion and approval. The SAGE executive committee had approved the first draft at their recent meeting. The final budget will contain changes made at this meeting, salary adjustments, and a budget for the Atlanta Linux Showcase. There was projected a \$187,000 deficit.

There was discussion concerning the various items in the budget and cover memo. In particular the following was noted: Increases in temporary help for the conference office and we continue to have a net loss on membership. It was suggested that we budget conservatively for the ALS 2000. It was also suggested that SAGE supporting membership dues be added to the SAGE budget.

Standards

Stoughton submitted a proposal for future standards work, of which \$70,900 is proposed for direct standards work, and an additional \$9,500 for membership in The Open Group. Hume requested that we get an independent view of USENIX's role and contribution to the standards arena. Stoughton suggested that another Snitch Editor be identified, and that David Blackwood had expressed willingness to serve this role. It was also suggested that we might look into covering other committees, like XML, and Nemeth volunteered to get one of her students to do this group.

Geer moved, and was seconded by Hall, to accept the Standards proposal of \$80,400. All (8) voted in favor, and the proposal was accepted for funding.

Good Works

It was suggested that when considering proposals for funding the Good Works that the Board do straw polls on each and later do a formal vote after all had been considered. Under Good Works, \$32,144 is currently unallocated for 1999. For 2000, it is projected that \$161,500 is not yet allocated. Straw polls were conducted for each proposal to first assess interest in funding at the proposed level.

USACO

A proposal was submitted for sponsorship of the USACO team at the International Olympiad in Informatics that will be held in Beijing, China, in 2000 in the amount of \$52,000. A straw poll indicated support for this proposal.

USACO also requested USENIX to be the sponsor of the IOI in 2003, to be hosted in the USA, for \$1.2 million. A straw poll indicated a lack of enthusiasm for sponsorship at this level.

Software Patent Institute

A proposal to continue this project for \$55,000 was discussed. The funds would be used to improve the computer hardware and software, continued process design and administration, and technical assistance. Hume said it would be good to get a report on the impact and effectiveness of the project, and he will talk to SPI directly. A straw poll indicated interest in funding this.

Student Stipends

A discussion ensued about student stipends generally, given that there are three proposals on the agenda for our funding student stipends at non-USENIX events. It was felt that as

long as the conferences are appropriate, the Board need only allocate funding levels and established an overall budget. It was also suggested that the Scholastic Committee decide which events to sponsor. It was agreed that guidelines are needed and it was suggested that Rose and the Good Works committee work on this and supply the staff with a policy for stipends for non-USENIX events.

Computers, Freedom & Privacy Conference Student Stipends

The proposal for USENIX provides \$20,000 for student stipends at this conference was viewed favorably in a straw poll.

Grace Hopper Conference Sponsorship

The proposal for Gold Sponsorship of the Grace Hopper Women in Computing Conference in the amount of \$25,000 was viewed favorably in a straw poll. In the past, USENIX had stipulated that these funds are used for support of students to attend the conference and we should continue this in 2000.

Fast Software Encryption Workshop Stipends

A request for sponsorship was made for the Fast Software Encryption 2000 Workshop to be held in New York, in the amount of \$10,000. A straw poll indicated that everyone was in favor, and that these funds must be used for stipends.

Break from 11:20-11:30 am.

Support of the Bernstein Case

A proposal from the Electronic Frontier Foundation requesting \$100,000 for support of legal work to pursue a Federal case since 1993 to protect the Constitutional right to publish encryption software was discussed. A straw poll indicated all were in favor of providing \$100,000 in funding in 2000.

International Software Consortium (ISC) BINDv9

ISC submitted a revised, expanded proposal for funding to complete the BINDv9 project in the amount of \$100,000. The proposal included provisions for funding stages to be paid upon completion of performance milestones. The SAGE Executive Committee expressed their support for this proposal. A straw poll indicated that most were in favor. It was also suggested that the funds to support the project would be withdrawn from the USENIX Reserve Fund.

Sponsorship of the African Network Infrastructure Meeting

A proposal was submitted by the Network Startup Resource Network for \$20,000 for sponsorship of the African Network Infrastructure Meeting in Cape Town in May 2000. This meeting will promote international networking and train network engineers. The funds would be used exclusively to support travel, room and board for engineers coming from poorer African countries. A straw poll indicated support for funding this.

Honeyman moved to accept the above proposals in the amounts recommended, and was seconded by Rose. Passed: 7 in favor; 1 absent (Geer).

Executive Director's Report

Young summarized her report and the items on the USENIX 25th anniversary, and proceedings were discussed. It was suggested that USENIX produce a "Best of USENIX" compendium as a 25th anniversary benefit, but it was agreed that this would not be ready by the time of the Annual Technical Conference. Young said that Chris Small offered to work on this project. Hume, Parseghian, and Zwicky volunteered to help Chris Small and Young put together a proposal to do this. A budget and proposal would be developed for the Board's consideration.

There was discussion and agreement that 12 months after an event, the proceedings will be available on the Web to everyone. It was suggested that occasional postings on the web would alert people about which proceedings are now available. There was also a discussion about putting ;login: on the web as well. Hall suggested that the ALS proceedings be posted immediately on the web after the 2000 event.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

SAGE Report

Dijker reported on the following activities. The following changes on the executive committee had happened in the past month: Miller resigned as President, but will remain Member; Hickstein and Gassaway resigned as Members; Parter was selected to fill one vacancy; Dijker was voted President; Gittler was voted Vice President; Parter was selected as Secretary. She also reported that SAGE purchased the domain name sage.org for \$17,500 in early September, and we are working on its implementation. The SAGE Outstanding Achievement award was given to Wietse Venema for his work in security sysadmin tools. The SAGE Executive Committee also recommended that the USENIX Board approve funding of the ISC BINDv9 proposal. The staff and members of SAGE and USENIX boards would be looking into different budget and organizational models in the coming year.

Conference Registration

Young described several ideas that have been suggested to increase benefits to conference attendees, and included the estimated cost of each: T-shirts at all events (\$28,000); net access at all events (currently only offered to the 3 largest events) (\$25,000). Currently neither of these items has been included in the 2000 budget. A worksheet was also distributed that showed the impact of raising fees at \$10, \$20, and \$50, and keeping fees the same for students. Hume recommended raising fees by \$10 per day, except for students, at all events, to cover the costs of providing t-shirts and connectivity at all events. For example, fees for a 3-day event would increase \$30; \$20 for a 2-day event; and \$10 for a 1-day event. DesHarnais will investigate more precise costs of connectivity at all events.

Rose moved, and was seconded by Parseghian to increase registration fees for tutorials and technical sessions by \$10 per day per event but not for students, with the objective of reducing the budget deficit, and adding connectivity and giveaways at each event. Passed: All in favor.

NLnet

Honeyman reported on the NLnet IRDP, student international exchange program. It is targeted to begin January. He thought there might be six proposals being prepared for review for the first round of funding. Honeyman said that there is a need for some publicity about this project on the Web and possibly a flyer to disseminate at events.

NLUUG

Honeyman reported that NLUUG would like to be an affiliate member, and they have appointed a liaison, Bart MUYZER, to USENIX. They also expressed interest in including Dutch content in a web version of *login*. Young would follow-up.

Tutorial Report

Klein gave a report on the tutorials by event for the year. He noted that there has been a request for more soft-subject tutorials. It was suggested that USENIX find sponsors for receptions, hospitality suites, and BoFs. Klein will inquire about licensing rights to the works of Richard Stevens. Klein summarized the tutorial salary survey that he conducted, and his proposals for increasing instructor performance incentives. It was agreed that Klein could have more discretion to offer additional travel and expenses than what is currently in the guidelines, especially to allow travel and expenses for all instructors for multiple-instructor tutorials. We should encourage tutorial instructors to stay for the entire conference.

Klein presented a rough proposal that evaluated the financial impact of changing the performance incentives, comparing the current configuration of incentives to the proposed one that includes \$10 per head over 100 attendees. Klein would refine the proposal with concrete figures and submit to the Board for email vote.

Computing Research Association

Johnson gave an update on CRA activities. USENIX has been requested by CRA to submit an abstract for a session at their upcoming Snowbird conference this summer. A straw poll indicated support for submitting two abstracts: one on system administration, and another on open source. Dijker offered to draft the abstract on system administration, and Geer volunteered to draft the abstract for open source.

Break from 3:30 to 3:40 pm.

Update on Conferences

Young went over her written report. Ortiz suggested that the Program Chairs need to provide input to marketing staff with regard to content and target audience.

DSL. Hume reported that if we sponsored another one, it would need to be held in conjunction with another event – like PLDI sometime in '01. It was also felt that the title was hard to market. Young would work with the steering committee.

USITS. This event is recommended for 2001, but needs a Program Chair and a slot in the 2001 calendar. The workshop held in Boulder the previous month was well received by the academic and research communities. Young would be working on pulling this together in the coming months.

ALS. Young and Hall reported that they had a productive meeting the previous week with staff and ALS volunteers. For 2000, the program will be organized earlier, and the marketing materials distributed earlier. USENIX will be responsible for most of the pre-conference materials and logistics, as well as registration. ALS will be responsible for sponsorships, social events, logistics onsite and a variety of other activities. Hall suggested that we coordinate a European Linux event. Young also expressed her hopes that later this year we would have a proposal for a Linux STG.

LISA. The conference went well and had 1825 attendees. Young reported that they had a very good organizational meeting and the Call would be out in a month for LISA 2000 would be forthcoming.

Tcl/Tk. There was a discussion about the future of this event and concerns that it was not growing. Several ideas were put forward including co-sponsorship with another organization, or eliminating it all together. It was also suggested that we might co-locate it under an “scripting languages” umbrella conference. It was decided that no decisions would be made about the future of this event until after an assessment of the 2000 workshop took place.

Embedded Systems. Geer was inclined to revert the conference to an invitation-only event, and that he needing an active person to co-chair. It was decided to postpone the current workshop by 3-5 months.

San Diego 2000. Planning for this event is progressing well. The staff would be developing some ideas for a 25th anniversary celebration and send ideas to the Board for review.

NT Events. Planning for these events is progressing well.

Security 2000. A keynote speaker has been identified.

File Systems. Young mentioned the possibility of co-sponsorship of this event, with partial subsidies by IBM. Discussions about this will be deferred until Young provides a more detailed proposal.

NordU. Parseghian reported that plans for this event are going well, though they are projecting a budget deficit.

NETA/NANOG. Dijker suggested that this event be cosponsored by an organization other than NANOG, such as ISPF, given NANOG's lack of interest in cosponsoring the event. She also asked for guidance from the USENIX Board about how to expand SAGE-sponsored events, specifically for network administrators. It was suggested that she look into having it held consecutive to NANOG.

Computers, Freedom and Privacy Workshop. CFP has requested that USENIX contribute technical and tutorial expertise to their event, or consider fully sponsoring/organization the event. Hall and Parseghian expressed concern about the lack of fit between the USENIX mission and that of the CFP event. **Parseghian moved, and was seconded by Honeyman, to not sponsor the CFP event. In favor: 7; opposed: 1 (Rose); the motion passed.**

Java Virtual Machine Workshop. There was interest among the Board in supporting this workshop/small conference, or have it co-located with another USENIX event. Parseghian and Young will work together on a proposal for this event, and present it to the Board.

Meeting ended for the day at 5:45 pm.

The meeting resumed on November 15, 1999 at 9:40 am, following an Executive Session.

Attendance:

Dan Geer

Peter Honeyman

Andrew Hume
Pat Parseghian
Hal Pomeranz
Greg Rose
Elizabeth Zwicky

Gale Berkowitz
Ellen Brodbine
Barb Dijker
Steve Johnson
Dan Klein
Jane-Ellen Long
Monica Ortiz
Ellie Young

Mission Statement

Johnson led a discussion about the USENIX mission statement. The following are some draft mission statements:

USENIX is an organization of early adopters/innovators in the field of software and computing systems. We encourage the dissemination and practical applications of new ideas and techniques throughout the computing professions and society as a whole.

A neutral international organization to foster and disseminate/exchange practical innovations in computing systems and tools.

An international community to foster and share techniques and practical innovations in computing system and tools in a neutral forum.

USENIX is the neutral/open international forum of innovators/early adopters,[educators,] and implementers who encourage the development and adoption of advanced computing systems, tools, and techniques.

After a lot more discussions it was suggested that the staff rework the various versions and we would do another round.

Break from 10:50 to 11:00 am.

Goals for Marketing/Branding

A straw poll indicated interest in conducting an expanded image marketing program. Ortiz gave an update on current marketing activities. Brodbine made a presentation about plans for the image marketing of USENIX. She asked for help with setting objectives for USENIX, and providing content for marketing materials and public relations

opportunities. It was agreed that for the next meeting, the staff will refine the mission statement and prepare a plan for marketing, including a budget. By the June Board meeting, the marketing plan will be reviewed and voted upon.

Voting on First Draft Budget

Honeyman moved that any surplus in the 1999 budget be allocated to Good Works, and was seconded by Pomeranz. Geer was noted as not being in favor of doing this, as in previous years, any surplus was added to the Reserve Fund. In favor: 6; opposed: 1 (Geer); absent: Hall; and the motion passed.

Geer moved to accept the 2000 draft budget as amended, and was seconded by Honeyman. In favor: 7; opposed: 0; absent: Hall; the first draft budget was approved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the USENIX Board of Directors will be held on February 17, from 12-5, and Feb 18, from 9-noon in Austin, TX, in conjunction with the Tcl/Tk workshop.

Honeyman moved to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Geer, and 7 voted in favor (Hall absent). The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.