

USENIX NOTES

Meet the Board: Kurt Andersen

Liz Markel, Community Engagement Manager



Kurt Andersen is one of two new board members elected in 2018 and was one of the first members of the USENIX community I met after joining the staff. He shared some details about his current professional activities, how he became involved with USENIX, as well as some interesting personal facts. Here are a few highlights:

Liz Markel: Tell me about your professional role and what kinds of problems you're working on solving now in that role.

Kurt Andersen: I'm currently a Senior Staff Site Reliability Engineer at LinkedIn working in the Product-SRE arm of our SRE organization (one arm of four—the others are data, infrastructure, and security). Currently, my primary focus is on enhancing the continuing education environment across the entire SRE and Security organizations. I've also led the implementation of our annual organization-wide internal conference for the last three years, and I work widely in reviewing projects and initiatives for reliability and scaling concerns.

I also work with the Messaging, Malware, Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (m3aawg.org) on their board and as a program co-chair, and I am active with the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) in the development and refinement of various standards related to messaging, security, and privacy.

LM: How were you first introduced to USENIX?

KA: I had occasionally encountered USENIX earlier in my career mainly through its role in publishing interesting papers in areas that related to professional concerns in the moment. With my interest and concern around security and privacy, I think the first time I attended a USENIX-associated event was SOUPS (Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security), which is now co-located with the USENIX Security

Symposium. I missed the first SREcon (2014—Santa Clara) but have been an avid participant ever since.

LM: Why did you decide to pursue a seat on the board?

KA: I think that there is a huge potential opportunity for USENIX to strengthen the academic/industry connections between our participating communities to the advancement of both. On the academic side, there is the potential for more relevant, interesting problems by interacting with professional practitioners. There is also the obvious benefit to students in having both experience and connections with industry.

For the professionals, we can benefit by the unique time and resources which academic researchers can bring to bear on problems, and we can also contribute toward the successful "heritage" by having students who are better prepared to move from the academy to industry.

USENIX has had a long tradition of inclusiveness and diversity, and I'm delighted to contribute to helping overcome the systemic issues that have limited the diversity in the computing field.

LM: Why should someone consider becoming involved in USENIX?

KA: I think that it goes very much to one of LinkedIn's core values and one in which I have found increasing truth and depth over time: relationships matter. As a participant in any role, you will have opportunities to interact with people who have both common concerns and divergent approaches to address those concerns. The more you can learn, the better you will be as a practitioner.

LM: Do you have one unique fact about yourself you can share with us?

KA: I've been an amateur radio (ham) operator since 5th grade.

LM: What's your favorite board game?

KA: Any one that I can win; so my family sticks to games for fun only.

LM: Tell me a bit about the region of the country you live in.



Kurt Andersen co-chaired the SREcon18 Americas conference with Betsy Beyer (Google).

KA: We live in a rural part of Northern Idaho, within 100 miles of the Canadian border. Being on the western slope of the Rockies, we avoid the arctic blast of Canadian air that runs down into the Midwest, but we have a wonderful four-seasons climate and a Fall color show in the trees that is the equal of anything I've seen in the Northeast. The nearest towns of Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint are wonderful tourist destinations, with tons of outdoor recreation activities from golf to hunting and fishing or skiing, hiking, and mountain biking; but too many people are moving here, and the infrastructure is experiencing significant congestion problems.

LM: Anything else you'd like to share?

KA: I'd say that I am an amateur (in the original Latin sense—one who loves) design aficionado, ranging from Donald Norman's *The Design of Everyday Things* to Edward Tufte's *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*. Finding ways to communicate effectively and simply in spite of complexity is the pervasive theme. I also appreciate good wine, whisk[e]y, and espresso.

There's more to read! Visit the USENIX Blog at www.usenix.org/blog for Kurt's full-length interview.

USENIX Member Benefits

For information regarding membership or benefits, please see www.usenix.org/membership/, or contact us via email at membership@usenix.org, or telephone +1 510.528.8649.

USENIX ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2017

The following information is provided as the annual report of the USENIX Association's finances. The accompanying statements have been prepared by BHLF LLP, CPAs, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The 2017 financial statements were also audited by BHLF LLP. Accompanying the statements are charts that illustrate the breakdown of the following: operating expenses, program expenses, and general and administrative expenses. The Association's operating expenses consist of its program, management and general, and fundraising expenses, as illustrated in Chart 1.

These operating expenses include the general and administrative expenses allocated across all of the Association's activities. Chart 2 shows USENIX's program expenses, a subset of its operating expenses. The individual portions shown represent expenses for conferences and workshops; membership (including ;login: magazine); and project, program, and good works. Chart 3 shows the details of what makes up USENIX's general, administrative, and management expenses. The Association's complete financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, are available on request.

Casey Henderson, Executive Director

USENIX ASSOCIATION			
Statements of Financial Position			
December 31, 2017 and 2016			
	2017	2016	
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and equivalents	\$ 641,026	\$ 742,910	
Accounts receivable	118,733	94,535	
Prepaid expenses	219,894	215,002	
Investments	<u>6,365,034</u>	<u>5,803,274</u>	
Total current assets	7,344,687	6,855,721	
Property and equipment, net	<u>85,137</u>	<u>137,795</u>	
Total assets	<u>\$ 7,429,824</u>	<u>\$ 6,993,516</u>	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 49,859	\$ 744,335	
Accrued compensation	72,363	59,811	
Deferred revenue	<u>739,440</u>	<u>443,275</u>	
Total current liabilities	<u>861,662</u>	<u>1,247,421</u>	
Deferred revenue, net of current portion	<u>187,500</u>	<u>337,500</u>	
Total liabilities	<u>1,049,162</u>	<u>1,584,921</u>	
Net assets			
Unrestricted net assets	<u>6,380,662</u>	<u>5,408,595</u>	
Total net assets	<u>6,380,662</u>	<u>5,408,595</u>	
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 7,429,824</u>	<u>\$ 6,993,516</u>	

USENIX ASSOCIATION			
Statements of Activities			
Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016			
	2017	2016	
REVENUES			
Conference and workshop revenue	\$ 5,064,417	\$ 4,857,484	
Membership dues	228,793	257,295	
General sponsorship	129,000	60,000	
Product sales	5,146	7,067	
Event services and projects	4,000	4,750	
LISA SIG dues and other	<u>-</u>	<u>7,946</u>	
Total revenues	<u>5,431,356</u>	<u>5,194,542</u>	
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Conferences and workshops	4,554,459	4,537,398	
Projects, programs and membership	<u>307,626</u>	<u>377,969</u>	
Total program services	4,862,085	4,915,367	
Management and general	445,114	621,006	
Fundraising	<u>50,849</u>	<u>84,715</u>	
Total expenses	<u>5,358,048</u>	<u>5,621,088</u>	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	<u>73,308</u>	<u>(426,546)</u>	
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)			
Donations	24,470	23,660	
Investment income	925,730	432,343	
Investment fees	(51,441)	(45,897)	
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>	
Total other income (expenses)	<u>898,759</u>	<u>410,256</u>	
Change in net assets	972,067	(16,290)	
NET ASSETS - unrestricted			
Beginning of year	<u>5,408,595</u>	<u>5,424,885</u>	
End of year	<u>\$ 6,380,662</u>	<u>\$ 5,408,595</u>	

USENIX ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2017

Chart 1: USENIX 2017 Operating Expenses

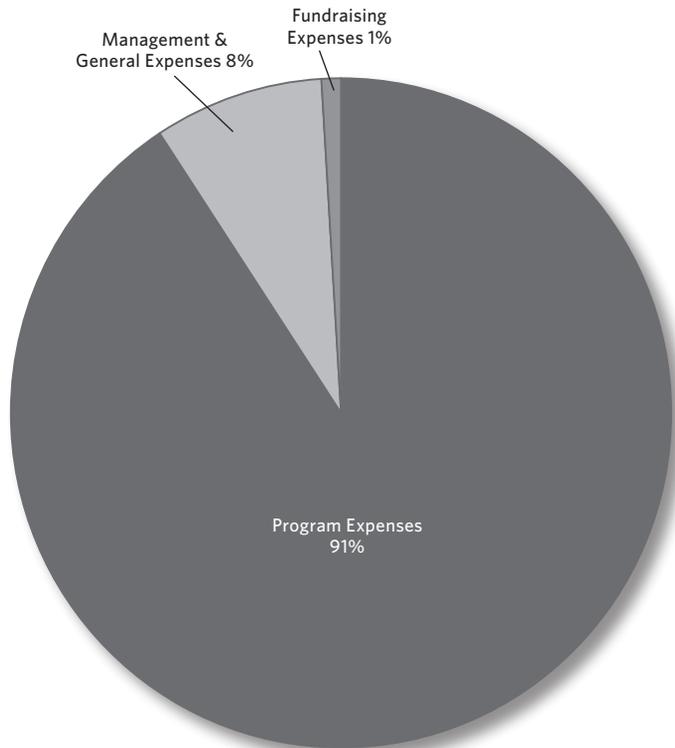


Chart 2: USENIX 2017 Program Expenses

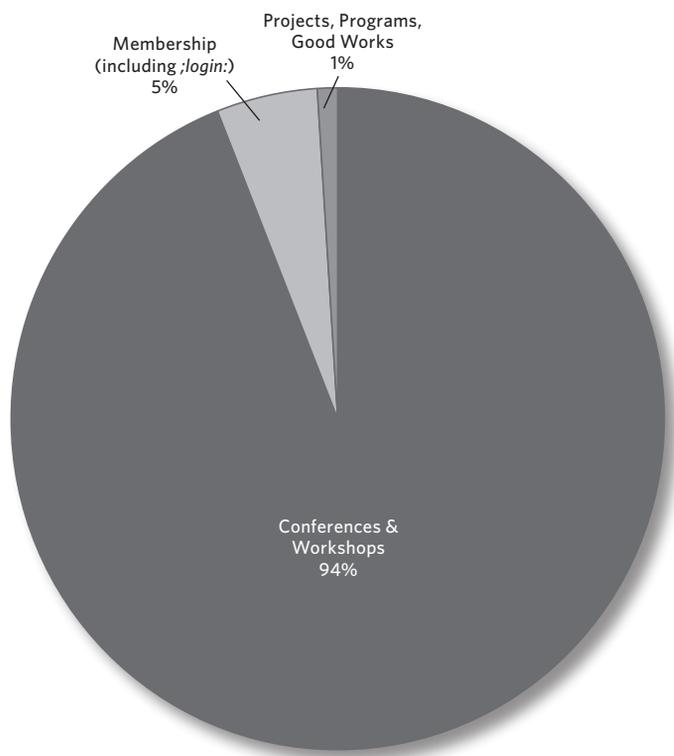


Chart 3: USENIX 2017 General & Administrative Expenses

