USENIX notes

USENIX MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of the USENIX Association receive the following benefits:

FREE SUBSCRIPTION to *;login:*, the Association's magazine, published six times a year, featuring technical articles, system administration articles, tips and techniques, practical columns on such topics as security, Perl, networks, and operating systems, book reviews, and summaries of sessions at USENIX conferences.

ACCESS TO ;LOGIN: online from October 1997 to this month: www.usenix.org/publications/login/.

DISCOUNTS on registration fees for all USENIX conferences.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS on a variety of products, books, software, and periodicals: www.usenix.org/membership/specialdisc.html.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE on matters affecting the Association, its bylaws, and election of its directors and officers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding membership or benefits, please see www.usenix.org/membership/ or contact office@usenix.org. Phone: 510-528-8649

USENIX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Communicate directly with the USENIX Board of Directors by writing to board@usenix.org.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2010 USENIX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The biennial elections of the USENIX Board of Directors will be held in early 2010. The USENIX Board has appointed Rémy Evard to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee. The composition of this committee and instructions on how to nominate individuals will be sent to USENIX members electronically and published on the USENIX Web site this fall.

SUMMARY OF USENIX BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIONS

Ellie Young, Executive Director

Below are some of the actions taken by the USENIX Association Board of Directors in the past year.

Awards

The Best Paper Award at OSDI was renamed in memory of Jay Lepreau.

USENIX is now seeking nominations for its 2009 SAGE Outstanding Achievement Award: please send suggestions to sageawards@usenix.org. We also seek input on the FLAME and STUG awards for 2010: send your suggestions to awards@usenix.org.

Finances

A deficit of $322K was incurred in the USENIX operating budget for 2008, the result of lower revenue from training and conferences in the latter half of the year. The budget for 2009 projects a deficit of $500K overall, in anticipation of reduced revenue from membership and conferences and lower gains on investments.

Member dues were raised by $5 in all categories except corporate membership. Registration fees for conferences and workshops were raised by $10–$15, to partially cover increased direct expenses.

The Board expressed the need to closely monitor the downturn in enrollment in training at USENIX events and to develop new ideas/services/conferences that will increase revenue and expand our outreach.

For cost savings, the following actions were taken: (1) standards activities were suspended in early 2009; (2) some recently hired USENIX staff were laid off in early 2009; (3) remuneration for tutorial instructors was reduced slightly. The USENIX Board expressed their thanks to the remaining staff for working "smart and hard."

Student Grants Program

Program chairs are being encouraged to seek funding from the NSF for support of students to attend conferences and are being asked to help the staff find additional corporate sponsors.

In response to the huge increase in the number of students applying for grants and the reduction in corporate sponsorship this year, USENIX allocated $40K to fund students to attend the 2009 USENIX Security Symposium.

USACO
In line with USENIX's desire to continue support of K–12 computer science–related activities, USENIX continued its support for the USA Computing Olympiad.

Revamp of the USENIX Office Systems
The USENIX Board allocated substantial funds for 2009 and 2010 to revamp the USENIX Web site—including a CMS system and a new design for logos as well as for the site itself—a new event registration system, and a new membership database.

Going Green
It was decided that USENIX would move toward eliminating print for proceedings publication. Conference proceedings continue to be published: that is, they are assigned ISBNs; they are typeset with page numbers and running feet; and the title page, table of contents, and other frontmatter are created and made accessible online. The files are available online by session for attendees before the event (with the exception of any papers that have to be kept private until the event). Once the technical sessions have begun, the complete proceedings are available to everyone, both as a tarball and as individual session files.

Currently, USENIX provides the files on reusable flash drives as an option for attendees. Tutorial materials at LISA '09 will also be available on flash drives. We are looking into providing materials in Kindle format as well.

Conferences
To address a number of questions and issues that have arisen recently, USENIX has developed new guidelines and clarification of the responsibilities of all event organizers: program chairs, steering committees, USENIX Board liaisons, and USENIX staff. The Board approved a clarification of the statement concerning the confidentiality of paper submissions.

In an attempt to identify and acknowledge outstanding papers from USENIX events, program chairs will be encouraged to approach suitable journal editors about inviting select paper authors to submit an expanded version to their journal.

Adam Moskowitz was appointed to serve as program chair for LISA '09. A steering committee was formed to make recommendations about format, direction, and guidance for the future.

OSDI '08 had the highest attendance ever, and the number of co-located workshops doubled. Remzi Arpaci-Dusseau and Brad Chen were appointed to serve as program co-chairs in 2010.

NSDI '09 also had its highest attendance, at 254. Miguel Castro and Alex Snoeren were appointed as program co-chairs for 2010.

FAST '09 had a slight dip in attendance, explicable mainly by reduced corporate travel budgets. Participation in training, the TaPP workshop, and the OpenSolaris Summit was excellent. Kim Keeton and Randal Burns were appointed program co-chairs for 2010.

A proposal for a workshop on Sustainable Information Technology to be co-located with FAST in 2010 was accepted. Erez Zadok and Ethan Miller will serve as co-chairs.

The first Hot Topics in Parallelism workshop was held in March, drawing 92 attendees. David Patterson and Geoff Lowney were appointed as co-chairs for a second workshop in 2010, to be held on the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

After a successful HotOS XII in May, chaired by Armando Fox, Matt Welsh was invited to serve as program chair for the 2011 workshop.

The USENIX Annual Technical Conference will be reconfigured and rebranded in 2010. Co-located events such as the USENIX Annual Tech Refereed Papers, the new USENIX Conference on Web Application Development,

HotCloud '10, and a workshop on online social networking are but a few of the exciting programs USENIX will be offering during this third week in June in Boston. The traditional tutorial program will be eliminated. USENIX is soliciting additional topics of interest to developers and programmers. Please contact ellie@usenix.org if you have additional ideas for that week.

The 18th USENIX Security Symposium and co-located workshops, held in Montreal in August, had excellent attendance and were very well received. Ian Goldberg was appointed program chair for USENIX Security in 2010 and David Wagner will chair in 2011. Program co-chairs for EVT/WOTE '10 were approved as well.

SAGE
Three Short Topics booklets were published in 2008. We expect to publish two in 2009: a booklet on monitoring environment, networks, and systems, and a heavily revised Jobs Descriptions booklet, which will contain, for the first time, a Management series of job descriptions. Several Short Topics booklets are now available on Safari Books Online.

In April 2009, the USENIX Board approved the settlement proposal regarding the lawsuits between AH, Inc., LOPSA, and USENIX.

Policy
In response to a general recommendation from the auditors, the Board of Directors approved an official policy on gifts from vendors.

USENIX adopted a policy concerning retention of electronic communications.

Member Benefits
All videos from USENIX events are now immediately available to all USENIX members, as well as to attendees of the event.

Next Meeting
The next in-person USENIX Board of Directors meeting will be held November 2, 2009, in Baltimore, MD, during LISA '09.