

USENIX Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 12, 2020, 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. PDT/1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. EDT

via Zoom video conference

Minutes

Attendance

Board:

Cat Allman
Kurt Andersen
Michael Bailey
Angela Demke Brown
Amy Rich
Carolyn Rowland
Hakim Weatherspoon

Staff:

Natalie DeJarlais
Casey Henderson
Ginny Staubach

Guests:

Arvind Krishnamurthy
Brian Noble
Laura Nolan

Not Present:

Kurt Opsahl

Rowland called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. PDT

Agenda

Henderson introduced the guests and suggested one change to the agenda (to remove the Executive Session).

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- a. May 2020 Meeting
- b. May 2020 Out-of-Band Motion

Rich moved to approve the minutes. Allman seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.
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2. Risk/Exposure Report

Henderson introduced the Risk/Exposure Report in preparation for the Future Planning discussion. Discussion ensued regarding the costs of maintaining archival material, liability exposure calculations, and report preparation.

3. Future Planning Discussion

- a. Industry Conferences
- b. Systems Research Conferences
- c. Black Lives Matter

a. Industry Conferences

There are two upcoming international SREcons. Henderson is negotiating with the venues. A decision on whether to reschedule or cancel is needed. Henderson recommended proceeding with rescheduling both events.

Andersen moved to cancel in-person SREcon20 APAC and reschedule for June 2021. Rich seconded. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Andersen moved to cancel in-person SREcon20 EMEA and reschedule for October 2021. Rich seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Andersen, Nolan, and Henderson will discuss with Program Co-Chairs how to proceed with these events. Virtualizing them may be explored depending upon Steering Committee and Co-Chair input. Discussion ensued.

b. Systems Research Conferences

Henderson gave an update on preparations for HotEdge '20 which will be held virtually using a third-party platform. Staff are working with a third-party vendor to produce the event. This will provide learning opportunities and experience to carry forward into upcoming events.

USENIX is developing platforms for ATC and Security using Zoom, pre-recorded presentations by authors, and Slack as the discussion medium. Discussion ensued regarding potential issues with use and misuse of virtual platforms. Henderson noted that the USENIX Code of Conduct is being updated to cover virtual situations.

Henderson reviewed the registration scheme for the events. Discussion ensued.

*Break: 11:10-11:15 a.m. PDT/2:00-2:05 p.m. EDT
Reconvened at 11:18*

Andersen suggested that managing conference deferrals or updates in a more comprehensive

manner rather than on a case-by-case basis could be helpful. Henderson outlined the benefits and risks of each approach. Discussion ensued. There was general agreement that for now, given the many uncertainties that could potentially affect future events, a case-by-case approach is best.

c. Black Lives Matter


Rich reported that Clem Cole (President Emeritus 2008-2012) had emailed suggesting USENIX issue a statement about Black Lives Matter. Rich suggested that the Board form a committee to consider the issues and prepare a statement. Rowland noted that committee members would work on this over the weekend. Noble advocated for being absolutely honest about USENIX's actions to date in this regard. Bailey noted that any statement needs to take USENIX's mission and communities into account. Weatherspoon proposed USENIX directly address the concrete issue of the low percentage of minorities in the computer science field. Discussion ensued.

Andersen moved to create a committee to generate a [Black Lives Matter] statement and plan actions going forward. Rich seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Rich, Rowland, Nolan, Weatherspoon, and Henderson (representing USENIX staff) volunteered for the committee. It was mutually agreed that Rich would chair this committee.

Andersen moved to adjourn. Allman seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m. PDT.

Handwritten signatures of Rich and Bailey.