USENIX Association

Board of Directors Meeting

August 14, 2015

Minutes, 08/14/15

Attendance:

Board:
Brian Noble
David Blank-Edelman
Hakim Weatherspoon
Kurt Opsahl
Carolyn Rowland
John Arrasjid

Staff:
Casey Henderson
Camille Mulligan
Kim Coles
Natalie DeJarlais - by phone
Toni Veglia - by phone
Jessica Kim - by phone
Julie Miller - by phone

Guests:
Glenn Samson - by phone

USENIX Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Wednesday, August 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Agenda forwarded to the BOD in advance.

Meeting begins 9:02 a.m. ET

Meeting begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings (10 minutes) (Noble)
a. May
b. June

c. July

Motion to accept all past minutes, motion carried.

2. Changes to Regular and Consent Agenda (5 minutes) (Noble)

David Blank-Edelman must step out from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET for another meeting.

Suggest changes to the agenda so Blank-Edelman can be around for the LISA SIG value discussion.

3. 2015 Year-to-Date Budget (45 minutes) (Henderson and Veglia)

Discussion of budget snapshot which provides a guide for allocations for events that will continue through the year.

Henderson provided clarification to the BOD for some questions on specific line tems.

This is a non-OSDI year.

The BOD approved a deficit of $200K (cashflow). We're halfway through the year and are ahead but are still $180K in the red.

We won't know LISA numbers until the end of the year since the event is so late in the year.

Discussed possible format and price structures for SreCON Europe.

Discussion about membership which has been declining over time but are actually better than a year ago (as far as the rate of decline).

Costs for a conference are based on the number of attendees. Highest costs are tied to the hotel. Considering a scale of how much to refund after the cancellation deadline based on when a refund request is received. During the event we are paying for the attendee, so prorated refunds are being considered.

We are not considering incorporating any NSF events into the next year due to lack of staff time. Some scheduling conflicts with other non-USENIX events impacted HotOS attendance. It was also in Europe which probably impacted attendance.

Mulligan walks the BOD through the fundraising budget page.

4. Conferences, Part 1 (30 minutes) (Henderson)

Discussion of whether or not to continue ATC in 2017. Henderson will be looking at East and West Coast venues. The HotCloud/HotStorage experiment to make the event more workshop-like has some exciting possibilities. HotCloud '16 was a good introduction to a conference for students in a non-intimidating environment.

Motion to support ATC in 2017, seconded, all in favor.

All of Security isn't showing up in the budget snapshot; the conference is in progress. Attendance is 630 people which is the highest attendance since 2001.

Two full tracks of refereed papers plus a track of invited talks. DC location is also good for Security. Next year we are at the Hyatt Regency in Austin. The Facebook Internet Defense Prize will be back next year.

Discussed some strategy around paper acceptance for Security to keep the quality high.

<div align="center">
Break from 10:31 - 10:45 a.m. ET
Meeting resumes 10:49 a.m. ET
Hilary Hartman leaves the meeting
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5. Sponsorship/Sales Report (15 minutes) (Mulligan)

Mulligan re-opens the discussion on sponsorship and fundraising.

6. Reserve Fund Performance and Projections (15 minutes) (Samson)

Samson provides a summary of current market activity that could impact the USENIX reserve fund.

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Samson leaves the meeting 11:17 a.m. ET
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7. Conferences, Part 2 (45 minutes) (Henderson)

Henderson returns to the hotel discussion and briefs the BOD on recent relationships with hotel properties.

Follow-up discussion on guidelines for program chairs submitting papers to their events as previously discussed with the BOD. USENIX will provide a set of recommendations that program chairs follow. If they do not follow it, then they need to be clear what they are doing in the CFP. As long as there is a clear understanding of the change from the beginning.

After a 2-year delay, the authors of the Megamos Crypto vehicle immobilizer paper was presented at Security.

Discussion of including a disclosure statement in security papers along with the ethics statement.

Published the revised Code of Conduct at Security and there have been no reported incidents and no apparent discussion of the change. The Code of Conduct is available on the USENIX web site but is made more prominent depending on the event and the importance of having a Code of Conduct for that community.

Workshops

WOOT had high attendance, growing from one to two days successfully. Attendees are excited to hear about Enigma and how it will be complementary to WOOT. Explained the different time of year, format, scale of Enigma.

Discussion of CSET workshop and how it releates to 3GSE workshop, plus interest in expanding the focus of 3GSE, which would be even more complementary to CSET. General support from the BOD to pursue this.

Although registration has not been very strong, the FOCI community and the SC are very engaged. Henderson discussed the risk of dissolution if there is major lack of focus/organization on the SC.

Discussed replacing HealthTech with an event with a similar but expanded scope and the BOD was supportive of pursuing this.

Discussion of the JETS workshop, which is the final one that USENIX will support.

Lunch: 12:00-1:00 p.m., Bryce

Break from 12:01 - 1:00 p.m. ET
Meeting resumes 1:01 p.m. ET
David Blank-Edelman leaves the meeting at 1:00 p.m. ET
Joining by phone in the afternoon: Julie Miller, Natalie DeJarlais, Toni Veglia, Jessica Kim.
Rik Farrow joins the meeting in person.

8. *;login:* Quarterly Issue Recommendation (30 minutes) (Farrow, Henderson, and Nelson)

Nelson, Farrow, Henderson make a recommendation to the BOD regarding shifting ;login: from a bimonthly to quarterly publication schedule. There will be a significant cost savings.

USENIX hasn't raised membership dues in many years. The magazine has a significant impact on many staff members and the schedule is challenging to maintain because of how often it aligns with major work on events.

Motion to approve going forward with quarterly production schedule for ;login:, seconded, all approved.

7. Conferences, Part 2 (45 minutes) (Henderson) (Continued from morning)

The LISA15 full website will launch early next week. Registration is open for people with early budget deadlines.

Colocated events are two Summits: URES and UCMS, which now focuses on container management rather than configuration management.

Discussion of differences between a summit and a workshop, and also how LISA workshops are different than other workshops that are co-located with our events. It's primarily internal naming convention that helps USENIX define the two different but similar kinds of events.

The Enigma program chairs are forming the program committee this month and the submission deadline is next month.

Weisong Shi approached Henderson about adding a sustainable data centers event. They are very interested in co-locating it with NSDI. Henderson requested and received a proposal from him. This event would occur on the Saturday after NSDI. Henderson is looking for BOD support to investigate this topic and event further. The BOD was supportive. NSDI '16 will be in March (earlier than usual) because of the co-location. It will have the same submission schedule.

We are already holding space at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara for SREcon but Henderson will continue to look at other venues. It is the only venue in the valley with both large, flexible meeting space and free parking. Discussion of expensive meeting space in the Bay Area. BOD is supportive of being public about this as a reason for moving some of our events out of the Bay Area.

USENIX is in the contract negotiation phase for Dublin, Ireland for SREcon Europe. The venue is a DoubleTree (Hilton) which is our first time with Hilton in a long time. The event will be the second week of July. This will be lightly staffed but on the standard USENIX model. The co-chairs for SREcon Europe are the same as last year: John Looney and Narayan Desai.

The ATC PC should be in place soon. There is a preliminary CFP out. SOUPS will join ATC in Denver next year. Meeting with HotCloud and HotStorage committees to look for program co-chairs for those events.

For 2016, the OSDI CFP will be out soon in time to have on hand to SOSP. Henderson will be attending for the first time. Program co-chairs are Mothy Roscoe and Kim Keeton.

10. LISA SIG Value Study Report (90 minutes) (Blank-Edelman, Miller, Obejas, and Rowland)

Rik Farrow leaves the meeting 1:58 p.m. ET

Recommendation to eliminate the LISA SIG as it stands. Discussion of the future of LISA SIG and how USENIX could partner further with other community events.

Mario Obejas leaves the meeting 2:20 p.m. ET
David Blank-Edelman rejoins the meeting 2:23 p.m. ET

Motion to eliminate LISA SIG, seconded, motion carried.

Discussion on how this transition might take place, which will be managed carefully by the staff at an appropriate time.

Action Items:
- **Henderson will discuss this action with Miller and then will inform the committee about what USENIX plans.**

9. USENIX Annual Awards (15 minutes) (Henderson and Noble)

Discussed the USENIX Lifetime Achievement Award (Flame), Software Tools User Group (STUG), and LISA Award.

Flame:
Flame is a lifetime achievement award so it doesn't have to be awarded every year. Discussion around the definition of the award and the process. The current nomination is for people who have contributed to the UNIX community which is very specialized. The nomination process requires 2-4 letters of recommendation which is in line with what other organizations require for nominations.

We should cease offering the STUG because the original funds supporting it has run out and there isn't a Software Tools User Group anymore.

Motion to approve the idea of modifying the language for the Flame award so it can continue as a meaningful, as-needed award for exceptional contributors. Seconded, all in favor.

Action items:

- **Change the language around the flame so it isn't an annual award. [Henderson]**
- **Retire the STUG. [Henderson]**

Break: 3:15-3:30 p.m.

Meeting resumed 3:36 p.m. ET

11. Development/Major Donor Update (30 minutes) (Mulligan)

Mulligan talks to the BOD about the major donor program.

Julie Miller, Natalie DeJarlais, Toni Veglia, Jessica Kim left the meeting, via phone.
4:02 p.m. ET

12. Next Meetings (5 minutes) (Noble)

The next meeting is December 16, 2015, in Berkeley, CA with the holiday that evening.

Spring in-person BOD meeting will be the week of April 11.
Summer in-person BOD meeting will be the week of June 20th.

Entering executive session 4:16 p.m. ET

13. Executive Session

Ended executive session 5:11 p.m. ET
Entered Development Committee Breakout 5:14 p.m. ET

14. Development Committee Breakout Session (30 minutes) (Mulligan)