

USENIX Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. PST (12:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. EST)
Via Zoom Video Conference
Minutes

Attendance

Board:

Cat Allman
Kurt Andersen
Michael Bailey - joined at 9:15 am PST
Angela Demke Brown
Kurt Opsahl
Amy Rich
Carolyn Rowland
Hakim Weatherspoon

Guest:

Brian Noble - joined at 9:09 am PST

Staff:

Natalie DeJarlais
Arnold Gatilao
Casey Henderson
Sara Hernandez
Jessica Kim
Liz Markel
Mo Moreno
Camille Mulligan
Jasmine Murcia
Michele Nelson
Ginny Staubach
Toni Veglia
Olivia Verneti
Rich Williams

Rowland called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. PST (12:07 p.m. EST)

Brian Noble joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m. PST

1. OSDI and ATC

Henderson presented a proposal for changes to OSDI and ATC. OSDI would become an annual event and be co-located with ATC in the summer, beginning in 2021. Brian Noble, OSDI

Steering Committee member and former USENIX Board President, gave the background, logistics, and financial reasoning behind the proposal. Extensive discussion ensued.

Weatherspoon moved to make OSDI an annual conference. Demke Brown seconded. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- a. July
- b. August
- c. October

Andersen moved to accept the minutes of the previous three meetings. Demke Brown seconded. Seven voted in favor, one abstention, none opposed. Motion passed.

3. Membership Changes Update

Henderson reported that since July, when the Board approved membership tier changes, the website consulting team has almost finished implementation of these efforts. The new membership types and the one-page membership enrollment are ready to be launched soon. Additionally, the website has been given a fresher look.

4. Sponsorship/Sales Report

Mulligan and Moreno presented the Sponsorship/Sales Report to the Board. Mulligan, Moreno, and Henderson answered specific questions posed by Directors. Henderson concluded that it has been a good year and sponsors are supporting USENIX conferences.

Break: 10:48-10:55 PST (1:25-1:30 p.m. EST)

5. 2019 Budget with Estimated Year End

Henderson presented the 2019 Budget with Estimated Year End. The 2019 Budget aimed at breaking even but did better than that due to successful conferences and good reserve fund returns. Henderson and Veglia responded to specific questions posed by the Directors. The Board thanked the staff for their hard work and efforts and praised Henderson for a third consecutive year of operating at a surplus.

6. Future Conferences

Henderson updated the Board on the status of upcoming conferences.

HotEdge: This event was co-located with ATC in the past and did well as a workshop in terms of popularity. It would work better for the edge community if it were held in the spring. Thus, it will be co-located with OpML and located in the Bay Area this year. This aligns with the Steering Committee's current goals.

PEPR: This privacy engineering conference was introduced for the first time this year and was successful. Attendance was strong and sponsorship interest was high. PEPR will become a standalone event in 2020. PEPR was designed for a community that didn't have its own conference and it has done that successfully.

Enigma: Henderson gave a review of Enigma's financial underpinnings (a five-year founding sponsorship) and original goals. Enigma has evolved to achieve goals that are possibly richer, becoming a welcoming, diverse security conference that has 400–500 attendees annually. Does the Board wish to continue Enigma for 2021 and 2022? Mulligan reported on sponsor contacts and tentative agreements. Discussion ensued. The Board approved continuing to offer Enigma.

NSDI: Weatherspoon reported on status since the switch to two submission deadlines per year, in March and September. There has been significant growth in submissions, particularly for the spring deadline, with resulting consequences in reviewer workload, acceptance rate, and conference logistics. Henderson is working with the Steering Committee on solutions to these challenges going forward.

USENIX Security: Henderson reported that Security's move to four deadlines has been a challenging experiment, particularly in terms of reviewer workload. Bailey has agreed to serve as Program Co-Chair for 2021 and will participate in developing solutions to some of the issues occurring.

7. Next Meetings

Spring Board meeting: Friday, March 27, location TBA (somewhere near SREcon20 Americas West in Santa Clara). This will be the final in-person BOD meeting of the current term.

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

Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m. PST (3:00 p.m. EST)

Return at 1:00 p.m. PST for Executive Session

8. Executive Session

