

USENIX Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2020, 11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. PST
via Zoom video conference
Minutes

Attendance

Board:

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

Staff:

Natalie DeJarlais
Casey Henderson
Ginny Staubach

Guests:

Arvind Krishnamurthy
Brian Noble
Laura Nolan

Rowland called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. PDT

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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

Andersen moved to approve the minutes of the previous four meetings. Rich seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

2. Future Planning Discussion

Henderson introduced a Future Planning Document outlining potential plans for USENIX's future in the COVID-19 era, including some recommendations for immediate actions regarding

upcoming systems research conferences and industry conferences.

a. Systems Research Conferences

Henderson reported that the deadline for a decision about whether or not to hold USENIX ATC '20 and its co-located events in person has arrived. She recommended canceling the in-person events in light of travel restrictions, company restrictions, flight cancellations, and visa issues, which will affect attendance. Discussion ensued.

Allman moved to cancel in-person USENIX ATC '20 and its co-located events in Boston July 13-17, 2020. Rich seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Henderson presented background research staff have done re: virtualizing events. She asked that the Board consider an experimental virtualization plan managed by USENIX staff for systems research conferences, to be used first for USENIX ATC '20 and its co-located workshops, HotCloud '20 and HotStorage '20. Discussion ensued.

Andersen moved to support an experimental virtualization plan managed by the staff for systems research conferences, to be used first for USENIX ATC '20 and its co-located workshops, HotCloud '20 and HotStorage '20. Allman seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Henderson reminded the Board that HotEdge '20 was relocated to ATC to improve its chances of occurring in person. The program co-chairs would like to consider date options outside of the week of ATC as well as the use of a virtual conference platform of their recommendation, which has been used successfully for other events. Staff would collaborate with the organizers of the platform and maintain close communication with the program co-chairs to ensure a USENIX-quality experience. Discussion ensued.

Andersen moved to support the opportunity for one workshop, HotEdge '20, to run its own virtualization experiment, led by its program co-chairs. Weatherspoon seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Break: 12:55-1:05 p.m. PDT
Meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m. PDT

b. Industry Conferences

i. SREcon Virtual Mini-Events Proposal

Henderson reported that SREcon Steering Committee members Laura Nolan (USENIX Board Member at Large Elect) and Emil Stolarsky collaborated on a proposal with support and input

from the SREcon Steering Committee at large. Andersen and Nolan provided more background and described the vision for the proposed SREcon virtual mini-events. There are two pilot experiments planned for May and June. These experiments will be limited in attendance and are not being positioned as replacements for in-person conferences. Discussion ensued.

Andersen moved to support an experimental series of SREcon small virtual events. Opsahl seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

ii. OpML '20 In-Person Cancellation and Subsequent Virtualization

Henderson requested that the Board decide whether or not to hold in-person OpML '20, scheduled for July 30 in Santa Clara, California continues to have in-person gathering restrictions with no end in sight; Governor Newsom has stated that mass events will not occur until there is a vaccine and/or treatment available. Henderson would like to proceed with canceling the in-person event and working on virtualization. Discussion ensued.

Rich moved to cancel in person OpML '20. Andersen seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Rich moved to support the investigation of the virtualization of OpML '20. Andersen seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Henderson introduced the topic of the future of systems conferences and invited Brian Noble, USENIX Board President Emeritus, to offer his perspectives. Discussion ensued.

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

Adjourned to Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. PDT.

3. Executive Session: (60 minutes)

Handwritten signature of Michael Bates in cursive.