Association for Computing Machinery

Special Interest Group Data Communication

acm sigcomm

October 22, 2000

Dear Members of ACM SIGCOMM:

I have just returned from ACM SIGCOMM 2000. If you were unable to join us in Stockholm, I'm pleased to report that the conference was a tremendous success. Andre Danthine received the SIGCOMM Award. The presentations were usually very good and a number of interesting papers were presented. The social events at Stockholm City Hall and the Vasa Museum were wonderful and with the exception of one day of rain, Stockholm favored us with nice weather, eminently suited for walking around one of Europe's most beautiful cities. I'm very grateful to Christophe Diot and Jim Kurose for their work putting together the program, and to Per Gunningberg and his team who hosted us in Stockholm. (The 802.11 network was wonderful!). I'd also like to mention Brian Levine, who ran the most successful (and challenging) student travel grant program ever: we had over 100 applications for student travel grants this year!

One new feature of SIGCOMM this year was a poster session, held during an extended break on the second day. All indications are that participants found the poster session to be a fun addition to the conference and we plan to hold one at SIGCOMM 2001.

There's a lot of news that we reported at the SIGCOMM business meeting. The financial news is reported in Gary Delp's treasurer's report in this issue of *CCR* so I will skip finances and talk about our various technical activities.

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First, ACM SIGCOMM 2001. Preparations for ACM SIGCOMM 2001 in San Diego are already well underway. Rene Cruz and George Varghese of UC San Diego are the general chairs and with help from Geoff Volker, Ramesh Govindan and Joe Touch have already made many of the key arrangements. Roch Guerin and Derek McAuley are the program chairs and by now you should have received the call for papers and for tutorials. Note that one of the areas of strong interest is more papers on wireless networking.

Second, the SIGCOMM sponsored *Conferencia sobre Comunicación de Datos en América Latina y el Caribe* (Workshop on Data Communications in Latin America and the Caribbean). We have a program underway to expand SIGCOMM's membership beyond its current strongholds of Europe and North America. As part of this program, we are looking to establish one or more regular workshop series. The Conferencia is the first of these workshops and is focussed on data communications issues and research in Latin America. Julio Escobar is the conference program chair and he has recruited some of the finest researchers in Latin America to serve on the program committee. The initial response to the call for papers has been very encouraging and we are very hopeful that the workshop will be a success. If it goes well, we expect to make this workshop a regular part of the SIGCOMM calendar. Information on the workshop is on the SIGCOMM web site. (http://www.acm.org/sigcomm).

Third, Distinguished Lecturers. For many years, SIGCOMM actively supported the ACM Distinguished Lectureship program and funded notable researchers to give talks at a number of universities. More recently SIGCOMM's participation has languished, but we have decided to revive it this year, with an emphasis on sending speakers to parts of the world where SIGCOMM, to date, has been under-represented. This year we will be recruiting two lecturers, one for China and the Chinese speaking countries, and one for India. SIGCOMM will pay the majority of their travel expenses (with some help from local sites) for a lecture tour of a week or so. If you're interested in being one of this year's lecturers or in hosting a lecture, please drop me a note.

Fourth, the Digital Library. As you probably know, SIGCOMM has been working to put all of its publications into the ACM Digital Library, with free access to everyone (not just ACM members). As I write this note, we will soon have everything, back to the first issue of *CCR*, into the Digital Library. In addition, after receiving some complaints, we have worked with ACM to stop requiring logins for free access. You can now access the SIGCOMM Digital Library pages without annoying logins or pop-up screens. I encourage you to take a look at http://www.acm.org/dl.

Fifth, relations with SIGMOBILE. As many of you are no doubt aware, ACM MOBICOM and ACM SIGCOMM are now held only two weeks apart, and our conference paper deadlines

are very close. The upside of the closer dates is that MOBICOM, as a summer conference, is drawing far more attendees than it did when it was held during the academic year.   The downside is that authors with mobility papers are being forced to choose between submitting to SIGCOMM and submitting to MOBICOM. We have been negotiating on and off for over a year with SIGMOBILE about this issue and have not yet achieved resolution. SIGCOMM will continue to seek to resolve these issues in a way that supports MOBICOM (which SIGCOMM co-sponsors) and SIGMOBILE and ensures that SIGCOMM (both the SIG and the conference) retains a leading role in the evolution of wireless and mobile networking.

Sixth, Extending Terms. You should have gotten a postcard at the very end of August announcing that the SIGCOMM officers have extended their terms.   A brief explanation is in order. For about fifteen years, ACM has had a policy of encouraging SIG officers to extend their terms from the official two-year terms to a four-year term, to reduce election costs.   The last three SIGCOMM executive committees have served four-year terms.   The current SIGCOMM Executive Committee feels that we're really just getting started on a number of exciting initiatives and would like to have the extra two years to finish putting those initiatives in place. However, if you object and feel an election is appropriate, there is a petition process to force an election. Contact Pat Ryan at ACM Headquarters for details if you are interested.

In closing, I would like to heartily thank the numerous people who help keep SIGCOMM running smoothly. Chris Edmondson has been SIGCOMM's Conference Coordinator for several years and we rely on her extraordinary skills to keep our many co-sponsored and in-cooperation conferences running smoothly. This past year Chris has, with some success, encouraged affiliated conferences to put their papers on-line and we will continue this program in the coming year. Erica Johnson, became our Program Director at ACM in August of 1999, and has proved every bit as capable as her predecessors. Her most notable accomplishments of the past year were to save us $85,000 in excess charges at SIGCOMM 1999 and to play a leading role in setting up our Latin America workshop. Her colleague, Ann-Marie Ferrara has been an invaluable assistant in negotiating hotel contracts. And last, but not least, kudos to Roch Guerin, our *CCR* editor, who reports that *CCR* is continuing to publish most accepted papers within three months of receipt.

Sincerely,

Chair, ACM SIGCOMM
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