



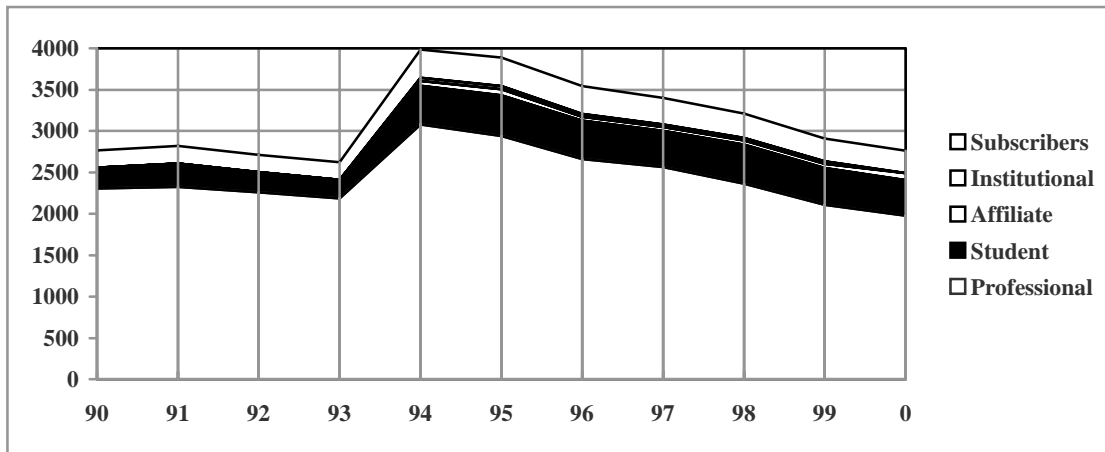
October 22, 2000

Dear Colleagues:

One of the perks of serving as a Sigcomm officer is to have the opportunity to talk with many of you. The Stockholm conference was a superb get together for renewing old friendships, making new ones, seeing an inspiring city, and renewing and refreshing myself technically from the posters, talks, tutorials, arguments, and overheard conversations. The level of the interaction was outrageous! (Please see <http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/sigcomm2000/conf/outrageous.htm>). As Craig's letter has already told you, we will have opportunities to meet again in San Jose, Costa Rica, April 3-5, 2001 and at what is already looking to be the biggest SIGCOMM ever in San Diego, August 27-31, 2001. In the next few sections of this note, I will update you on the state of the SIGCOMM membership, finances, and the SIGCOMM and ACM digital libraries.

**Membership:**

The graph below shows some history of SIGCOMM membership. A particular feature to note is the large



spike upward in 1994. Anecdotes that explain this spike are very welcome. Please send mail to [gdelp@acm.org](mailto:gdelp@acm.org). We expect that this is a result of a dues structure change, some additional society being rolled into SIGCOMM, or just the fine London venue for the conference, but clearer information would help us duplicate the result.

The great news of the retention information is that the vast majority of you are satisfied multi-year

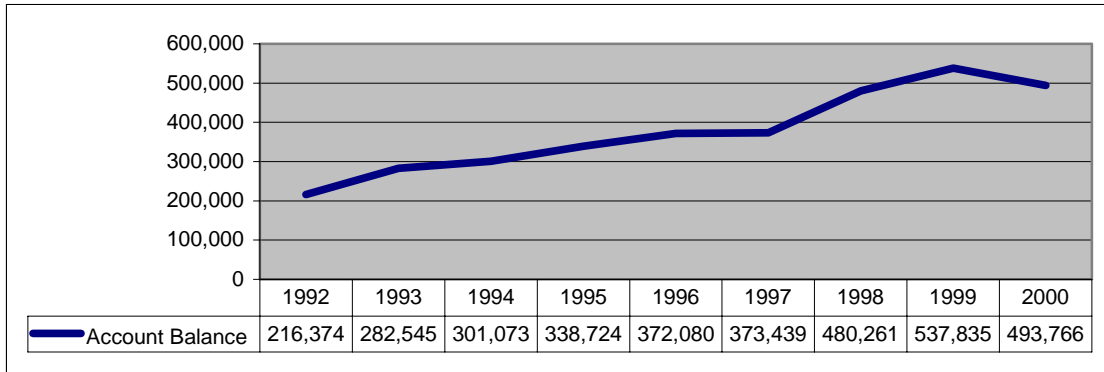
<b>June 2000 retention:</b>	1 year	2 years	>2 years	Total
Active (renewed)	294	762	1,152	2,208
Expiring	210	270	309	789
<b>Total</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>2,997</b>
<b>Retention Rate</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>74%</b>

members. Help us get the word out. The numbers that we would like to change are the 789 who left SIGCOMM this year. If

Your word of mouth is the most effective means for expanding our benefit to others in the community!

**Finances:**

This section is actually worth reading! Some of the stories behind the numbers show that the ACM organization has financially served SIGCOMM very well. SIGCOMM continues as a robust and healthy organization. As you can see from the '00 budget, last year we made a concerted effort to spend down the balance by \$55,275. This would have spent our SIG account balance down to \$482,560. However, we spent \$35K less than budgeted to bring the past SIGCOMM Award winners to Boston for the 10 year celebration of the SIGCOMM Award; Boston was an excellent location. In additions, the SIGCOMM conference, rather than loosing \$374.00 as it was budgeted, accrued 34K. 15K of this will be reflected in this year's ('01) budget. The gain was due to both the generosity of the sponsors (which allowed us to substantially add to the conference), and the vigilance of the ACM staff. Erica Johnson, our program director in particular, kept very close watch on the catering actually delivered in Boston, and was able to reduce the conference expenses by \$85K. Thank you, Erica! We are very interested in spending additional monies to enhance the conference, but we do not want to waste any of the money we spend. The ACM staff does very well making sure that we get our money's worth from the vendors that we hire.



SIGCOMM has co-sponsored the Virtual Reality Modeling Language Symposium (VRML) for the past few years. The audience for this conference is no longer active, and SIGCOMM no longer a sponsor. To give credit to ACM process improvements and to welcome Ann Marie Ferrara to the ACM staff as coordinated venue negotiator, we provide some history. Previous years of VRML lead the organizers to believe that the attendance would be over 350. Before Ann Marie's arrival, the VRML conference organizers contracted with a Marriott hotel in Monterey, CA. Part of the contract (all conference contracts) was a guarantee for the rental of rooms and minimum catering numbers. In November, the SIGCOMM executive committee was told of potential low attendance; registration was less than 15% of the guaranteed number. We choose between canceling VRML and paying cancellation charges that would have been ~\$80K for SIGCOMM's portion, or continuing with the conference with a maximum risk of \$120K. ACM staff assisted in renegotiating the contracts, trimming the budget appropriate to the new conference size, and supporting the conference in a number of other ways. The great news is that the SIGCOMM loss for this conference was limited to \$37K. Thanks to ACM. (It is worth noting that the profit for VRML over the previous years goes a long way to covering this final shortfall).

ACM fiscal years end on June 30 of each year, and include the conferences of the previous summer. Stockholm numbers are not yet in for the current year, but the Vancouver and Boston conferences are included in FY 99 and 2000 respectively. In the charts below, you can see the actuals of the previous years with the budget of the current year.

	FYE 99 Actual	'00 Actual	'00 Variance	'00 Budget	FYE 01 Budget
<b>Income:</b>					
SIG Dues	44,518	40,240	(1,015)	41,256	41,150
Non member subs	10,615	9,831	(1,268)	11,100	10,360
Other Subscription Income	16,522	21,488	10,168	11,320	4,750
Paper Sales	5,431	4,537	191	4,346	4,346
Conference revenue	315,057	358,871	64,716	294,155	196,600
Interest income	26,180	24,886	7,445	17,441	24,132
Mailing list – expedited credits	1,941	1,676	576	1,100	1,100

Total Income:	420,264	461,529	80,811	380,718	282,482
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<b>Expenses:</b>	FYE 99 Actual	`00 Actual	`00 Variance	`00 Budget	FYE 01 Budget
Staff Travel	1,719	7,398	(7,398)	0	12,000
Volunteer Travel	7,141	10,184	35,816	46,000	
Temporary Help/Communications	110	66	(66)	0	3,400
Mailing & Handling	1,907	636	(636)	0	1,715
Production	31,112	28,168	12,832	41,000	42,650
Distribution	23,185	21,725	(1,701)	20,024	10,109
Storage	1,590	1,546	(1,546)	0	0
Other Pub Services	10,786	6,421	(5,571)	850	0
Grants, Projects, & Awards	37,090	19,424	(4,424)	15,000	28,000
Meetings & Spec Functions	0	23,322	(23,322)	0	0
Large Conf Exp	209,475	363,823	(71,854)	291,969	194,909
Allocations	43,201	51,241	(7,455)	43,786	34,862
Sigboard Allocation To Sigs	1,397	2,247	2,666	4,913	1,682
Service Chg To Conferences	(7,118)	(32,017)	4,468	(27,549)	(17,694)
*Total Expenses	362,540	505,597	(69,604)	435,993	311,633
Net Surplus/(Deficit)====>	57,724	(44,068)		(55,275)	(29,351)

#### Digital libraries:

We have a long tradition of making SIGCOMM information widely accessible. We were one of the first societies to put full newsletter and conference text on-line, and have been adamant about making sure that this access is free to all. ACM SIGCOMM provides archival web storage, in most cases in searchable form to the output of the SIG. We know that this adds to the utility of publishing in SIGCOMM CCR and affiliated conferences. IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking is openly accessible as well. You, as members, are making it possible for your work to reach a much wider audience!

You can find this treasure trove of wisdom through a number of links, including:

<http://www.acm.org/pubs/contents/proceedings/series/comm>

<http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/ccr/index.html>

As a part of the ACM Digital Library project, in '00 and continuing in '01, SIGCOMM has funded the scanning and posting of the back issues of SIGCOMM's publications. All of the SIGCOMM sponsored conference proceedings are already on line, and is ACM/IEEE Transactions on Networking. The issues of our CCR newsletter that were not submitted digitally will be scanned and posted by the end of '01. Every effort is being made to accelerate this task. The SIGCOMM section of the ACM Digital Library is located at [http://www.acm.org/dl/proc\\_bysig\\_list.html#SIGCOMM](http://www.acm.org/dl/proc_bysig_list.html#SIGCOMM)

Happy hunting!

Sincerely,



Gary S. Delp SIGCOMM Secretary – Treasurer

p.s. As a reminder, your elected officers serve (listed at the bottom of the first page) serve as volunteers. We are professionals working in the communications field just as you are. We rely on the professional support staff of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), directly upon our Program Director, Erica Johnson, but also on all the rest, to provide long term stability, financial management, printing and archival services, conference services, and many, many other things. I take this opportunity as a volunteer to salute our headquarters staff for long term and forward looking service to the SIG!