

Association  
for  
Computing  
Machinery

Special Interest  
Group  
Data  
Communication



July 29, 2002

Dear Members of the Data Communications Community:

I'm excited to tell you that SIGCOMM has decided to dramatically broaden the vision of the annual SIGCOMM conference. We seek to expand the intellectual diversity of the papers we present and to modify the conference program to be more receptive to new ideas and community-driven initiatives.

We are going to expand the intellectual agenda of the conference. We want to include papers from a broader set of topics and recognize the wider range of methodologies that constitute data communications research. We are also inviting new communities to hold workshops in conjunction with the SIGCOMM conference and will provide them with the necessary support to make those workshops a success. It is essential to the future of SIGCOMM that we're always looking to bring in new and diverse work, to keep our vision of representing the entire the data communications field at SIGCOMM fresh.

With our commitment to a broader agenda comes a commitment to making enough intellectual and physical space to expand. We are restructuring the conference as an event as encompassing the whole week, rather than a 2.5 day conference with optional tutorials and workshops prepended. The goal is to fill the week with a variety of styles, venues, and opportunities for intellectual presentation and exchange on topics in the field of data communications.

Some changes are already visible at SIGCOMM 2002, where we've added position papers and a workshop on education. Most of the rest of the changes will be in place for SIGCOMM 2003, starting with a completely rethought call for papers and a call for workshop proposals. We are also revising our reviewing process, to be supportive of a wider range of innovative papers, and we are committed to accepting more papers in 2003, to ensure there is space for more ideas.

None of these initiatives will work without help from the members of ACM SIGCOMM and the broader data communications research community. I invite (indeed, urge) you to participate. Send in a paper! Propose a workshop! Suggest additional things we should do in SIGCOMM week!

I want to thank the Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and recent Program Committees for valuable input into our new vision. These improvements to SIGCOMM are the product of several weeks and several hundred emails worth of discussion. And now I'd like to ask you for the support to make this change a success. Exactly how we move down this path together will depend on community participation. How you participate in the week's activities as an author, poster presenter, workshop participant, earnest listener and source of suggestions will play a key role in how SIGCOMM evolves.

I look forward to working with you!

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