



January 2, 2003

Dear SIGCOMM Colleagues:

The past six months have been very busy for SIGCOMM. I'd like to give you a brief account of what has happened and what new things are coming in the next few months.

First, we held the annual SIGCOMM conference in Pittsburgh. Overall, the conference was outstanding. Peter Steenkiste and Matt Mathis were wonderful hosts at an old and architecturally distinguished hotel in Pittsburgh. The conference program, thanks to program co-chairs Vern Paxson and Hari Balakrishan, was filled with exciting papers. Our surveys of the conference attendees indicated that they found the conference intellectually powerful and productive.

The only bad news from the conference was that it lost money, despite strong sponsor support and near record attendance. The loss came from unprecedented student participation (50% of the conference attendees). As you know, SIGCOMM for several years has kept the student registration fees below cost to encourage student participation. Having now succeeded in attracting students (beyond our wildest expectations), we need to make the student fees more accurately reflect costs. Expect the student registration fees for SIGCOMM 2003 to be more in line with those of other conferences.

The new HOTNETS workshop (organized by Larry Peterson, David Wetherall, and Chris Edmonson) was held in Princeton in late October. The workshop is devoted to emerging ideas in networking and so we heard a lot of exciting, and not always fully-baked, ideas. The result was an intellectually vibrant two days. Some of that excitement is captured in this issue of CCR, which contains the proceedings and workshop report. We expect to hold another HOTNETS workshop in either late 2003 or early 2004.

The second Internet Measurement Workshop was held in Marseilles in early November. As with the first workshop, there was a lot of exciting work presented. One senior colleague tells me it was the first technical meeting in years where he felt he really needed to listen to each paper presentation. Plans are already afoot for an Internet Measurement Conference in 2003.

SIGCOMM is also involved in the creation of two new conferences. SIGCOMM will be the primary sponsor of the ACM Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems (SenSys). SenSys 2003 will be held in early November at UCLA. And we're in discussions with ACM SIGOPS about creating a conference (tentatively entitled PONDS) about problems that sit on the boundaries of operating systems and networking.

SIGCOMM Officers
sigcommex@acm.org

C. Partridge
Chair
Lixia Zhang
Vice-Chair
A. Terzis
Information Services Director

G. Delp
Secretary-Treasurer
R. Guerin
Editor

J. Crowcroft
Past Chair
C. Edmonson-Yurkanan
Conference Advisor

SIGCOMM has also just completed negotiations with IFIP (thanks to Lyman Chapin for taking the lead on this agreement) to cosponsor future Latin American Workshops on Data Networking. We hope to collocate the next workshop with the CLEI conference in 2003.

Finally, a reminder to vote. The current SIGCOMM elected officers complete their terms this summer. So this spring you'll be receiving a ballot asking you to elect new SIGCOMM officers. I don't know who is going to be nominated for what offices, but given the outstanding set of people that the Nominations Committee has encouraged to call me for a briefing on what it is like to lead SIGCOMM, I expect we'll have a great slate. Also on the ballot will be (I hope) an opportunity to vote on new SIGCOMM bylaws. The current SIGCOMM bylaws are a decade old and no longer reflect how SIGCOMM really operates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Partridge" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Partridge
Chair, ACM SIGCOMM