

SIGCHI EC Meeting – April 2010

Attending

Zhengjie
Gary
Fran
Nick
Dan O
Loren
Fred
Philippe
Elizabeth
Scooter
Gerrit
Ashley
John T

Meeting Minutes from January Meeting

- Approved
- Loren will post

We will also post the PowerPoint slides from the Membership Meeting

- Gerrit will email the slides for our approval
- Committee will approve
- I will post

Future CHI Conferences: Status, Chairs, and Challenges

- Led by Scooter
- CHI 2011 (Vancouver)
 - o Paper presentation times shortened
 - o Some slight changes in committee structure to handle Media Showcase
- CHI 2012 (Austin)
 - o No chairs yet
- CHI 2013
 - o Still in final negotiations with the site in Paris
- CHI 2014 (Toronto)
 - o Hotel contracts signed, convention center contract is fine, will be signed shortly

Specialized Conferences

- Led by Philippe
- Goal: make data about SIGCHI conferences available to the membership
- Number of in-cooperation conferences has increased
- DIS 2010 transitioned from “sponsored” to “in-cooperation” status
 - o The differences between the two statuses and the difficulties in shifting between the two statuses were discussed.
 - o Status of DIS conference was discussed.

- CSCW 2011
 - Request for additional funds
 - Discussion: a concern that subsidizing Asian academics to attend sets a bad precedent, one that cannot be sustained for a potential CHI conference in Asia in 2015 or later.
 - Note: site costs in China are not low. Hotels: like US. Meeting space (for CSCW 2011 Hotel) are more expensive: like Europe.
 - Possibility of getting funding from the Chinese government – this should be explored!
 - Various ideas were discussed: e.g., the “subsidized” academics attend a one-day workshop prior to CSCW on “HCI in Asia”, then produce a report. Note: this is just an idea/suggestion. Gary will take this back to the CSCW 2011 Chairs.
- CSCW 2012
 - Committee is proposing a revised submission and review process, with a serious revision cycle.
 - Request: proposal from CSCW Steering Committee to think through issues, define scope of “experiment”, measure success.
 - Academic “credit” argument – what happens if acceptance rate is raised significantly? This must be addressed in the proposal
 - **To Do**: Gary will do this (with help from Loren)
 - Issue: Will this increase the load on reviewers? Worst case: doubles it. To the extent it increases the load, is it worth it?
 - (Dan Olsen) One perspective: this could be a big improvement in process:
 - Hold reviewers accountable
 - Give authors chance to fix fixable problems
 - Focus attention on the subset of papers that potentially have merit
 - If done right, there’s a real potential this could solve a lot of problems

CHI 2010 Report – Beth Mynatt

2389 total attendees

2021 paid attendees

Surplus: Just under \$150K (after mandatory returns)

Nice NPR story on CHI 2010

- result of PR investment – on the order of \$10K to \$15K

Things she recommends to future conferences

- Different categories of content were clearly defined and labeled as such in the program
 - Peer-reviewed
 - Juried
 - Curated
 - Hosted
- Also recruited a couple of “shoulder” events (not funded as part of the CHI conference)

- Workshop on Health Care and HCI (150 participants!)
- CHIME workshop
- Friday post-conference events in Atlanta
- “Early Early” registration rate – cheaper rate that was made available before the end of the 2009 calendar year. Intention: good for industry participants who have “end of year” money that will expire if not spent.
 - Key may be allowing earlier registration (prior to end of calendar year) rather than the cheaper rate
- Video madness content encouraged to go on YouTube channel
 - Got some press. People liked it.
 - Idea: Make it easy for and encourage authors to share their madness content on YouTube Channel.
- Social Media chair
 - Twitter stream displays at conference
 - Twitter usage was very prominent, very constructive, very useful both to attendees and those who could not attend
- Difficulties with late changes to the program, e.g., adding Award talks, changing panelists
 - Coordination with Sheridan
 - Multiple artifacts – printed program, iPhone app, Event Maps – produced independently → leads to inconsistencies
- More submissions → made PC meeting more expensive than expected. Was hosted at Georgia Tech; this kept costs down. Would have been really problematic otherwise.

Precision Conference System – potential new requirements

- Issue: For a conference, do they have a “separate” installation of PCS for their conference, or make it part of the “SGICHI umbrella”.
 - In the first case, reviewers have to log in separately to each conference. In the second case, you log in once, and see data for all the conferences
- Issue: assistance for arranging papers into sessions?
- The Conference Management Committee will be meeting soon to address these and other issues

Finances

- Our budget situation is still healthy
- Gary – about \$300K new spending for 2011
- We learned that the SIGCHI return from the ACM Digital Library is \$50K more than we had expected
- And SIGCHI will be getting around \$180K back from CHI 2010
- 2011 – current surplus: \$1.3 million above the ACM required minimum
- Issue: Enabling conferences to collect registration fees in local currency.

Membership Meeting Time at CHI Conference

Issue: we want more people to come!

- First, let people know what SIGCHI is
- Get member input
- Communicate our plans more widely
- Accountability of SIGCHI EC members
- Get people engaged with SIGCHI

Approach

- Announce it more prominently
 - o Open Plenary: make it interesting. Possibilities suggested.
- Improve how it is presented in the program
 - o For example, a page at the front listing all the “out of technical program” (evening) events
 - o A blurb to explain “SIGCHI” and the purpose of the meeting
- Improve signage
- Change the name – “Town Hall”
- Provide food
- Closing Plenary
 - o Remind people of “ways to stay in touch with us (SIGCHI)”
- Idea: put up posters for people to jot down any thoughts they have:
 - o “Things to improve” or “Questions” on topics like: conferences, local chapters

To Do: Loren owns this issue. Will come up with a proposal. Goal: have the proposal by summer EC meeting. Elizabeth is eager to help. Issue: be careful with conference scheduling; work with chairs; their schedule is over-constrained. CMC will “manage” the proposal.

Communities

- Led by Dan
- Ideas to encourage “coalescence” of communities (not balkanization / competing)
 - o Bigger communities get privileges – larger → more influence
 - o Any one person can be a voting member of only a limited number of communities, say three to four (3 to 4)
- What is the minimum number of people required for a community to exist?
 - o Proposal: Five (5)
- Per Dan’s email to EC, ACM can provide the support necessary for the Communities proposal.
- Good interest from people at CHI conference after the announcement – over 10 people have said: “I have a community!”
- Next steps
 - o Build the web infrastructure
 - Dan, Scooter, and Fred will get together soon to map this out
 - Initially: membership management: registration and basic communication
 - Other functionality will come later, driven by the input and needs of communities that use the infrastructure
 - Likely next function: election mechanism

- Budget implications?
 - o Note: budget for ‘Communities’ was approved at previous EC meeting
 - o 2011 – go through the development fund process
 - o But for now – money isn’t the key point
- **To Dos** are driven by Dan, with Scooter and Fred participating

Interactions

- Need new Editors in Chief
- Elizabeth has identified a strong potential candidate
- We need another candidate
- Elizabeth will talk to the current candidate to see if he has someone else he’d like to work with.
- One note: we want to make sure that the Editors represent the entire HCI community: the interests of practitioners, not only researchers, design as well as more ‘traditional’ HCI topics.
- Because of the extent of the work required by the Interactions Editors, the EC agreed that the Editors should receive EC Adjunct Chair status and responsibilities.
- Need to update the SIGCHI website to note that we no longer publish a separate SIGCHI Bulletin. Instead, we now use the SIGCHI website itself for much of our content and use Interactions for some Bulletin purposes. Communicate with new Editors about this. Then the EC has to be sure to make use of Interactions for these purposes.

Grace Hopper Conference

- Report by Elizabeth
- Beth Mynatt was approached about having an “HCI Day” at Grace Hopper 2010 in Atlanta, end of September
- Elizabeth and Beth are working on ideas, e.g., taking content from CHI 2010 there
- Question: What can she take there to “represent SIGCHI”?
- Suggestion: work with CHI 2011, CHI Atlanta

Local Chapters

- Led by Nick
- There was a Local Chapters workshop on Sunday at CHI 2010
- We are joined by Scott Owen, President of SIGGRAPH, to give us a report on SIGGRAPH’s Associate Membership plan
 - o The issue we’re considering is that we’d like to have a plan for Local Chapter members to become “Associate Members” of SIGCHI
 - o Here’s how SIGGRAPH does it
 - SIGGRAPH local chapters member information automatically forwarded to ACM, and these people become “associate members” of SIGGRAPH
 - No dues to become Associate Members

- You get all privileges that do not have financial implications (i.e., you do not get publications or reduced conference registration fees)
 - What are these privileges?
 - Job services, ACM email addresses
 - From SIGCHI perspective: we don't have any "free" benefits to offer
 - Hard to define a value proposition here.
 - Perhaps the better approach to this is to subsume it under the upcoming "CHI Communities" process
 - Another issue with CHI Communities
 - Can memberships have "membership qualifications"? That is, only certain people (say, those who live in a certain geographic area or who have a certain degree) are eligible? This was discussed. Problems were identified.
- Another issue
 - SIGCHI.DK group... which is not affiliated with SIGCHI
- Another issue
 - Clarify relationship of SIGCHI and ACM to local chapters
- Communication with local chapters members
 - Better articulate the benefits of membership
- Nick is going to try to get Local Chapter updates monthly, will put them up on the SIGCHI web site

Adjunct Chairs

- Updates by Elizabeth
- Desire to identify Adjunct Chairs for:
 - Education, Public Policy, Publicity
 - We have had success in identifying prospective Adjunct Chairs for all three roles
 - Details should be finalized soon, so that announcements can be made, and the new Adjunct Chairs can get started

Awards Committee Chair and members

- Gary's term is over
- Nominations were entertained
 - The only person nominated was Brad Myers, who has been serving on the Awards Committee
 - The EC approved Brad

Walk-on volunteers

- Discussion led by Elizabeth
- Issue: people come up to one of us and say "I'd like to help out"
- Process? Elizabeth generated a list, which she has shared with the EC online.
- Scott suggested: could have chairs for upcoming conferences have an event at CHI where people can come up to them and offer suggestions

Summer EC Meeting

- Location: Paris
- July 1-21, July 8-10 is the suggested target
- We will select the final date by email – Elizabeth will send out scheduling invitations

CHI conference video content

- Discussion led by Scooter
- We believe the content belongs to SIGCHI (after authors have signed the releases), so we can publish it however we find appropriate
- Issue: we currently have only two “capture stations”.
 - o We’d need to buy at least 8 more to film all the sessions
- Issue: we have lots of video content! Already twice as large as the entire ACM Digital Library
- Idea: Survey all CHI 2010 authors about their reactions to video-taping their presentations and making it available online.
 - o Philippe will implement the survey
 - o Dan will provide suggested questions
- Issue: ACM and SIGCHI policy doesn’t allow individuals to videotape presentations
 - o What about letting people record their own talks?
 - Very complicated issue... what counts as “their own”?
 - Would turn “us” (SVs, actually) into police
- Scott shared the SIGGRAPH policy with us
 - o Key idea: set a policy under which people can get permission to record specific sessions
- Note that SIGCHI does have a “no photographs” policy... which we completely don’t enforce
 - o Should we enforce?
- Action item: Scooter will form a committee with Hiroshi Ishii and Michel Beaudouin-Lafon (since they expressed interest in this issue) to come up with a recommendation
- Another issue: we have a huge backlog of CHI conference videos. We would like to get them up on the web. Issues: did the signed release statements allow web publication?

CHI Announcements

- Formatting of messages sent to CHI Announcements
 - o HTML allowed?
 - o Committee thinks the answer should be “yes”
 - o Scooter will look into this

