

# SIGCHI EC Meeting, 15-16 August 2013

## Seattle, WA

### Attending:

Gerrit van der Veer, Elizabeth Churchill, Gary Olson, Dan Olsen, John "Scooter" Morris, Fred Sampson, Zhengjie Liu, Jonathan Lazar, Jenny Preece, John Charles Thomas, John Karat, Patrick Kelley, Jofish Kaye, Debra Venedam [Allison on phone for part]

### Meeting Notes:

Gerrit called the meeting to order. Patrick Kelley was introduced as the Adjunct Chair for Social Media (a much needed new position).

Gerrit presented the initial agenda (and modified to reflect the actual discussion schedule):

#### **Thursday, August 15, 2013, Yosemite Room**

9:00 AM Agenda Topics:

- Public policy (Jonathan Lazar reporting)
- Accessibility (Jonathan Lazar reporting)
- Developing worlds (Zhengjie and John K)
- TOCHI papers at specialized conferences (Dan)
- ACM volunteer training, SGB (Gerrit)

10:30 AM Break, McKinley Room

10:45 AM Interactions redesign and website & SIGCHI website (Dan)

12:00 PM Lunch, The Regatta Bar & Grille

1:00 PM Agenda Topics

- SIGCHI newsfeed (Elizabeth)
- Education (Jenny and Elizabeth)
- Copyright issues (Scooter)

3:00 PM Break, McKinley Room

3:15 PM Break-out groups:

- Social media & mentoring (John T, Patrick)
- Local chapters and distinguished speakers (Zhengjie, John K, Gerrit)

Dinner: Meet in hotel lobby at 6:15 PM. Dinner 6:30, Tulio Ristorante, 1100 Fifth Ave

#### **Friday, August 16, 2013, Yosemite Room**

9:00 AM Conferences

10:30 AM Break, McKinley Room  
10:45 AM Agenda Topics  
Mentoring  
Social media  
12:00 PM Lunch, The Regatta Bar & Grille  
1:00 PM Discussion of Strategy continued from previous meeting  
3:00 PM Break, McKinley Room  
3:15 PM Agenda Topics  
Local chapters  
Distinguished speakers  
Communities – status and next steps

Informal group dinner for those staying Friday night.

## ***The detailed notes***

**Thursday, August 15**

### **Public Policy**

Jonathan Lazar summarized actions from the CHI Conference dealing with public policy issues. Public policy:

The CHI 2013 workshop on public policy was a success, the nearly 20 attendees at the workshop started writing the overview report, defining the broad topical area of public policy and human-computer interaction. Currently, the draft is at 40 pages, and writing is still ongoing. Other members of the CHI community, who did not attend the workshop, will be asked to add specific additions to the report, based on their areas of expertise. We expect that a draft report will be complete by the end of 2013, for editing and approval at the EC meeting in January 2014. Part of the discussion at the Jan 2014 EC meet will be, how should this report be publicized and distributed? It will be posted on the SIGCHI web site, perhaps an article in Interactions magazine, perhaps a short youtube video lecture that can be used in HCI classes, and perhaps an event (a SIG?) at CHI 2014? Due to the intense nature of the report writing, the potential project on researching “what do policymakers want from the CHI community?” has been put on hold until the report is complete, perhaps until early 2014?

Finally, it is possible that in developing countries, only funding and curriculum / educational issues related to HCI will come up within a policy context. Laws and policies may not be present in the area of design requirements, such as accessibility or privacy, or in the specific application domains (such as education and health care). However, as developing countries expand their regulatory environment, this may be a great opportunity for the HCI community to contribute to creating appropriate legislation and regulation. Although international standards for HCI have

been translated and adopted as national standards in some developing countries like China, there is still a long way to go for them to be mandatory and to really influence public policies.

## **Accessibility**

Jonathan reported that:

There are two Accessibility chairs for CHI 2014, Jonathan Lazar for digital accessibility, and Jen Rode for Physical conference accessibility.

For digital accessibility, the CHI 2014 web site has already undergone two accessibility inspections, and changes were sent to the CHI 2014 webmaster, Liam Betsworth, who made the changes. For the mobile apps, Shaun Kane from UMBC, who has experience with mobile app accessibility, will be working with Celia Martine, who is in charge of mobile apps for CHI 2014. Jonathan Lazar and Tovi Grossman (CHI 2014 technical program co-chair) have been working together on adding PDF accessibility information to the paper/submission templates and the CHI 2014 web site. For CHI 2014, it will be requested that authors make their papers accessible, but not required. Tovi and Jonathan had been investigating whether the process of notifying authors of PDF accessibility problems could be automated or put into the camera-ready process. Sheridan publishing initially indicated that they could do this within the CHI camera-ready process, but time would need to be added into the publication schedule, and it was too late to change the schedule for CHI 2014 (or potentially CHI 2015). This may be a solution in the future. Having the information available to CHI 2014 authors is the first step in making the community more aware of this important topic. It is hoped that, over time, and with more structure and feedback in the papers process, that the accessibility of CHI submissions to the digital library will improve.

In terms of physical accessibility, the CHI 2014 co-chairs will be providing information to Jen Rode, and she will be checking about any potential infrastructure accessibility challenges at the conference, to provide information to attendees of 2014 so that they can plan ahead.

For CHI 2015, the convention center and the main hotel are on site, accessibility issues are generally good. Out in the city, matters are quite different. WWW is in Seoul next year at the same venue, so we will hope to learn some things from them.

There are problems with ACM's embedded font policy on the Digital Library, which conflicts with putting tags on images. This issue needs to be taken up at the ACM level, since these issues are not specific to SIGCHI. To make useful changes in things like PCS, we will need to build competence in this area over time. Scooter thinks the right strategy is to build awareness and make changes slowly.

John Thomas mentioned that it's important to consider accessibility issues on the side of

submitting content rather than consuming content.

Elizabeth suggested that we should have a document that summarizes the characteristics of the problem and making clear that we take it seriously and are working on it, but it's hard to turn a big ship around very quickly. Jonathan has been keeping notes on the changes and plans over time.

Dan indicated that he would like to see research that looks into whether the kinds of changes we're thinking about, make a difference in (1) increasing understanding and/or (2) reducing frustration. Dan expressed a desire to have cost (e.g., effort required to make something accessible)/ benefit (e.g., how much easier was something to access) metrics considered as a part of any effort in this area.

**TO DO: Jonathan, Dan, Scooter, and Elizabeth will talk further about these issues**

## **Developing Worlds**

Zhengjie and John K presented a summary of worldwide activities with SIGCHI efforts: CHI 2015 and Asian HCI

### Objectives

- Increase awareness of HCI in Asia
- Increase awareness of CHI and SIGCHI in Asia
- Help local communities better prepared for and better involved in CHI2015

### Possible Actions to Consider

- A set of articles on HCI, CHI, SIGCHI to be translated and published in the influential local professional magazines (this was viewed as most valuable)
- A survey of HCI education in Asia and HCI/UX educator training tour in Asia
- A mentoring program for Asian academics who are interested in HCI research
- Networking workshops to connect SIGCHI communities and local communities
- SIGCHI speakers to local HCI conferences
- Local social media

Some additional discussion:

**TO DO: Zhengjie and John K- should contact the student volunteer chairs for 2014 to see if they would like to submit a proposal to bring a small number of Asian students in on a paired-SV model to learn about the CHI conference.**

**TO DO: Zhengjie and John K- Should create a list of all HCI conferences in Asia. This might be a way to think about advising them on special speakers at their conferences.**

**Africa and INTERACT 2013** - The EC previously approved holding a dinner meeting with representatives of the African HCI community at the INTERACT conference in Capetown in September. Gerrit, Philippe and Zhengjie will attend from the EC along with about 30 participants from various African countries. We are sending the participants a request to send thoughts on the development of HCI in the continent and how SIGCHI might help.

#### **Latin America Followup -**

We funded a project to engage industry with academics in Brazil.

There is an effort to create a student design competition.

Travel to the finalists to their HCI conference.

Microsoft is funding a plenary speaker.

Iterating on a proposal.

Issue of a Latin American conference and a separate Brazilian one.

Alternative -- fund the winners to participate in the CHI design competition.

Discussions going on with CSCW about holding that conference in 2017 in Rio

#### **Interactions redesign and website & SIGCHI website**

Dan summarized discussions with ACM on the interactions magazine.

Elizabeth, Fred, Patrick will join the *interactions* redesign committee.

#### **Website redesign (Elizabeth)**

Still working out some of the glitches in the ACM SIGCHI Tech News. There were also a series of problems with deliveries, as several EC members have not gotten it.

#### **TOCHI papers and SIGCHI Conferences Policy**

Current policy was described by Dan along with proposed revisions to accommodate the presentation of TOCHI papers at other SIGCHI conferences. Points of the revised policy include

At TOCHI acceptance, authors designate a desired conference for presentation.

Conference provides TOCHI with a deadline date for potential papers. This determines whether the timing is right.

***The revised policy was voted on and unanimously approved by the EC.***

#### **Education (Jenny)**

Our 2013 work focuses on two interrelated projects: gathering a large and globally representative

sample of respondents for our survey on HCI education, and building an online community to support HCI Education. We also continue to analyze our data as it emerges and distribute our preliminary results. Our progress to date is as follows:

- We published an article, “Teaching and Learning Human--Computer Interaction: Past, Present, and Future” that was featured in the March/April issue of Interactions
- We hosted the second SigCHI Education lunch at CHI 2013 with 18 students, practitioners, and academics working in HCI from around the world
- We adopted a three pronged approach to identifying key geographic areas where HCI Education a) exists in sufficient quantity and quality to study, b) is emerging or otherwise changing, and c) is practical to sample.
- Based on this approach, we identified 7 broad populations to target for future outreach: The United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Spain and Spanish-speaking countries in South America, France and Belgium, Austria and Germany, India, and Australia and New Zealand.
- Building on our previous work and other research on global English-language proficiency, we determined which populations would be best reached with a translated survey and which populations would be best reached with an English-language survey.
- By collaborating with Roberto Muñoz and Thiago Barcelos we translated the survey into Spanish.
- We gathered a sample of 48 Chilean participants using the translated survey, and secured support for distribution in Peru, Colombia, and Argentina.
- We selected an approach to community building that will involve a selection of approximately 10 charter members who will collaboratively select a community platform and identify key initial functions that the community will serve.
- We reopened the English language survey on HCI Education, including two additional questions asking participants how an online community should support their needs and whether they would be willing to serve as charter members.

**TO DO: Elizabeth to put together a proposal for continuing support for Anne.**

**TO DO: Elizabeth- Education survey results will eventually be put on the SIGCHI web site.**

### **Copyright issues**

ACM is focusing on broader publication policies, with three new options (see

<http://authors.acm.org/main.html>):

1. ACM owns copyright. Nothing changes
2. Licensing: you transfer an **exclusive** right to publish, but you still own the copyright (no other changes). They (ACM) are not required to defend the work against improper use.
3. Perpetual open access. Pay to publish. \$1500 paid to ACM by the author for the paper to be open access. Gives ACM non-exclusive rights to publish. (Still get to decide copyright either: ACM or Authors) Question: What happens to the credit for downloads?

Conferences can also choose to have all material open access (for the current 3-year experimentation period):

- a. for two weeks before and two weeks after (this has to be in the call for papers –important for patents)
- b. or for one year after the conference until the next conference (we are not offering this option to the SIGCHI conferences - we have decided on Option a)

### **Local chapters and distinguished speakers (Breakout Discussion: Zhengjie, John K, Gerrit)**

Local Chapters: The report from Tuomo

In 2013, SIGCHI has 34 active local chapters on 5 continents in 23 countries. 31 of the chapters are professional and 3 are student chapters, with the total number of chapter members of over 3,000. During FY 2012-2013, two local chapters were started in new geographical locations, Chile SIGCHI in Valparaiso and IsraHCI in Tel Aviv.

The annual Local Chapters Workshop held during the CHI'13 conference in Paris gathered together 20 participants from 11 different countries and can be considered as a success. In general, closer interactions between chapters was seen highly valuable in order to distribute resources and experiences between the chapters with varying backgrounds (size, age, membership, geographical location, etc.). As an outcome of the workshop, SIGCHI EC decided to offer funding for supporting networking projects between SIGCHI Local Chapters during FY 2013-2014.

### **TO DO: Tuomo and Allison to explore SIGCHI EC iChapters Exchange Program in order to support chapter interactions.**

From the March-April 2013 issue of interactions magazine, SIGCHI offers the SIGCHI Local Chapters greater visibility through a local chapters' column in the Community Square representing one local chapter at a time. So far the columns have introduced SIGCHI Finland, BayCHI, and BR-CHI (in press) to the larger HCI community.

Some discussion during the breakout session at the meeting (Gerrit, Zhengjie, JohnK):

Gerrit mentioned that we might consider SigGraph as a model for local chapters we could learn from. For example, SIGGraph utilizes a "regional liaison" who visits local chapters for information exchange. For example we could have a Northern European and a Southern European Liaison. Case studies of "successful local chapters" (e.g., BayCHI, Netherlands CHI) might be useful to people looking to form a local group. Value-add for SIGCHI chapters need to be explored.

**TO DO: Zhengjie and John K will talk to Tuomo and Allison about how to follow up.**

**Friday, August 16**

## **Conferences**

CHI 2013:

Final numbers not available yet due to slowness from vendors.

CHI 2014:

Interactivity to be made larger so there is expense implications

Going to be an increase in student fees, to a standing 50% of professional fee.

No VAT so [professional] prices will feel lower.

No more communities

What were once "Special Communities" are now Spotlights

PC Meeting:

At U of Toronto

CHI 2015

Simultaneous translation for plenaries being considered.

Draft budget currently shows a loss.

(Goal is for budgets to be \$0. )

Scooter would like to assume a larger attendance -- 2500+

Ongoing discussions with HCI Korea -- as to how this relates to CHI

Co-hosting another conference adds huge logistics overhead

CHI 2016

Chair: Allison Druin [Allison requested to add Co-Chair Jofish Kaye]

Location: San Jose

CHI 2017

Location: Phoenix or Denver

New York dropped due to high costs and lack of space

CHI 2018/9

We need to plan further in advance because we're getting shut out of options

Non logistical criteria for site selection:

Financially feasible: can't afford \$1M conference centers  
Costs need to be contained  
Should be an interesting/attractive destination  
Outreach to broader HCI community  
Many places brainstormed

Conference Management Committee

Steering Committees Chairs of SIGCHI Sponsored Conferences

Accessibility in conferences

We will form an Accessibility Community to advise, represent and consult.

First action item: check accessibility of community structure

Jonathan will make this happen.

Conference Fees

Ongoing work to share details about historical budgets, process, increasing transparency.

**TO DO: Jofish and Scooter to pick some informative comparatives and follow up.**

## **EC Strategic Planning Session**

Top goals for discussion:

Messaging outside the community

Manage growth

Local HCI

## **Awards**

SIGCHI

There are nominations. Then there are awards. There is a process. It is underway as appropriate.

## **Mentoring**

Use LinkedIn?

Goals:

Increase non-US/European participation

Support for career transitions

Peer mentoring?

### **Communities**

We have some. CSCW is the biggest, then UIST. Then some others.

Not clear right now: how to do some web analytics to know what's happening.

### **Art Proposal**

Discussed at length. We encourage them to grow their SIGCHI Community.

**TO DO: Scooter, Jofish and Elizabeth to follow up.**

Next meeting is in January, likely in Seoul or Barcelona.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.