

SIGCHI Executive Committee Meeting

May 2012

In attendance: Philippe, Elizabeth, Gerrit, Fred, Loren, Jonathan L, Scooter, Dan, John T, Jenny, John K, Zhengjie, Ashley, Debra, Jenny, Paul, Tuomo, Gary

Also present for parts of the meeting: Joe Konstan (CHI 2012), Kristina Hook (CHI 2012), Jeff Jortner (President of SIGGRAPH), Darren Ramdin (ACM), Ed Chi (CHI 2012)

9:00 AM

- First Review of CHI 2012 (with CHI 2012 Top Management)
- First Preview of CHI 2013 Budget (possibly with CHI 2013 Top Management – to be decided by Scooter)

AM Break: 10:30am to 11am

11:00 AM

- Communities logistics development: status, plans, issues (see email from Dan, April 24)
- IUI Community / Steering Committee (report of issues, process, current state - Gerrit)
- Conferences (state - Scooter, Philippe)

Lunch: 12:30pm to 1:30pm

- Education project (process report - Jenny & Elizabeth)
- Short (?) topics: Public Policy (Jonathan); Chapters (Tuomo); Publicity(Paul); Developing Worlds (Zhengjie, JohnK)

PM Break: 3pm to 3:30pm

- Any other business

Review of CHI 2012

Introduced by Scooter

Joe's reflections

- 2660 or so people showed up, about 2580 excluding Locals Night, about 2200 paid registration
- Budget

- Revenue - 1.84 million, about 100K more than budgeted
 - Expenses - About 1.4 million
 - After ACM allocation, a net of about \$320K
- Running the conference has gotten harder
 - We've lost institutional memory
 - He suggests re-investing in professional staff to manage more processes
- The publications process -- the interface between PCS and Sheridan -- is rocky, and led to some last minute difficulties
- The conference venue was great
 - Perfect size for us -- we occupied the entire top floor, and nothing else
 - WiFi worked well!
 - Hotels and restaurants very close to the convention center
- Interactivity
 - Half of the problems/complications in running the conference probably related to Interactivity. We don't know how to run this yet. Joe'd recommend setting an October deadline for Interactivity because of all the A/V needs. This year there were a *ton* of last second requests, e.g., for a plasma screen. Joe guesses that the costs for this venue were around \$75K to \$80K, not including staff time, which was extreme.
 - Note that there was a lot of praise for this venue, too.
- Doctoral Consortium
 - Government funding is drying up
 - The demand is huge, so only a minority of interested and qualified students can participate now (14 of 62)
 - Should we run multiple parallel consortia?
 - With SIGCHI paying the costs, if no other funding sources are available?
- CHI Communities
 - Still in many ways a work in progress
 - Games community -- Games contest was great
- Confusion about the meaning of some of our venues
 - We do understand Papers (Archival) and Works in Progress, but in between, things are murky
 - Notably, what do we really mean by "juried"?
 - And many venues seem to be striving to become "archival"... which isn't necessarily appropriate
- Scale is a challenge
 - Navigating the conference can be overwhelming
 - Reviewing -- attracting enough people, managing the process
 - etc.
- A challenge for a Conference Chair -- there are many things the Chair has no control over. The Chair has to realize this, accept it, then move on to those issues the Chair does have control over.

(As an aside, the issue of child care at the conference was raised, in particular the former CHI Kids program and daycare possibilities. It was very expensive, very few people used it, so we have moved to an approach of advising parents to go through the conference hotels, most of which can arrange daycare. If we made a room in the conference center available for parents to use, there would be insurance issues.)

Kristina

- The size of the program made scheduling a nightmare
- She urges us to think hard about the current roster of venues: are there some we can cut out?
 - Each venue has some value, but there is a cost, too. Not just financial, but also in adding to the overload on attendees.
- We need to attract more practitioners!

Ed

- Could SIGCHI invest more in technology to help with the publications and scheduling process?
- Right now, we really could use one volunteer just to deal with PCS
 - In 2012, they probably had 6-7 people who were dealing with this to some extent
- The line between technical program management and logistics management was blurry. There are a number of issues here:
 - Logistics staff had no technical skills (e.g., to work with Google docs). This made interactions between the technical people (i.e., the volunteers) and the staff more difficult than it needed to be.
- Case Studies -- this venue needs improvement

Joe followed up to say:

- “We” know how to review things that get submitted to us.
- We’re not good at going out to get content, which is what is required for some venues
- We also are not good at doing cost-benefit analyses, which is required for venues such as Interactivity. That is, one Interactivity entry might cost \$8000, and another might cost \$800. Right now we have no experience or methods or policy to deal with these kind of situations.
- We also have had a very few people not show up to present accepted work. We need to think about this and form appropriate policies.

Ed said that we have worked to clarify the meaning of “curated”, “juried”, etc., but the policies that have been evolved have not been followed consistently. Joe said: venues chairs should publish the names of their juries before the submissions are received -- this would solve the problem.

Ed also pointed out that there currently is no real training for venue chairs.

We heard from Jeff Jortner about the SIGGRAPH experience. They have a venue called Emerging Technologies.

Scooter - A/V requests should come in *with submissions*.

Ed pointed out that we should separate what we want Interactivity to be from the logistical issues.

CHI 2013 Budget

Presented by Scooter

CHI 2013 is an immense budgetary and logistical challenge

The schedule contributed to the problem, too, as we were given the dates April 27 - May 2, and May 1 is a national holiday, where everything is shut down. So on that day, our labor costs will be doubled.

Hard to get a response from the Paris conference center to email.

Scooter is proposing that:

- CHI 2013 will not return anything to SIGCHI
- All the CHI 2012 surplus will go into the CHI 2013 budget
- SIGCHI will pay for the conference reception
- We will print a much shorter conference program

The cost of the Program Committee meeting is high. However, as Dan pointed out, the process works very well, and serves an important purpose in maintaining community cohesion.

The EC voted to approve the 2013 budget.

SIGCHI Communities

Update by Dan

Dan walked through the Executive Committee “dashboard” interface, which gives an overview of existing communities and status and permits communication between the EC and community officers.

There currently are 4 active communities and 4 pending communities.

Dan then reviewed a list of new features that will be added to the communities infrastructure along with their development cost. He also showed newer features that already have been added, including a member survey tool.

The Executive Committee voted to approve a budget for new features to be added to the Communities infrastructure.

Conferences

Scooter - talked about CHI conferences post CHI 2013

CHI 2014, Toronto. In good shape

CHI 2015. Seoul or Singapore.

- Scooter did site visits to both places
- Both would be wonderful hosts; he thinks our attendees would have a good experience in either place
 - The local HCI communities in both cities have been very supportive, as have the cities themselves
- He is requesting updated bids from all possible venues (3 in Singapore, 1 in Seoul)
 - Due by May 15
 - After Scooter receives them, he will put together a proposal recommending a lead city. He then will ask for the EC to approve this approval at the July meeting. He then recommends that a larger team do a site visit to the lead city.
 - Once the lead city is selected, Scooter will be seeking local government support to drive down the conference center costs.
- Scooter's current impression is that the budget for 2015 will be manageable

To summarize, Scooter believes that the development efforts we have put in to East Asia are paying off: thanks to Zhengjie and John K.

Scooter also is planning to propose another "Writer's Workshop" for East Asia enough in advance of CHI 2015 to aid people from that area in producing successful submissions to CHI 2015 (or even CHI 2014). The plan will be to hold the workshop in 2013, in either Seoul or Singapore, whichever one is not designated as the lead city for 2015.

Specialized conferences -- led by Philippe
Things are going well currently.

One development: we will maintain and update a list of upcoming specialized conferences. We will produce updated print versions every 6 months, which conferences may choose to

distribute.

It looks like the DUX conference may be revived.

There are ongoing efforts to set up a SIGCHI sponsored Games conference.

Education project report

Presented by Elizabeth and Jenny

They had a meeting with interested parties at CHI 2012 to identify potential new issues and new stakeholders.

One issue discussed was the forthcoming ACM/IEEE Computer Science curriculum recommendations. It was suggested that many US computer science departments don't follow the ACM curriculum anyway. BUT, on the other hand, this curriculum is taken quite seriously in other countries such as China. While HCI education is a small part of this curriculum, we need to be sure that our perspective is addressed appropriately. Several ways to do this were suggested.

On another front, moving into large-scale online courses, ala what Stanford has done with AI courses, would bypass this process, and could be hugely popular. We could do things with the courses presented at the CHI conference, too.

Efforts in the Developing World

Report by Zhengjie and John K

Update on 2012 Latin America workshop, July 11-13 in Brazil. About 18-20 Latin American participants will attend, along with members of the SIGCHI Executive Committee (Gerrit, Scooter, Elizabeth, Gary, Philippe, Tuomo, Zhengjie and John K are invited). The goal is to aid the development of this community, as we have done with East Asia.

The EC voted to authorize an additional \$10K over the initial \$40K to support the workshop. Travel costs are likely to be a little higher due to the location of the workshop within Brazil.

Update on the Beijing workshop: the group of attendees has continued to meet and plan, with CHI 2012 being about the 5th such meeting.

There was some discussion about working with communities in other countries on issues that are important to them. For example, in Brazil there are journal rankings, and the normal SIGCHI publications are not ranked highly on these rankings, which raises a significant incentive problem for this community.

One possibility is to develop our own rankings of our publications. In conjunction with this, we should educate people worldwide that ACM (and perhaps IEEE) are the right bodies to do quality judgements of Computer Science (and HCI) publication venues.

We should put on our website a list of the all the “CHI” ACM Fellows and Distinguished Scientists, Members, etc.

What area would be next, beyond Latin America? Obviously, somewhere in Africa would be the next area of interest. However, our method so far is to work with and enhance the development of (at least nascent) communities, rather than seed communities where none exist. At this point, whether Africa is “ready”, under our current approach, is unclear. There is going to be an ICT4D conference in Africa next year. Potential opportunity for SIGCHI participation?

And what about India? There are great opportunities, lots of stuff going on, but no direct SIGCHI activities there.

IFIP TC13

Update by John K

John K mentioned a request to TC13 from a European agency that is looking to develop a long term research roadmap for the future of the internet enterprise systems. (FInES) John responded to TC13 on behalf of ACM that SIGCHI would be interested in providing HCI input to the plan. FInES responded that it would welcome such input. FInES has set up a dedicated tool in the FInES Cluster Portal, reachable at: [<http://www.fines-cluster.eu/fines/wp/finesroadmap/>] , where we can view the individual sections of the document and comment at our will. Anyone with ideas on participating can contact John K.

Policy

Update by Jonathan

He reported on his efforts to improve accessibility in three areas--CHI coSIGerence accessibility, CHI web site accessibility, and CHI digital content accessibility. Jonathan previously provided information to Scooter about SIGACCESS policies and guidelines related to conference accessibility, and Scooter reported that he used those materials within the site visits for Singapore and Seoul. Jonathan has had discussions with Wayne Graves at ACM headquarters about improving diigtal library accessibility, and CHI web site accessibility will be addressed at the July EC meeting in New York.

Jonathan requested \$10,000 for a study, coordinated by the SIGCHI Intl International Public POLicy Committee, to interview policy makers in 10 different countries to learn more about what areas of HCI, and in what formats, policymakers wcuold use HCI data in their decision making. This was an idea generated by the International Public Policy Committee. This proposal was approved by the EC.

Jonathan reported on two successful policy-related events at CHI 2012 in Austin--a panel on influencing US policymakers, and a SIG about funding trends internationally. There was also a fact-to-face meeting of members of the SIGCHI International Public Policy Committee.

Jonathan also mentioned that there was interest from both the International Public Policy Committee and the attendees at the SIG on collecting data and producing a report on grant funding trends throughout the world. The EC members were skeptical and tnd indicated that while Jonathan is free to move forward with a proposal, they were not likely to fund the proposal.

Jonathan noted that ACM Europe is in the process of creating a Europe policy council, similr to the USACM US Public Policy Council. If this occurs, SIGCHI will in the future be able to sign-on European policy statements coming out of ACM< as they currently do with US policy statements.

Jonathan also noted that the SIGCHI INTERNATIONAL Public Policy Committee is planning on submitting a workshop proposal to CHI 2013 , to plan a workshop about policy issue, with the goal of writing up a white paper on the general topic, providing a foundation for those seeking to learn more about the topic of HCI and Public Policy.

Local Chapters Update

Report by Tuomo

ACM Distinguished Speakers program -- not a lot of HCI people on it. We should invite people such as CHI Academy members to sign up for it.

-- Action item: Loren will send this email, explaining that this is an interesting opportunity for them and a big benefit for places that can't otherwise afford to bring in distinguished (HCI) speakers.

Publicity Update

Report by Paul

about 23000 attendees at SXSW with a special focus on interactivity.

Paul will update here in the minutes directly

- plan for a press release on the gift (A/V recording station) from SIGCHI to a school in Austin
- Paul will work on setting up a committee to produce various types of publicity material (web site, ...)

Other Items

Report by Gerrit

Issue of dealing with requests from people who would be willing to volunteers. This is postponed to the next EC meeting in New York.

Vote to confirm Shumin for another term as TOCHI editor - all approved.

Hand off meeting to next EC - 26th 8.00 am and finishes 28th at 1.00 pm.

Latin America meeting 11th to 13th of July

June meeting for the Turing Award meeting 15-16 in San Francisco

5-9 August SIGGRAPH meeting (7-8) in Los Angeles

Fred reported special thanks the EC received from the Women at CHI meeting organizers and from several attendees of that event

16.15 closing of the meeting