ACM Technology Policy Council TechBriefs Committee

FY 2023 Annual Report

Stuart Shapiro, Chair (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

1.   **BASIC INFORMATION**

1.1   Committee members (all terms indeterminate)
   - Stuart Shapiro, Chair
   - Michel Beaudouin-Lafon
   - Bran Knowles
   - Andrew McGettrick
   - Larry Medsker
   - John Murray
   - Kashyap Tumkur
   - Moshe Vardi
   - Jim Hendler (ex officio)
   - Adam Eisgrau (ex officio)
   - Bruce Shriver (ex officio)

1.2   **Purpose**
The ACM Technology Policy Council TechBriefs Committee is charged with producing on an ongoing basis (currently quarterly) a series of short technical bulletins that present perspectives on the impact of specific developments or applications of computing technology. The primary goal of these documents is to inform, rather than advocate specific policy responses. Their primary audience is policymakers. Secondary audiences are the media, computing professionals, and the general public.

1.3   **Subcommittees**
N/A

1.4   **Committee meetings** (held as needed):

   - September 7, 2022
   - October 7, 2022
   - October 10, 2022
   - December 2, 2022
   - March 16, 2023
   - June 8, 2023

2. **PROJECT SUMMARY**

While the Committee is one of three standing sub-units of the ACM Technology Policy Council, its work consists of sequential projects each one of which is designed to produce an individual TechBrief. Those published in FY 2023 were:

- Issue 4 - Quantum Computing and Simulation (July 2022)
- Issue 5 - Election Security: Risk-Limiting Audits (October 2022)
- Issue 6 - Safer Algorithmic Systems (January 2023)
- Issue 7 - The Data Trust Deficit (Spring 2023)

In FY22, the Committee formally established a quarterly publication schedule for each calendar year of January, April, July, and October. Subsequently in FY23, to better accommodate now predictable delays in production timelines, the Committee opted to continue to publish "seasonally" rather than in an identified month (although the original publication months continue to serve as targets). It also continued to normalize and refine the production process. Contract editorial and design support begun last year continued to positive effect in FY23.

3. **PLANS**

3.1 **Current Projects**

TechBriefs currently under development will address:
- Generative Artificial Intelligence
- Website Accessibility Policy/Standards/Regulation
- Artificial Intelligence and Trust

3.2 **Prospective Changes or Milestones**
The Committee's shift in FY23 to Trello as a production-facilitation platform was successful and its use will continue in FY24. The Committee also aims to increase its membership to enable better distribution of the workload and enhance productivity. With respect to milestones, the Committee proudly notes that by the end of FY23 all TechBriefs produced thus far (including Issue 7 released just a week before the fiscal year's end) had been downloaded a total of approximately 40,000 times.

3.3 **New Projects or Programs**
In response to the interest expressed by ACM members in locations outside the US and Europe in developing localized TechBriefs in FY23, the Committee will continue to investigate ways in which a TechBriefs-like "Notes" product might be developed if (but only if) significant volunteer support for its production clearly will be available over time. In FY24, the Committee also will pursue translating some or all TechBriefs into one or more non-English languages, particularly Chinese and/or Spanish.

4.   **<u>DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION</u>**

The Committee operates by consensus and therefore places a premium on active engagement from its members. Efforts are consistently made in meetings and other interactions to actively elicit the views of all participants and exchanges have been invariably civil and respectful. The Committee's composition, however, remains skewed. It trends: older, American, academic, male, and white, though it is not monolithic in any of these respects. Consequently, the Committee has begun identifying candidates for recruitment outside this demographic with the aim of leveraging the opportunity for ad hoc participation by additional volunteers to improve its level of diversity. With the production process now relatively normalized, this effort will receive more sustained attention in FY24.

5.   **<u>COMMENTS</u>**

TechBriefs are intended primarily to inform policymakers, the media (on which policymakers and their staffs rely), ACM professional and student members (through media and ACM channels), other computing professionals, and the public at large (likely through media). They also are intended to establish ACM, its policy units, and the organization's member experts as authoritative, objective, trustworthy, and reliable apolitical sources for technical information in accessible forms on critical technology policy issues.

Specifically, each TechBrief aims to illuminate key current and/or emerging issues related to the impacts, trade-offs, benefits, and risks associated with a specific computing technology. TechBriefs topics thus can include both issues under present consideration by policymakers (e.g., facial recognition), as well as foreseeable issues raised by new technologies with significant anticipated social, political, economic, and environmental impacts (e.g., quantum simulation). They also may well address, in whole or in part, themes related to professional responsibility. As a product of the TPC, TechBriefs are intended for a global audience. Efforts thus consistently are made (with varying degrees of success) to "internationalize" their content.

ACM TECHNOLOGY POLICY COUNCIL
TECH BRIEFS COMMITTEE
FY 2023 MEMBER ROLES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

VOTING	EX OFFICIO
Stuart Shapiro s_shapiro@acm.org *Chair*	**Michel Beaudouin-Lafon** mbl@lri.fr *TPC Vice Chair*
Bran Knowles b.h.knowles1@lancaster.ac.uk *Europe TPC Representative*	**Adam Eisgrau** eisgrau@hq.acm.org *ACM Director, Global Policy & Public Affairs*
Andrew McGettrick andrew.mcgettrick@strath.ac.uk *Ad hoc Europe TPC Member*	**Jim Hendler** hendler@cs.rpi.edu *TPC Chair*
Larry Medsker lrm@gwu.edu *Ad hoc USTPC Member*	**Bruce Shriver** shriver@hq.acm.org *ACM Marketing and Communications Senior Manager*
John Murray jxm@calidris.net *Ad hoc USTPC Member*	
Kashyap Tumkur kashyap.tumkur@gmail.com *USTPC Representative*	
Moshe Vardi vardi@cs.rice.edu *Editorial/Publication SME*	