



**Association for
Computing Machinery**

Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

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**CFP 08 COMPUTER SECURITY EXPERTS DEBATE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

**Obama, McCain Campaign Representatives to Answer Questions on Top Tech Priorities for Next U.S.
Administration**

NEW HAVEN, CT – May 15, 2008 – As the presidential candidates ramp up their campaigns with policy pronouncements and promises that portend significant changes in the lives of all citizens, the 2008 Computers, Freedom and Privacy Conference presents renowned technology policy experts whose views will help shape public debate on these issues. CFP 2008 will be held **May 20-23, at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale University**. The conference, titled “Technology Policy in the Information Age,” is sponsored by ACM (the Association for Computing Machinery).

For the first time, CFP 2008 will feature a representative from both the Obama and McCain presidential campaigns on their respective technology platforms. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Senior Domestic Policy Advisor, McCain '08 Campaign, and Daniel Weitzner, Member of the Technology Media and Telecommunications policy committee advising the Obama '08 Campaign will answer questions from the panelists on the technology policy they envision for the next president.

Of particular interest in this election year is a session on **Wednesday, May 21**, that will launch a collaborative effort by CFP 2008 attendees to write a letter to the next president of the United States about their priorities for technology policy in the next administration. Proposals will be posted on a wiki for comments, and a draft letter will be circulated for signatures on a consensus document. The letter will then be mailed to the presidential campaigns inviting their responses. The project’s intent is to generate broad

discussion about technology policy priorities among grassroots groups in the U.S. and other countries, and to direct these viewpoints to future policy-makers.

CFP 2008 also features a keynote address by **Konstantinos Karachalios**, a major participant in the European Patent Office (EPO) report on the future of intellectual property, titled “Scenarios for the Future.” The project considered what the patent system might look like in 20 years time, in order to gain clarity on future threats and opportunities. Karachalios, who will deliver his presentation on **Thursday, May 22**, holds a Ph.D. degree in nuclear reactor safety. Before joining the EPO, he was project leader for cooperation between France and Germany on the prediction and simulation of large-scale accidents in nuclear plants.

Clay Shirky, a consultant, teacher and writer on the social and economic effects of Internet technologies, will present his keynote address on **Friday, May 23**. His columns and writings have appeared in many top tier publications including *Business 2.0*, *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Harvard Business Review*, and *Wired magazine*. Shirky teaches New Media at New York University’s Interactive Telecommunications Program. His consulting practice is focused on the rise of decentralized technologies such as peer-to-peer, web services, and wireless networks that provide alternatives to the wired client-server infrastructure that characterizes the World Wide Web.

CFP 2008 will also present a wide range of panels, discussions, workshops, technical demonstrations and additional speakers on key topics culled from today’s headlines. They include voting technology, online campaigning, social networks, network neutrality, electronic medical records, media and concentration, and cybercrime and cyberterrorism.

The conference features tutorials, plenary and concurrent sessions, and provocative Birds-of-a-Feather sessions. Highlights of the conference include the Big Brother Awards and the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Awards, which recognize milestones as well as dubious distinctions in the online world.

For registration and more information, click on <http://www.cfp2008.org>.

About Computers, Freedom and Privacy

CFP www.cfp.org is the leading Internet policy conference, shaping the public debate on the future of privacy and freedom in the online world for 18 years. The CFP audience is as diverse as the net itself, with participants from government, law enforcement, business, and education, including computer professionals, hackers and engineers, non-profits, and the media. CFP is the place where the future is mapped.

About ACM

ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery www.acm.org, is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.

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