



Fiscal Year 2021  
Annual Report of the  
ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee

*For the Period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021*

Submitted by  
James Hendler, Chair

**FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**U.S. Technology Policy Committee of the**  
**Association for Computing Machinery**  
**Technology Policy Council**  
**July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

## **1. BASIC INFORMATION**

Known until mid-2018 as the ACM U.S. Policy Council (USACM), the Association’s U.S. Technology Policy Committee (USTPC) is chartered as the focal point for ACM’s interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology and computing *except* education and workforce issues. The present reporting period marks the second year of USTPC operation as a Committee of the ACM Technology Policy Council (TPC), which was chartered to “set the agenda for ACM’s global policy activities. . . [and] work with the committees under its auspices to help establish and monitor the agenda for regional policy activities.” USTPC remains authorized to take policy positions in the same manner that USACM was (pursuant to its current Operating Procedures and continues to maintain a systematic process for the development, review, and approval of such policy positions. As in the past, these positions reflect the analysis of USTPC and not necessarily that of either ACM or the TPC.

### **1.1 Leadership**

USTPC is guided, and its formal positions determined, by a small executive group and/or larger Secretariat, which includes a Chair, Vice Chair, four At Large members, and all former chairs of USTPC and its predecessor policy bodies. The Chair of the Europe Technology Policy Committee, and ACM’s CEO and Global Policy Director, also serve as non-voting ex officio members of the Committee. The ACM President appoints the USTPC Chair for a term of two years, beginning July 1 in even-numbered years. The ACM President may appoint Co-Chairs. The USTPC Chair, in consultation with the ACM President, appoints the Vice Chair or Co-Vice Chairs. The USTPC Executive Secretariat is composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, Immediate Past Chair, and four additional USTPC Secretariat members selected by the Chair, as well as all ex officio members. Having postponed the election of new At Large members to facilitate discussion of related changes in the Committee’s Operating procedures (*see* Note below), the composition of the Committee’s leadership for the period covered by this Report was:

#### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

Jim Hendler, Chair  
Alec Yasinsac, Vice Chair  
Stuart Shapiro, Immediate Past Chair  
Jeremy Epstein  
Andy Grosso  
Harry Hochheiser  
Jeanna Matthews

## **SECRETARIAT**

### **ACM President-Appointed and Permanent Members**

Jim Hendler (Chair)  
Stuart Shapiro (Immediate Past Chair)\*  
Eugene Spafford (Past Chair)\*  
Chuck Brownstein (Past Chair)\*  
Barbara Simons (Past Chair)\*

### **USTPC Chair-Appointed Vice & Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs**

Alec Yasinsac (USTPC Vice Chair)

Harry Hochheiser (Accessibility)	Andrew Grosso (Law)
Jeanna Matthews (Artificial Intelligence)	Brian Dean (Privacy)
Jonathan Smith (Artificial Intelligence)	Patrick Traynor (Security)
Danny Weitzner (Digital Governance)	Jeremy Epstein (Voting)
Paul Hyland (Intellectual Property)	Barbara Simons (Voting)*

### **Membership-Elected At Large Members**

Jean Camp**	Meg Leta Jones**
Cory Doctorow**	John Murray**
Simson Garfinkel**	<i>Vacant</i>

### **Ex Officio Members of Executive Secretariat and Secretariat**

Gabriele Kotsis, ACM President	Vicki Hanson, ACM CEO and Executive Director
Lorraine Kisselburgh, TPC Chair	Pat Ryan, ACM Chief Operating Officer
Chris Hankin, Europe TPC Chair	Adam Eisgrau, ACM Global Policy Director

#### **Notes:**

In the previous fiscal year, the Secretariat undertook a reassessment of the Committee's Operating Procedures with the objective of streamlining and enhancing the efficiency of the Committee's organization and administrative functions. Upon discussion, it was determined that the process of electing At Large members specified in the Procedures (carried over from the Committee's Bylaws when constituted as a Council of ACM) was unnecessarily complex, time consuming and inefficient. The Committee reviewed several proposals for alteration of those procedures at its Annual Meeting in June of 2020 but did not finalize and adopt changes to those procedures at that time in favor of continuing informal discussion of preferred structures. Discussion continued in the current fiscal year culminating in formal amendment of the Procedures governing the election of two At Large Secretariat members.

---

\* Permanent member as full Committee Past Chair

\*\* Continued service at Chair's invitation pending Sept. 2021 At Large member election.

## General Members

All USTPC members, with new FY 2021 members' names asterisked, are listed in the Appendix.

### 1.2 Purpose

The ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee is chartered as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology. USTPC educates the public, policymakers, and the community about public policy issues that affect the development of technology or where technology influences policy issues to better inform policy decisions. USTPC's contributions to public policy are drawn from the deep technical expertise of the computing community. USTPC applies this technical knowledge to bring relevant scientific research, best practices, perspective, and foresight about computing and innovation to public policy issues. USTPC seeks consensus policy positions that are firmly grounded in scientific or technology knowledge and which take into account the diverse interests of ACM membership and the computing field.

### 1.3 Subcommittees

In FY 2021, USTPC members participated in the Committee's work through eight Subcommittees:

**Accessibility** - Harry Hochheiser, Chair (hshoch@gmail.com)

The AI Subcommittee strives to advance public policies, practices, and research in usability, AI, and accessible technologies.

**AI & Algorithmic Accountability** –

Co-Chairs: Jeanna Matthews (jnm@clarkson.edu), Jonathan Smith (jms@cis.upenn.edu)

The AI and Accountability Subcommittee monitors developments in the burgeoning constellation of fields broadly identified as related to Artificial Intelligence with an emphasis on early identification of the potential policy implications of emerging technologies and new research.

**Digital Governance** – Danny Weitzner, Chair (partial year, djweitzner@csail.mit.edu)

The Digital Governance Subcommittee addresses online operations of government and the sustainable development of the Internet.

**Intellectual Property** - Paul Hyland, Chair (paul@paulhyland.com)

The Intellectual Property Subcommittee works to ensure that public policies related to patents and copyright promote innovation and balance the legitimate interests of inventors and creators with those of consumers and the public.

**Law** - Andrew Grosso, Chair (agrosso@att.net)

The Law Subcommittee is dedicated to monitoring the legal landscape for developments that affect computing policy.

**Privacy** - Brian Dean, Chair (bdean@secureworks.com)

The Privacy Subcommittee seeks to facilitate a greater understanding of the issues at the intersection of privacy and technology.

**Security** - Patrick Traynor, Chair (traynor@cise.ufl.edu)

The Security Subcommittee promotes the embodiment of security in computing and computing-related infrastructures and seeks to contribute to policy solutions that foster secure, stable, robust, and trustworthy computing environments.

**Voting** - Co-Chairs: Jeremy Epstein (jeremy.j.epstein@gmail.com),  
Barbara Simons (barbara.b.simons@gmail.com)

The Voting Subcommittee works to encourage policies that support the security, reliability, accuracy, accessibility, usability, and verifiability of public elections.

## 1.4 Meetings

As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the USTPC Secretariat again held its annual meeting virtually in FY 2021 on February 25, 2021 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT to review policy activities and to determine priorities for the year ahead. The Committee's meeting time was devoted to: discussion of revision of its Procedures; increasing ACM member engagement with USTPC; a newly formed Health Technology Task Force; a planned "HotTopics" webinar series; and potential pandemic-related or -highlighted technology policy issues that the Committee might prospectively address. The latter discussion was focused and facilitated by guest speaker Peter Harsha, Director Peter *Harsha*. Director of Government Affairs for the Computing Research Association, a frequent USTPC collaborator organization.

USTPC otherwise operates mainly through listserv discussions among the members. In addition to the main listserv for all members, each subcommittee and working group operates a listserv to keep its members informed of policy activities, events, policy engagement opportunities, and relevant information. Standing committees also may hold periodic conference calls to discuss action and progress on specific policy projects.

## 2. PRINCIPAL FY 2021 USTPC POLICY PRODUCTS

USTPC continued to educate and inform policy leaders, ACM members, the computing community, and the public about U.S. policy issues related to information technology and computing. These efforts were accomplished in FY 2021 by the Committee itself and in collaboration with other organizations through the following products:

- [Joint "Long Comment" to US Copyright Office Supporting Expansion of DMCA Security Research Exemption](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (March 10, 2021)
- [Joint Letter to Utah State Rep. S. Harrison re: Insecurity of Online Voting](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (December 22, 2020)
- [Joint Letter to Utah State Representatives re: Insecurity of Online Voting](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (December 22, 2020)
- [Joint Detailed Request to US Copyright Office for Expansion of DMCA Security Research Exemption](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (December 14, 2020)

- [Joint Comments to Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Industry Security on Foundational Technology Export Controls](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (October 29, 2020)
- [Joint Request to US Copyright Office for Expansion of DMCA Security Research Exemption](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (September 8, 2020)
- [Joint Request for Renewal of Digital Millennium Copyright Act Security Research Exemption](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (July 22, 2020)
- [US Supreme Court Amicus Curiae Brief in Van Buren v US](#), ACM US Technology Policy Committee (July 8, 2020)

**NOTE:** USTPC policy products may be viewed at [www.acm.org/public-policy/public-policy-statements](http://www.acm.org/public-policy/public-policy-statements).

## 2.1 Additional Activities and Outcomes of Note

In addition to producing and promoting the formal Committee policy documents identified above, USTPC also raised awareness of public policy issues in FY 2021 through [@ACMpolicy](#) and [@USTPC](#) on Twitter, regular policy updates in ACM’s monthly [MemberNet](#), periodic press releases, and OpEds and media interviews by member leaders, including:

- Third HotTopics webinar presented on [The Politics and Policy of Necessity: Mega-Hacks and the Future of US Cybersecurity](#) (June 9, 2021)
- Inaugural “D3” conference on [Deepfakes, Disinformation, and Democracy](#) co-presented by USTPC, the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, and Online News Association featuring CACM author Dr. Deborah Johnson and Turing laureate Vint Cerf (June 2, 2021)
- Government Technology Magazine reports on [Technology & Trust: Voting in the Electronic Age](#) HotTopics program (February 16, 2021)
- Newswise quotes USTPC Chair Jim Hendler in [We crave voting alternatives, but online voting shouldn't be one of them](#) (January 14, 2021)
- Cointelegraph quotes USTPC Vice Chair Jeremy Epstein and cites joint USTPC Report Email and “Internet Voting: The Overlooked Threat to Election Security” in [Blockchain voting is the alternative for trusted democratic elections](#) (November 14, 2020)
- Modern Consensus quotes USTPC Vice Chair Jeremy Epstein in [Krygyzstan leader plans blockchain voting for re-do parliamentary elections](#) (November 12, 2021)
- Second HotTopics webinar featuring USTPC experts presented on [Technology & Trust: Voting in the Electronic Age](#) (November 12, 2021)
- USTPC joins the ACM Technology Policy Council and Europe Technology Policy Committee in championing and [promoting international Data Privacy Day](#) (January 28, 2021)

- New York Times reports on letter by leading security experts, including multiple USTPC members, in [Election Security Experts Contradict Trump's Voting Claims](#) (November 16, 2020)
- Inaugural HotTopics panel discussion webinar on [CDA 230: The Most Important Law Protecting Internet Speech](#) (November 18, 2020)
- National Academy of Public Administration's [Artificial Intelligence: An Agenda for 2021](#) cites USTPC Principles for [Artificial Intelligence](#) (2017) and for [Facial Recognition Technologies](#) (2020) (August 2020)
- Decrypt Media quotes USTPC Voting Subcommittee Chair Jeremy Epstein in [USPS Blockchain Voting Patent Not Ready for Primetime, Experts Say](#) (August 20, 2020)
- Bloomberg Law OpEd by USTPC Law Subcommittee Chair Andrew Grosso, [SCOTUS Can Stop Abuse of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act](#) (August 3, 2020)
- Coverage of USTPC Facial Recognition Statement call for qualified moratorium on technology's use in [AI Hub](#), [Biometric Update](#), [Decipher](#), [World Best News](#), [Etcentric](#), [Analytics India](#), and [Planet Biometrics](#) (July 2-6, 2020)

### 3. PLANS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

In conjunction with ACM's Technology Policy Council, and under the direction of new Chair Jeremy Epstein, USTPC will continue its work to engage with current ACM members and collaborate with other structures and groups within ACM. USTPC also will work with ACM's Europe Technology Policy Committee to identify issue areas of common concern that the Committees may address jointly and/or through the ACM Technology Policy Council (TPC). In addition, USTPC will continue to pursue opportunities to collaborate with other organizations to strengthen the Committee's efforts to educate and inform policy leaders and deepen our impact and influence in U.S. public policy. Specific areas of initiative are expected to include:

#### **Policy Articles by USTPC Members**

USTPC will continue encourage members to author articles and opinion pieces on "hot topic" issues at the intersection of technology and policy for ACM publications, ACM-sponsored publications and the media. USTPC will develop and implement procedures by which the articles might be USTPC branded or officially adopted as reflecting the views of USTPC. Specifically, the Committee will consult with ACM leadership and the editors of Communications of the ACM regarding potential regular contributions to CACM concerning the work of the Committee.

#### **Strategic Judicial *Amicus* Brief Filings**

USTPC, working through its Law and other germane Subcommittees, will continue to seek to proactively identify additional opportunities to contribute to the record of select judicial proceedings directly relevant to computing or which turn on a complete and accurate understanding of one or more computing technologies. Such matters may well involve election system security and the appropriate scope of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

### **USTPC Web and Social Media Assets**

In coordination with the Chair of the Technology Policy Council, ACM leadership and professional ACM Communications staff, USTPC will continue efforts to further enhance the design and content of ACM's public policy-oriented web pages and to design a comprehensive and expanded social media strategy. Efforts also will continue and expand to profile the individual contributions of USTPC members to the Committee's work.

### **USTPC HotTopics Webinar Series**

Building on the success of its first four programs in FY21, the Committee will work to increase and regularize the frequency of its HotTopics programming, and to expand its audience. Strategies for doing so include informal collaboration with allied and situationally expert organizations, such as the Computing Research and American Bar Associations.

## **4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

The Committee's Report last year noted that we would be working to recruit a more diverse group of members in terms of gender and age. Those efforts led in FY 2021 to an increase in both categories. Indeed, one of our most recent statements (concerning secure [remote test administration](https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/ustpc-statement-remote-test-admin-systems.pdf) software published in August 2021 [<https://www.acm.org/binaries/content/assets/public-policy/ustpc-statement-remote-test-admin-systems.pdf>]) was primarily authored by Christopher Kang, a new undergraduate member. The Committee also began a program aimed at admitting new members more quickly. The Committee will continue in FY 2022 to work to increase the diversity of our membership both through continued focused recruiting and raising the profile of the Committee's work within ACM's membership through such channels as MemberNet and the HotTopics webinar series.



## FY 21 USTPC MEMBER ROSTER

<b>Jeremy Epstein, Chair</b> <b>Alec Yasinsac, Vice Chair</b>			
Rediet Abebe Prabhav Agrawal* Mubasher Ahmed Tanvir Ahmed* Annie Anton Flo Appel Vineeta Arora* Ricardo Baeza-Yates Jason Baker Jeremy T. Barksdale Ben Bederson Steven Bellovin Jenny Blessing* Travis Breaux Chris Bronk Chuck Brownstein Jean Camp Afiya Carter* Vint Cerf Debra Chapman* Charalampos Chelmis* Thomas Chen* Steven Cherry Dr. Sunny Choi Nicolas Christin Geoff Cohen James Cohoon Lillie Coney Lorrie Cranor Rachel Cummings Brian Dean Jayati Dev* Nicholas Diakopoulos Cem Kaner Chris Kang*	Patrick Kelly David L. Dill William Doane Cory Doctorow Julie Earp Jon Eisenberg* Dave Farber Nick Feamster Stu Feldman Miles Fidelman Kathy Fontaine Simson Garfinkel Yolanda Gil Juan E. Gilbert Seymour E. Goodman Don Gotterbarn Sarah Granger James Grimmelmann Andrew Grosso Alex Gyori Mark P. Hahn Barbara L. Helfer Jim Hendler Rebecca Herold Harry Hochheiser Lance Hoffman Lee Hollaar Juan Pablo Hourcade Chuck House Paul Hyland Paul Jacobs Douglas W. Jones Meg Leta Jones Juan Miguel de Joya Lorraine Kisselburgh	Joshua Kroll Jim Kurose Carl Landwehr* Kim Lawson-Jenkins Jung-Ju Lee Clayton Lewis Vince Lipsio Darrell Long Rao Mannepli Aaron Massey Jeanna Matthews Jonathan Mayer Larry Medsker Lynette Millett Jim Moody Sam Morales John Murray Arvind Narayanan Peter Neumann Andy Oram Paul Otto Barbara Owens Garry Paxinos Jon Peha Sean Peisert* Jonathon Phillips George Porter* Mark Rasch Alan Rea Jennifer Rexford Brendan Roach Chris Roberts Arnon Rosenthal Marc Rotenberg George Roussos	Anthony Ruocco Pam Samuelson Curtis Sawyer Ari Schlesinger Fred Schneider Doug Schuler Andrew Sears Stuart Shapiro Ben Shneiderman Barbara Simons Gurtej Singh* Adam Smith Jonathan Smith* Ollie Smoot Eugene Spafford Spaf Aaron Temin Bhavani Thuraisingham Patrick Traynor Kashyap Tumkur Jaideep Vaidya Lorenzo Valeri Emil Volcheck David Wagner Tiffany Xingyu Wang Rick Wash* Daniel Weitzner John White David S. Wise Alex Wolf Tao Xie Bülent Yener* Christopher Yoo Jessica Young Kenneth Zhang* Stuart Zweben

\* *New member.*