Physical Conference Recipe

Paper Presentations

Poster Presentations + Networking

Snacking + Networking

Tourism + Networking
Academic Communities Meeting Virtually
A socio-technical problem with unique academic challenges

• Technology:
  • How to provide opportunities to discover who else is attending and interact?
  • How to organize all of the synchronous and asynchronous video in one place?
  • How to organize chat around the technical program?

• Social:
  • What is the barrier to introducing yourself?
  • When should you be online?
  • Cameras on/off?
  • How to have casual interactions?
  • How to keep the discussion going after the conference?
CLOWDR: A Successful Beta Deployment @ ICSE

~1500 logged on to the platform overall

We are in the Lobby: overview of all 3 live rooms with sessions right now

Contextual chat for this room

Globally-available direct messaging
1-click to video chat

10 most recent participants to join this room

Hallway Track
Watching talks

10 most recent participants to join this room. Still see all 169 by expanding

A stark lesson (2014)

- post land batch: ~0% fix rate
- diff time continuous: ~70% fix rate
- same analysis (Infer)
Chat centered around the program

NOT centered around slack’s interface!

Slack-based conference (NOT Clowdr)

You created this channel on July 11th. This is the very beginning of the #day1-1050-fuzzing channel.

Jonathan Bell 10:08 AM
Joined #day1-1050-fuzzing.

Please post questions for "VIENNA: Automatic Grey-box Fuzzing for Structured Binary Formats" by replying to this thread.

Thank you.

#day1-1050-fuzzing

Jonathan Bell 10:10 AM
Joined #day1-1050-fuzzing.

Please post questions for "Extended Fuzzers: Combining Fuzzing and Testing" by replying to this thread.

Marcia Fussnet 10:12 AM
Joined #day1-1050-fuzzing along with 7 others.

CLOWDR: Each paper/poster gets its own chat channel, cross-linked to program/authors/live sessions, can be archived.
Hallway & Posters Tracks

Participants can make their own public/private video rooms.

Important: participants can see where others are.

Same for posters!
Hallway & Posters Tracks

364 users used this; 146 spent over 20 mins, 77 over 1 hour, total: 250 hours!
Deployment costs and infrastructure

- Conference maintains complete ownership of the data. App is open source.
- Frontend: react, “almost” no backend - ParsePlatform, we used hosting from Back4App
  - <$100, could have chosen a cheaper plan. Replicated across multiple continents, good fault tolerance story. Installation easily shared among multiple conferences
- Program - imported from conf.researchr.org, can make live edits
- Video:
  - Live sessions - Zoom, YouTube, IQYI
  - Breakout sessions - Twilio (Unlimited rooms, less than 1 cent/min/person)
  - Chat - Twilio (Unlimited channels, $0.02/active user/month)
- $500 free credits available from Twilio for non-profits impacted by COVID-19. Total deployment cost to ICSE was ~$100 (just hosting).
Open technical problems
HUGE feature wishlist, looking for contributors!

How do best mix P2P video + chat + content?
Open social problems
How do we encourage casual conversation?

Demo (Time Permitting) - https://icse2020.clowdr.org
Get access to try it yourself: welcome@clowdr.org

2017: Buenos Aires

2020: CLOWDR
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