

ACM SGB Role in IFIP

Discussion for
ACM SGB Meeting 14 March 2013

Organization of Discussion

1. IFIP Overview
2. “USA” Representation in IFIP
3. ACM as an IFIP Member Society
4. Potential Opportunities for ACM SIG Members in IFIP TC Participation
5. Discussion

1. IFIP Overview

What is IFIP?

- (International Federation for Information Processing)
 - www.ifip.org
- Federation of ICT societies representing countries
 - One member society per country (except USA)
 - Founded in 1960
- Recognized by UN, cooperation with UNESCO
- Intended to serve as “international” representative of computing profession

Structure of IFIP (1)

- General Assembly (GA)
 - One representative per member society
 - Now also includes TC Chairs
 - Analogous to ACM Council; one meeting per year
- Officers (Executive Committee)
 - President, 4 VPs, Secretary, Treasurer
 - Face-to-face meetings only with GA and Board
- Board
 - Officers plus 8 Councillors
 - Limited authority; one meeting per year

Structure of IFIP (2)

- Technical Committees (TCs) (13)
 - One representative per member society
 - Appointed by society
 - Oversee technical activities of IFIP in TC's designated area
- Working Groups (WGs)
 - Any number of members, not limited to MSs
 - Focus on subarea of TC; are subunit of a TC
- TC/WG activities are the strength of IFIP

Example: TC1 Foundations of Computer Science

- [WG 1.1](#) Continuous Algorithms and Complexity
- [WG 1.2](#) Descriptive Complexity
- [WG 1.3](#) Foundations of System Specification
- [WG 1.4](#) Computational Learning Theory
- [WG 1.5](#) Cellular Automata and Discrete Complex Systems
- [WG 1.6](#) Term Rewriting
- [WG 1.7](#) Theoretical Foundations of Security Analysis and Design
- [WG 1.8](#) Concurrency Theory
- [WG 1.9](#) Verified Software (joint with WG 2.15)

TC List (1)

TC1 Foundations of Computer Science

TC2 Software Theory and Practice

TC3 Education

TC5 Information Technology Applications

TC6 Communication Systems

TC7 System Modeling and Optimization

TC8 Information Systems

TC List (2)

TC9 ICT and Society

TC10 Computer Systems Technology

TC11 Security and Privacy Protection in
Information Processing Systems

TC12 Artificial Intelligence

TC13 Human Computer Interaction

TC14 Entertainment Computing

(135 Working Groups Total)

Major TC/WG Activities

- Sponsor or co-sponsor about 75 conferences per year
 - Some co-sponsored with ACM
- Publish about 50 proceedings per year with IFIP publisher (Springer)
 - IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology (AICT)
 - IFIP sub-designation of LNCS or LNBIP series

Major IFIP Conferences

- World Computer Congress (WCC)
 - Held periodically since 1960
 - Declining attendance
- World Information Forum (WITFOR)
 - Forum for promoting IT development in developing countries
 - Intended as revenue neutral for IFIP
- World CIO Forum (WCF)
 - For CIOs; only one held (2011) so far

Some Other IFIP Activities

- International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3)
 - Promotes professionalism in ICT
 - Seeks to establish global standards for professional practice in ICT (IP3P)
 - Accredits IFIP Member Societies to offer professional certification satisfying the IP3P standards
- InterYIT
 - International organization for young IT professionals
 - Relatively new; mostly in Australasia

IFIP Secretariat

- IFIP incorporated in Austria as NGIO
- Secretariat in Laxenburg
 - Two fulltime employees, one half-time

Finances

- Annual income
 - Dues: about €160K
 - Conference revenue: about €50K
 - Publication royalties: about €50K
 - Return on investments: -€150K to €350K
- Expenses
 - Administrative support: about €250K
 - Projects and TC expenditures: about €80K
- Current portfolio: about €2.2 million

Dues Structure

- Based on UN Model
 - Depends on UN economic status level of country
 - No relation to size or economic status of member society
 - Each level doubles dues
- Range: about €400 to €12K per year

Some Operating Characteristics

- No risk in conference sponsorship
- No travel support provided to attend meetings

Current Status

- 44 full members (fairly stable)
 - Difficult for some to pay dues
- 13 TCs
- Future of non-TC conferences in doubt
- Resistance to changing membership structure
- Difficult to change dues structure

2. “USA” Representation in IFIP

History

- Initial (1960) US representative was AFIPS
 - American Federation of Information Processing Societies
 - Members were multiple (about 5?) US societies
- After the demise of AFIPS, FOCUS was formed
 - ACM and IEEE-CS were the only members
 - Only purpose was to represent the US in IFIP
- In 1998, IFIP rules were changed to allow two “US” representatives
 - ACM and the IEEE-CS replaced FOCUS as the “US” (or US-based) member societies of IFIP

3. ACM as an IFIP Member Society

Initial Structure

- ACM appointed its GA representative and provided travel support to attend meetings
- The SIG Board appointed ACM's TC representatives and provided travel support to attend annual TC meetings

Changes Since 1998

- The SGB arranged for individual SIGs to sponsor TC reps
 - Travel support was provided by the sponsoring SIG
 - If no SIG wished to provide support for a TC rep, none was appointed
 - Initially all TC reps were “supported” by a SIG
 - Over time, many/most SIGs lost interest in providing travel support for a TC rep to travel to the annual meeting

Current Status

- Joe Turner is the ACM rep to the IFIP GA
 - He also is an IFIP Vice President
- Few ACM TC reps have travel support to attend the annual TC meeting
 - Currently there are four vacancies
 - Some serve without travel support
- Obtaining nominations for TC reps is very slow, often with no response

What do Other IFIP MSs do?

- Very few provide travel support for TC reps
- Many/most do not appoint a rep to every TC
- ACM, IEEE-CS, and BCS all previously appointed a rep to every TC and provided support
 - BCS stopped providing support in about 2009
 - IEEE-CS stopped in 2011 (and then withdrew from IFIP)

Current ACM TC Representatives (1)

TC1: None

TC2: Jeremy Gibbons (no support)

TC3: Mihaela Sabin (SIGITE)

TC5: Mike McGrath (no support)

TC6: None

TC7: Irena Lasieka (no support)

TC8: George Kasper (SIGMIS)

Current ACM TC Representatives (2)

TC9: Don Gotterbarn (partial support: SIGCAS)

TC10: None

TC11: Bhavani Thuraisingham (no support)

TC12: None

TC13: John Karat (SIGCHI)

TC14: Magy Seif El-Nasr (no support)

Revised Procedure for TC Appointment

1. SGB Chair is notified and appointment requested.
2. SGB Chair sends request to relevant SIG(s).
3. If a SIG wishes to provide support, it makes the appointment.
4. If no SIG will provide support but a SIG can find a rep willing to serve without support, it makes the appointment.
5. If no appointment is provided by a SIG and an ACM member can be found who will serve without support, the SGB Chair makes the appointment.
6. Otherwise, no rep is appointed.
7. Official appointment letters come from the SGB Chair. IFIP and the TC are notified by the ACM GA rep.

4. Potential Opportunities for ACM SIG Members in IFIP TC Participation

- Facilitate membership in TC working groups
 - Some/many are prestigious; election is required for membership
 - Good mid-career recognition
- Connections to researchers who are not ACM members
- Opportunities for joint international events

Some Considerations

- ACM has participated as a member of IFIP because it believes that IFIP has a role to play in global IT activities, and ACM supports this role.
- IFIP has access to roles that ACM cannot, at this time, play relative to global IT representation
- ACM is widely viewed as a US organization by governments and others, including the UN/UNESCO; IFIP is viewed as international and apolitical.
- ACM participation in IFIP potentially provides access to, and influence in, some activities where access and influence would otherwise be restricted.

5. Discussion?