

**SUMMARY OF USENIX
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETINGS AND ACTIONS**

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The following is a summary of the actions taken by the USENIX Board of Directors from October 21, 2005, to December 20, 2005.

NEW CONFERENCES

First USENIX Security-Verified Electronic Voting Workshop: This event will be held in conjunction with the USENIX Security Symposium in August 2006. The workshop will focus on issues surrounding functionality and security of electronic voting. Ron Rivest will serve as program chair.

HotAC: USENIX will co-sponsor, with IEEE, the First Workshop on Hot Topics in Autonomic Computing (HotAC '06), which will focus on the complexity of large-scale systems (<http://www.aqualab.cs.northwestern.edu/HotAC/>). Alva Couch will serve as board liaison.

FINANCES

The Board approved the first draft budget for 2006. It does not include any raises in member dues or conference registration fees. The following requests for funds were approved:

- Sponsorship of the Computing Research Association's Snowbird Conference at the \$3,500 level.
- John Lions Endowed Chair in Computer Science: This endowment has been established at the University of New South Wales, Australia, to honor a pioneer in UNIX and computer science. The endowment is presently funded for twenty years. In order to assist with funding that will make it permanent, USENIX will match funds donated by members up to a total of \$250,000 during 2006. Members and the

community at large will be asked to donate.

- Standards Activities: \$54,000 will be allocated in 2006 to support the development of international standards in computing. Specific projects planned in the upcoming year include a C++ POSIX binding project, new library interfaces, and continuing Linux Standards Base work.
- The USA Computing Olympiad (USACO) supports pre-college students who have shown an interest in and promise for careers in computer science. USENIX will continue its support with a \$15,000 grant.

SAGE

In 2005, despite a lengthy negotiation that consumed hundreds of volunteer and staff hours from representatives of both USENIX and the SAGE Inc. organization, now called The League of Professional System Administrators (LOPSA), about possible terms for having the new group become SAGE, no workable agreement emerged. Therefore the USENIX Board feels that it is in the best interests of USENIX and LOPSA to focus our respective efforts on building our own organizations for the good of our members. We do not believe that any continued negotiations on funding of LOPSA by USENIX under the present framework would be worthwhile, and any new proposal must ensure that it addresses the issues regarding asset transfer and funding previously raised by the Board. It is generally felt that any new proposal would have to be substantially different in order to satisfactorily address these issues.

The USENIX Board welcomes proposals for cooperation between LOPSA and USENIX where it makes sense to both organizations.

USENIX continues to be committed to serving its SAGE members and the system administration community both now and in the future. The USENIX Board will be actively looking at ways to refine our services for all our members, and your input to us is an important part of this process.

Members wanting to give the Board guidance about shaping future programs for system administrators should send their suggestions to suggestions@sage.org.

The USENIX Board formally thanked Rob Kolstad for his dedi-

cated service to USENIX and SAGE over the years. (He resigned from his part-time role in SAGE in December 2005.) Strata R. Chalup has accepted the position of SAGE Programs Manager. See her introductory message on p. 91.

COMMITTEES

The SAGE Committee—Couch (chair), Jones, McKusick, Young—will oversee new services and benefits for SAGE members. The Audit Committee—McKusick, Ts'o, Geer, Young—will oversee the activities of the CPA firm that

has been engaged to conduct the annual audit of USENIX financial statements in the spring of 2006, mandated by new legislation by the state of California.

NEXT MEETINGS

The USENIX Board agreed to hold several strategic meetings in 2006 to seek new topics for conferences and ideas for expanding member services. It will meet on April 1 in Berkeley, CA, on May 8 in San Jose, CA, and on May 31 in Boston, MA.

NEW!

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