SenSys 2007 Business Meeting

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Why a Business Meeting?

- what makes SenSys?
  - the community: submitting papers
  - the community: volunteering effort
- we need to foster our community
  - solicit the best papers
  - recruit new volunteers
  - evolve (and grow) the focus as necessary
- meeting goals
  - let you know what has been going on
  - solicit your feedback and future involvement

Agenda

- SenSys background
  so we have the same start
- steering committee agenda
  - fostering the best conference
  - selecting locations and chairs
- discussion
  some questions from SC and open discussion

SenSys Goal: the place for sensornet systems work

- some papers to other top venues (ASPLOS, SOSP, SIGCOMM, Mobicom, etc.)
- some material may push boundaries
  - e.g., good systems work that is more sensors than networks, or vice versa
  - or good sensornet work that isn’t core systems work (maybe theory or analysis or...)
- but we strive to be the best place for mature, general sensornet research

What is Sensor Networking?

- traditionally: small, intelligent, communicating, distributed devices in the physical world
  - often resource constrained, autonomous, wireless
  - not always all of these, but usually some
- but it must evolve
  - otherwise the field will ossify
  - example traditional sensornets: e.g., based sensornets (not resource constrained), mobile phones (not autonomous), RFID (not very smart), etc.
  - exact definition is up to PC, but the SC encourages a broad view
- something that matters
  - applications that users care about
  - cross-disciplinary integration

SenSys in the Conference Space

- SenSys: core systems sensornet work
- IPSN: intelligence and signal processing side
- Hot-EmNets: early work (for early work)
- many, many other conferences filling in other parts of the sensornet space
  - general: QCON, MASS, DCOSS, ICLSS, ...
  - specialized: EWSN, WSNS, WUWnet, ...
  - and related conferences publishing relevant work! (ASPLOS, SIGCOMM, MOBICOM, INFOCOM, etc.)
Sensys as a Thing

- Sensys is “just” a conference
- not a SIG, but affiliated with SIGCOMM, SIGMOBILE, SIGOPS
- implications:
  - every conference needs to break even
  - no long-term budget (unlike SIGs)
  - and we need to think about where we fit in

the Sensys Steering Committee

- purpose: foster Sensys
- who:
  - last three years of general and program chairs
  - reps from the two largest sponsoring ACM SIGs
    - SIGMOBILE: Chairs Periods
    - SIGMOBILE: Chairs Periods
- what:
  - decide general chair, PC chair, and conference location, with input of general chair
  - talks about stuff

A huge thanks to the founding and retired SC members!

the Sensys Program Committee

- purpose: evaluate a year’s papers
- selected by the PC chairs
  - typically selected for breadth (in research area, geography, academia/industry)
  - challenge: covering the multi-disciplinary space adequately
- dedicated
  - personally reviewing ~20 papers (with detailed, constructive feedback)
  - helping find external reviewers for ~5 others
  - attending a 1 day, face-to-face PC meeting
  - shepherding ~1 conditionally accepted paper

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Fostering the Best Conference

- getting top papers
  - most of this done by SC before 2006
- strong demo track
  - demo research work
  - may grow into industrial trade show (track)
  - awards to feature academic and industrial demos
- strong technical presentations
  - full and involved talks
  - single track
  - best talk award
- bring in new ideas
  - colocated workshops

Conference Continuity (new this year)

- common website: http://sensys.acm.org
  - thanks to
    - Mark Hansen (2006 web chair) for starting site
    - prior web chairs for getting me their old sites
- business meetings for face-to-face discussion
- sensornet-specific mailing list?
  - sensys-announce?
  - purpose: low-bandwidth announcements about conferences, job openings, etc.
  - I can host at ISI (if desired), but it should be moderated
  - any takers?
Sensys Paper Health

- Submit rate seems consistent (in spite of more conflicts)
- Accepted rate seems consistent with prior Sensyses, and with comparable conferences

Selecting Location

- Goal: broad global involvement
  - North America, Europe, and Asia
  - (and relatively easy to get to)
- Tension:
  - Fostering new involvement vs. where work is now
  - Ease and cost of travel (vs. availability of travel support)
- Current long-term rotation:
  - North America east coast, NA west coast, Europe/Asia

Sensys Attendance

- Goals:
  - Get a broad representation
  - Geographic (North America, Europe, Asia)
  - Traditional discipline (hardware, networking, algorithms, information processing)
  - Academia and industry
  - Grow leaders from within
- General and PC chairs select other exec and PC committee members
  => If you’re interested, talk to next year’s chairs

Sensys 2008

- North Carolina, US (east coast)
- General chair: Tarek Abdelzahar (UIUC)
- PC chairs: Margaret Martonosi (Princeton), Adam Wolisz (TU Berlin)
- Steering committee chair: Andrew Campbell (Dartmouth)
- Participation: hopefully you!

Selecting Chairs

- Goals:
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  - Traditional discipline (hardware, networking, algorithms, information processing)
  - Academia and industry
  - Grow leaders from within
- General and PC chairs select other exec and PC committee members
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Program Committee Diversity


PC size

- More PC members to cope with more papers
- Balance of turnover and continuity each year

% PC members served for year

- PC size growth
Program Committee Diversity

- SenSys:
  - PC size:
  - % PC members served first year:
  - % PC members served last year:

SIGCOMM, a mature but larger field, suggests at least 40-50% of PC should always be completely new.

Quick Questions

- volunteers for mailing list moderator?
  - (running mailman at ISI, or your software at your site)
  - Paul Levis

- new topics?
  - consider proposing a workshop for 2008
  - should keep workshops workshopish (shorter papers)
  - interest in another Doctoral Coll. (pending financial support [NSF, edu support] and panelists?)
  - demo session...should it include pays-to-demo industry exhibits (a la SC or SIGGRAPH)?
  - not clear industry is ready at this time, but each year general chair and SC should re-evaluate

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- discussion
  - SC questions for you
  - open discussion
  - (green text is from discussion, => indicates conclusions)

Conference Location

- the SC wants to plan location 2 years out
- location rotation
  - (NA coast, NA west coast, non-US)
  - alternatives are ample
    - SIGCOMM in US: groups, workshops, plus local conferences: SIGCOMM Asia, etc.
    - HotStreams was US, now IS
    - OSDI: US only
    - SIGS: US, new US (complementing workshops)
    - IPSN, US only
    - Ubicomp: US, EU, Asia

- discussion?
  - DWNS makes every 3rd reasonable?
  - try every 3rd for a while before voting
  - coordinate location of IPSN
  - prob test/submit as 33, 35, 36
  - focus of activity in Asia (Japan, China, etc.)
  - strong consensus on 3rd year for now (e.g., given EWSN)

Specific Venues

(for 2009 or 2010, ...) need city / local chair

- Zurich / Jan Beutel
- Bay Area / David Culler
- q about urban vs. outside (Santa, Carmel, Davis, etc.)
- Seattle / Feng Zhan, Stewart T unsty
- post discussion:
  - 2010: Tokyo / Yoshiro Tobe
  - background:
    - prior policy was always near airport
    - => consensus that we will consider relaxing this requirement
    - if not near airport, conference local arrangements needs to identify transportation options

Open Discussion

- thoughts about many conferences?
- suggestions to improve SenSys?
  - folks would like talk slides on common web page (= consensus: yes)
  - pre-prints on web page?
  - some people don’t care about the paper copy, but many do
  - some people want PDF before conf, but many don’t care
  - role of theory papers in SenSys
    - PC needs (and has had 1 or more theory people)
    - IPSN carries the theory burden?
    - (some unsuccessful discussion about wording the role of theory at sensys)
    - q: distinguish IPSN vs. SenSys or should SenSys cover all?
    - strong consensus that we should highlight different conference focuses
    - role of (ISPN-like) implementation contexts?
  - role of early info about long-lived implementation deployments?
Post-Discussion

• from community:
  – request for paper list of attendees in conference materials