

SenSys 2007 Business Meeting

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SenSys steering committee chair
8 November 2007

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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

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Agenda

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

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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

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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: car-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

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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: SECON, MASS, DCOSS, ICSS, ...
 - specialized: EWSN, WSNS, WUWnet, ...
 - and related conferences publishing relevant work! (ASPLOS, SIGCOMM, MOBICOM, INFOCOM, etc.)

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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

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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: Chiara Petrioli
 - SIGCOMM: Craig Partridge
 - what:
 - decides general chair, PC chairs and conference location, with input of general chair
 - talks about stuff
- 2003: (*retired*) Ian Akyildiz, Deborah Estrin, David Culler, Mani Srivastava
2004: (*retiring*) John Stankovic, Anish Arora, Ramesh Govindan
2005: Feng Zhao, Hari Balakrishnan, Jason Redi
2006: Andrew Campbell, Philippe Bonnet, John Heidemann
2007: (*joining*) Sanjay Jha, Phillip Gibbons, Akos Ledeczi
- A huge thanks to the founding and retired SC members!*

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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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Agenda

- SenSys background
- **steering committee agenda**
 - **fostering the best conference**
 - **selecting locations and chairs**
- discussion

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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
 - => co-located workshops

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Conference Continuity

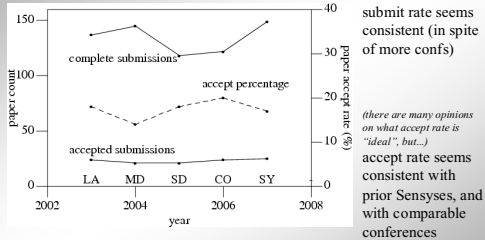
(new this year)

- 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?

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Sensys Paper Health



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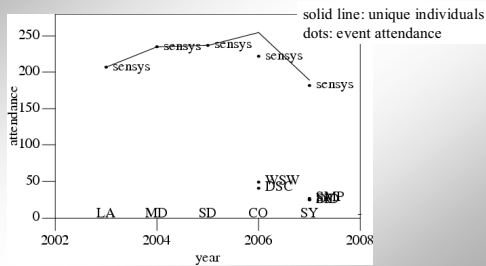
Selecting Location

- 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

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Sensys Attendance



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Selecting Chairs

- 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

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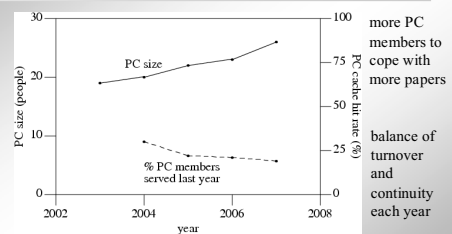
Sensys 2008

- 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!

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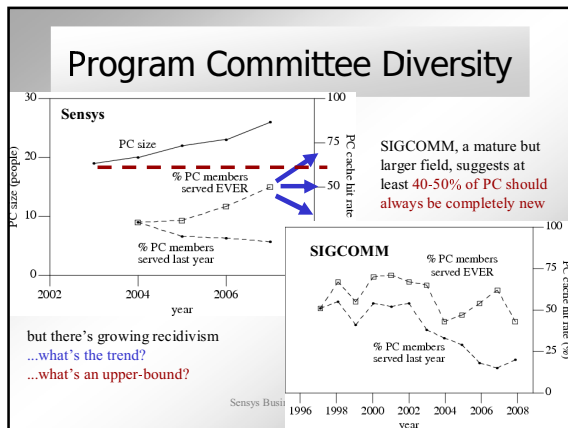
Program Committee Diversity



Inspiration: "On the Caching and Prefetching of Program Committees", Stefan Savage, SIGCOMM 1999 outrageous opinions

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- ## Agenda
- SenSys background
 - steering committee agenda
 - fostering the best conference
 - selecting locations and chairs
 - **discussion**
 - SC questions for you
 - open discussion
 - (green text is from discussion, => indicates conclusions)
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- ## Quick Questions
- volunteers for mailing list moderator?
 - (running mailman at ISI, or your software at your site)
 - Phil 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 pay-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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- ## Conference Location
- the SC wants to plan location 2 years out
 - location rotation
 - (NA east coast, NA west coast, non-US)
 - alternative examples
 - SIGCOMM is US, Europe, wildcard (plus local conferences: SIGCOMM-Asia, etc.)
 - HotEmNets was US, non-US
 - OSDI: US only
 - SOSF: US, US, non-US (complementing EuroSys)
 - ISPN: US only
 - Ubicomp: US, EU, US, Asia
 - discussion?
 - EWSN makes every 3rd reasonable?
 - try every 3rd for a while before varying
 - coordinate location of ISPN
 - TinyOS downloads are 40% US
 - lots of activity in Asia (Japan, China, etc.)
- => strong consensus on 3rd year for now (esp. given EWSN)
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- ## Specific Venues
- (for 2009 or 2010, ...) need city / local chair
- Zurich / Jan Beutel
 - Bay Area / David Culler
 - q about urban vs. outside (Napa, Carmel, Davis, etc.)
 - Seattle / Feng Zhao, Stewart Tansley
 - post discussion:
 - 2010: Tokyo / Yoshito 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
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- ## 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 2 or more theory people)
 - ISPN carries the theory burden?
 - (some unsuccessful discussion about wording the role of theory at sensys)
 - q: distinguish ISPN vs. Sensys or should Sensys cover all?
 - => strong consensus that we should highlight different conference focuses
 - role of (ISPN-like) implementation contests?
 - role of early info about long-lived implementation/deployments?
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Post-Discussion

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