1. After the change of Name and By-Laws

Since four years the Swiss Member of IFIP is ICTswitzerland. The significant change has been the important enlargement of scope from IT to ICT. Todate it encompasses 20 organizations with roughly 9'000 personal and 2'000 corporate members. A completed and reinforced team with the new Chairman Stefan Arn, has been elected for the next period. Its priority themes are (some extracts of the 2007 annual report presented in April 2008 to the GA):

1.1 Management matters

Focuss to the central importance of ICT for economic and social development.
Extensive preparations for informatica'08 (Year of Informatics) including the creation of a sponsoring association.
Strategy paper "ICT landscape Switzerland" on projects and activities, Board and committees reorganisation.
First ICT Media faculty lounge in the foyer of ETH Zurich with selected opinion leaders, daily and weekly newspapers and the ICT trade press
Website and extranet of ICTswitzerland renewal
Announcements of merger intentions in the ICT Association landscape.

Media work: numerous technical papers in Daily and trade press, including ICT as a key competence of the information society in Switzerland, Matura Specialized computer science, Professional Championships, the future of computer science and communications industry in Switzerland, Security in the electronic economy, etc..

1.2 Hot themes and Projects

Proactive themes: Initial training / Lifelong Learning in connection with the Education Commission (KB) and other Swiss players such as the ICT Ctee of the Swiss Academy of engineering sciences.
Competencies recognition for professionals of ICT at the international level : Interest and action in this field in conjunction with the IFIP project IP3 (cf. section 8 below)
ICTswitzerland is also member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering sciences (SATW) – see below- and as full member of IFIP is the voice of our country at this level.
http://www.ictswitzerland.ch/de

2. The interesting Model for the Swiss Representation within IFIP managed by SARIT and supported by SATW and SARIT

One of the member societies of ICTswitzerland is SARIT (Swiss Association for Research in Information Technology) of which all Swiss university professors in Computer Science are members. SARIT is the natural body to take care of the scientific international contacts of ICTswitzerland, including those to IFIP and to ERCIM (European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics). Its Board has received the delegated responsibility for the operational duties of the Swiss representation to IFIP. SARIT and SATW contribute a part of the costs of the Swiss IFIP representation.
Within SARIT the "Swiss IFIP Committee" (SIC) - see below - encompasses the Swiss Delegates to IFIP's General Assembly and TCs.  
http://www.sarit.ch/ifip/index.html and  
http://www.ictswitzerland.ch/de/kommissionen and  
http://www.ictswitzerland.ch/de/kommissionen/swiss-ifip-committee

Yearly spendings of Swiss IFIP delegates
In order to get an evaluation of the importance of resources spent by IFIP delegates to TC's and WG's a survey is repeated on a regular basis. The delegates are asked how much they spend annually in:
- Person days (meeting attendance, home work, reports, meeting preparation, etc..) and
- Travel expenses (airline/train tickets, hotel and meals, registration fees or receptions for invitees, etc..)

The numbers vary significantly; for example, the time spent varies from 5 to 50 days/year. The maximum happens when the TC rep has several IFIP functions (for example Council Member, TC Officer, etc..) or when in charge of organising an IFIP event in Switzerland. The evaluation was done for the years 2004-2006.  

For 2006 the resulting average numbers are the following per delegate:

- Persondays: 22
- Associated cost (hypothesis: 120 kfr/year): 11.0 kfr.
- Travel expenses: airline: 1.8 kfr.
- Hotel and meals: 2.5 kfr.
- Registration fees, receptions for invitees, etc...: 1.0 kfr.

Total expenses per TC representative: **16.3 kfr/person/year**

We have today (as of January 2008) 88 specialists from Swiss Academia and industry participating in 11 TC's and 32 WG's. This represents a total Swiss effort of approximately **915'000 fr/year** of which 101 kfr for airline tickets.

These activities would of course be impossible without the IFIP delegates employers support. They however tend to restrict allowing "free time" to their employees for obvious reasons. They are of course encouraged when at least the airline tickets for the TC delegates (although a small part of the total) are in principle supported by SATW (via ICTswitzerland) and SARIT. Both organisations have to be thanked for their valuable support.

To be noted however: no support is provided to the Working Group members who rely only on their employers’ support.

### 3. Swiss IFIP Committee (SIC)

**SIC is the name of ICTswitzerland's committee for IFIP.** Its members are the delegates to IFIP Technical ctees and to the GA. and meet once a year.  
ICT Switzerland is represented in **TC 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13**. As mentionned above, today 88 specialists from Swiss Academia and industry are participating in these 11 TC's and 32 WG's.

In its December 2007 annual meeting we welcomed a new member appointed in 2007: Mr. Philippe Dallemagne (TC 5) in replacement of Mrs Esther Gelle (TC 5) who resigned after getting a promotion with her employer: ABB Corporate Research.

During the meeting were discussed: - Information after the 2007 Council and GA meetings: new IFIP strategy and restructuring of the Council into the Board with 8 councilors, the IFIP AGORA initiative on LifeLong Learning, the International Professional Practice Programme (I3P), the Digital Library, feedback from the Addis Ababa World IT Forum (WITFOR’2007), - SIC accounts 2007 and budget 2008/2009, - review of the 2007 activities in every TC, - means for improving the spreading of IFIP information in Switzerland, etc.  
http://www.ifip.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=62&Itemid=122


For more details on collaboration and exchange of information, activities and projects between IFIP, SIC, ICTSwitzerland and SATW (Swiss Academy of engineering sciences) consult:  
2007 has also been, after the year of the announcement of the revised Federal Council strategy on the Information Society the time to continue to work of the e-Power initiative – see below. Several SIC members have actively participated to the ict.satw.ch reports which proposed urgent significant measures in relation to the revised strategy. http://www.ict-21.ch/com-ict/spip.php?article18

4. Education Committee (KB) of ICTswitzerland:
Improving ICT Education & Competency in Switzerland

The Education Committee KB (Kommission Bildung) concerned with ICT education at all levels was renewed and met four times in 2007, reinforced with the participation of educational institutions members.

- **ICT for teachers**: needs for initial training of future teachers in Pedagogical colleges and universities, - new teaching and learning methods, - media and school education. Many events such as Education Forum Telematics day in Berne, SATW ICT Commission, SSAB / SFEM, etc...

- **Training of ICT professionals**: vocational education and training as one of the core themes of the Education Committee, - successful integration of i-ch (http://www.i-ch.ch/index_d.cfm) and SVIB in SwissICT formed an efficient synergy, - significant efforts to improve the employability of professionals, especially beginners, through appropriate measures in training, certification and accreditation, - continued efforts in information and communication to relevant target groups (youth, parents, teachers, entrepreneurs and HR), - provision and maintenance of adequate training places through the economy and administration, - tangible results displayed and winners rewarded with good prices after the first intercantonal ranking of the best work

- **Media**: Many technical papers in daily and trade press: - ICT as a key competence of the information society in Switzerland, - How much do computer science schools?, - Computer science as a basic subject?, - Matura Specialized computer science, - Sustained recovery in computer science professional field, - After certification / a certificate says more than 1000 words, - Outsourcing - the dark side of the coin, - Professional Championships: publications in various journals, - The ICT industry lacks the attractiveness, - New Generation - about the future of computer science and communications industry in Switzerland, - Education and competence as key factors for a prosperous information and knowledge society, - Bologna reform: Directions or stumbling block?, - A generic Framework for New Learning, - Security in the electronic economy - digital identities and identification: Big Picture.

- **Outlook 2008**: Informatica'08 is the ideal opportunity for addressing all issues in the education sector to a wide audience and the actors involved. To this end, numerous activities in close cooperation with regional and national organizations Education Committee (KB) of ICTswitzerland:
Improving ICT Education & Competency in Switzerland
5. SARIT

SARIT (www.sarit.ch), the Swiss Association for Research in Information Technology is representing Switzerland in ERCIM, the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (www.ercim.org). Researchers from the ERCIM Institutes cooperate within ERCIM Working Groups, and also contribute to the ERCIM News publication. ERCIM distinguishes outstanding young researchers, runs a very attractive fellowship programme, and participates to several European R&D projects. ERCIM also hosts W3C Europe. The President of SARIT is member of the Board of Directors of ERCIM, which meets twice a year.

2007 has been a very active year for SARIT. In May, SARIT has organized the SPRING 2007 ERCIM Days at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). During these days, several ERCIM meetings were held: Board of Directors, Executive Board and Editorial Board of ERCIM News.

In conjunction with the ERCIM days, SARIT has organized its annual event, SARIT 07. The 2007 theme was « Computing for Health ». This event has given to Swiss researchers interested in the topic the opportunity to meet ERCIM researchers from all over Europe also active in this field. Several invited speakers have participated to the event. In Fall 2007, 3 members of the Executive Board of SARIT have participated to the Fall ERCIM Days in Warsaw, Poland.

6. ECDL/ICDL 2007/2008

ECDL: European Computer Driving Licence
ICDL: International Computer Driving Licence (in countries outside Europe)

The ECDL success story continues. To date, close to 8 million students worldwide have registered in the ECDL/ICDL programme. The ECDL Foundation reports a particularly encouraging development in Asia and South America.

In Switzerland, ECDL is proud to be a major contributor to the Year of Informatics 2008 – Informatica'08. It was the first organisation agreeing to become a Major Sponsor (www.informatica08.ch).

In the past 12 months ECDL continued to grow in Switzerland and once again achieved a record number of registrations for the ECDL tests. A remarkable 1.4% of the total Swiss population of 7.5 million have registered since ECDL started in Switzerland in 1998.

All these developments are proof of how far-sighted the decision of the Swiss Informatics Society (SI) was when it introduced ECDL to Switzerland. Many companies and organisations, as well as communal, cantonal and federal authorities, have realised just how important the contribution of ECDL has become in helping to overcome the digital divide in Swiss society.

www.s-i.ch
www.ecdl.ch

7. Year of Informatics 2008 in Switzerland : Informatica'08

It is considered that today Informatics is the key technology for economic and knowledge development in Switzerland and will remain so for a long time as playing a key role in technical industries. Swiss educational and research institutions in the area of informatics enjoy an excellent international reputation. Several leading global informatics companies have established or are planning research and development centres in Switzerland. In spite of Switzerland strong position in informatics, weaknesses have become apparent in informatics: - Swiss primary and secondary schools teach user capabilities but they do not provide the basic scientific knowledge of informatics, - the number of new recruits in informatics is in jeopardy, - apprenticeships originally developed very well but have dropped off since 2001, - the numbers for women are low, - universities student registrations for informatics have fallen dramatically.

These issues are at the heart of “Informatica'08” proposed by the SI (Swiss Informatics Society) and ICTswitzerland. The patrons, organisations and sponsors of the “Informatica'08” aim to maintain and develop the medium and long term of Swiss informatics. It should raise public awareness of the vital importance of informatics for the development of the economy and for society as a whole, awake the interest of our youth in informatics as seen both as a fascinating science and an attractive profession (link with IP3 cf. section 8). Special attention is paid to encouraging women to take up informatics and to promote easy access to informatics to all. The campaign is directed to the entire Swiss population and the sponsors go from the Federal Government to leaders of industry, education system management, academic institutes, Academies of sciences, etc...
Many events are organised in all parts of Switzerland covering all aspects of Informatics: - basic education and lifelong learning, - women and informatics, - accessibility, - security and risk, - research, - roadshow for young people, etc.. And this all year long. It is hoped that “Informatica'08” will improve the overall Informatics in Switzerland.

8. Link IP3-CH → IFIP Activities IP3


IP3 vision, the Swiss GA representative presented regularly (4 times between August 07 to April 08) the follow-up of this innovative project to the Executive Committee of ICTswitzerland. He invited also the chairman of the Task Force to meet in March the concerned Swiss partners. In April a study was decided and end of June a draft project IP3-CH http://www.ict-21.ch/SIC/spip.php?article9 was presented to the Executive Committee of ICTswitzerland: two levels activities on 3 years (2009-2011) with, from one side, active collaboration with IFIP IP3 and on the other side, implementation of the international standards of competencies and integration of the methodology (authentication/certification) in Switzerland. Actually a full project IP3 is in the elaboration phase for the Executive Committee of ICTswitzerland till the end of 2008.

9. The Swiss Academy of Engineering sciences (SATW) and the ICT Committee with its 3 working groups

ICTswitzerland is one of the some 60 member organisations of the SATW. The ICT Committee of the SATW was created in 2002 to promote ICT in Switzerland. Raymond Morel, its chairman and member of the SATW Scientific Board, created three working groups:

e-Education, e-Health and e-Society which collaborate with many partners

Different kind of events were already organised in Switzerland to bring a scientific and professional contribution towards the revised Government Strategy for the Information Society. Several delegates to IFIP TC's take part in these activities. Some examples:

- Contributions of the ICT Commission of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) towards the revision of the Swiss Government Strategy for an Information Society
- "F-ONE Federating Observatories and Networking for Education"
- Ethics
- Piloting Pedagogical Projects
- The First National Strategic eHealth Conference
- LifeLong Learning
- eHealth – Action plan
- Identity Management & Trust
- ICT and Management of Major Industrial Risks
- Democracy vs e-democracy
- Initial Teacher Education in the MITIC Aera
- Beitrag zur e-Health Strategie in der Schweiz

Since February 1998, the Swiss Government has been conducting a massive campaign to promote the information and communications technologies (ICT) [http://www.bakom.admin.ch/themen/infosociety/00695/index.html?lang=en]. In the text which forms the basis for the Confederation’s actions in this area, various official bodies were mandated to lead the federal administration’s ICT activities and to make the Swiss population aware of the challenges of the information era. The site [http://www.bakom.admin.ch/themen/infosociety/index.html?lang=en] was established which describes the federal actions in promoting ICT.

As mentioned in section 9 above, the ICT Committee, including several IFIP TC representatives, contribute actively to these activities.


After adapting this 1998 strategy, the Federal Council announces in January 2006 its revision with two major priorities. By the end of 2006 a national strategy for each issue of e-government and e-health was to be elaborated in cooperation with the cantons. The concept for internal government use of electronic data and documents has to be finalised by mid-2007.


These developments give the opportunity to SATW to underline its determination to collaborate and to achieve a more complete information society in Switzerland (see above 9. ICT Commission (SATW) and below 11. e-Power initiative) [http://www.ict-21.ch/com-ict/IMG/pdf/SATW_WBR_ICT_ECH_050921_d_f.pdf].

Other References:

11. e-Power

In order for Switzerland to place itself as the leader of ICT in the field of e-Government, e-Health, e-education and research and development, the initiative “more e-Power for Switzerland” was launched in May 2005 (cf. CH report to GA in 2006). (http://www.epower-initiative.ch)

The “ePower for Switzerland” initiative, together with top representatives of national politicians and businesses, organises regular sessions to exchange information about information society topics. On this basis, parliamentary initiatives and concrete implementation projects have been launched. The initiative is actively supported by many companies and organizations.

The main activity during the reporting year (June 2007 to June 2008) was active lobbying in favour of the initiators and partner objectives for a strong ICT in Switzerland.

A close and good cooperation also exists with the federal government computer science strategy body and with the ICT associations. It can be said that: - the ICT industry has a strong lobby in Bern, - the ePower initiative is broadly based, with broad political roots including the major parties. The ePower initiative succeeded to interest parliament members of all parties for ICT and to install a very good cooperation with the federal administration in the implementation of the e-government strategy: - collection and evaluation of comments from the industry, - channel of communication on politics (especially Parliament) and the economy, - legal framework for Switzerland, etc..

It co-organised the eGovernment Symposium 2007 in Bern and will do the same for the next e-government symposium in November 2008.

Practical projects: - e-ID card (digital identification of natural persons), - the ID Act adopted in February 2008 by the Parliament Committee, - eHealth expert group conference, etc...

Regular meetings gather some 50 parliament members and representatives from business, administration and associations. Motions were prepared such as: - centralization of IT service providers in the federal administration, - issue of the insurance card with the old social security number, - the liability of legal texts in electronic form, - new professional image (rejected by the parliament but which will be rephrased later as education and ICT), - eVoting for Swiss abroad, - on-line consultation process to extend the classic consultation procedure, - digital identity card instead of insurance card, - energy efficiency of digital, - cyber crime safety, etc..

After the creation of ePower the idea had raised to demonstrate how more ePower could boost the Swiss economy. The initial enthusiasm was tempered as, during 2007-2008, many projects remain in the starting blocks. ePower had to realise that its strength is limited to the political lobbying and networking.

A beautiful exception was the project "The best e-school", which IBM as ePower implementation channel successfully launched and implemented. The goal of this national competition was to identify and reward "model schools" in the field of ICT.
Following the past experiences, the core team decided to delete active implementation and monitoring of projects from its portfolio.

12. Forum ICT 21

Just finished last year at the time of GA’08 the booklet after the Forum ICT 21 of 2007 was largely dispatched and very useful for preparing INFORMATICA08 (the year of Informatics 2008 in Switzerland) cf section 7 above. This easy-to-understand booklet in 4 languages (http://www.ict-21.ch/spip.php?rubrique60), together with a number of sponsoring organisations from business, civil society and politics, is available to anyone who is interested, but especially to those who pass on knowledge in their working or private lives.


In addition to the brochure, the initiators and sponsoring organisations have also set up a website containing a wealth of material which it hopes will stimulate a lively discussion throughout society. You, too, can take part by clicking on http://www.ict-21.ch.

13. Main IFIP Events/Exchanges in Switzerland

The SIC annual meeting took place in Bern on December 4, 2007 attended by eight members. Raymond Morel reported on IFIP Highlights in general:

• Feedback from the last Council IFIP 2007 at London
• Decisions at GA in August 2007 in Addis Ababa
  http://www.ifip.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=83&Itemid=155
• New IFIP strategy and restructuring of the Council into the Board with 8 councillors instead of eight trustees
• The IFIP AGORA initiative on LifeLong Learning
• International Professional Practice Programme (I3P)
• The Digital Library
• Feedback from World IT Forum (WITFOR’2007) at Addis Ababa (end of August)


Hereafter, only items of special interest or open problems are mentioned. Details to be found in the individual
distributed reports.

- **TC1:** J.Rolim reported: - IFIP Special Seminar at Geneva University, June 2007, on: Reconfigurable Computing: Opportunities and Challenges by Doctor Viktor Prasanna, Professor at University of Southern California) who received the Docteur Honoris Causa degree from the Geneva University. Presentations of TC1 activities at several international conferences: - IEEE DCOSS, WEA 2007, ICALP, APPROX'2007 and RANDOM'2007.

- **TC2:** B.Meyer reported: - TAP conference (Tests And Proofs) at ETH Zurich, February 2007 leading to the Springer LNCS volume 4454, ed., work on the proceedings of VSTTE (Verified Software: Tools, Theories, Experiments), conference held at ETH Zurich in October 2005


- **TC5:** Philippe Dallamagne reported: - call for opinion on the creation of a TC5 SIG on e-Governance, - collection of information on activities of Swiss members WG's and SIG's, - TC5 Swiss representative in WGs or SIGs.

- **TC6:** Harry Rudin mentioned the discussion on the creation of an open IFIP digital library considered as a unique opportunity which was not given enough attention to date. As Swiss responsible for ERCIM News, he appreciates receiving Swiss research items for publication including announcing conferences to be held in Switzerland.

Contributions to hrudin@smile.ch

- **TC7:** H.Luehni mentioned the Zurich ICIAM (6th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics, July 2007) and preparations for the International Conference on System Modelling and Optimization in Cracow and EURO'07 in Prague, both in July 2007.

- **TC8:** Y.Pigneur reported: Swiss members are active in WG 8.3, WG 8.4, WG 8.5 and WG 8.8. Universities contribute to the Swiss IS community and offer degrees in Information Systems: Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, St. Gallen, Zurich and ETH Zurich.


IS Journal: "Electronic Markets - The International Journal“ is a quarterly journal edited at the University of St. Gallen. Plans for Next Year: Implementation of a measuring system for collecting and presenting the statistics that IFIP TC8 requires in its statistics document "Annual Activity in Different IFIP Member Countries Draft for NRs Reporting”.

- **TC9** (Relationship between Computers and Society)


- **TC10:** Bernhard Eschermann reported: Switzerland is active in two of the 5 working groups: 2 Swiss members in WG 10.2 (Embedded Systems) newly constituted and one in WG 10.3 (Concurrent Systems).

One conference in cooperation with WG 10.3 (ARCS 2007) was held at ETH Zurich, March 12-15, 2007. TC 10 will be represented at the IFIP world computer congress (WCC) 2008 in Milan with 2 conferences. The TC will hold the second edition of its BICC (biologically inspired collaborative computing) after the success of the first such conference held at WCC 2006 in Santiago. In addition, WG 10.2 will co-locate its DIPES 2008 (distributed and parallel embedded systems) conference with the next WCC.

**Bernhard Eschermann was elected as new TC 10 chairman for 2008 to 2010.** Our warm congratulations for this honour.

- **TC 11:** Carlos Rieder reported: he is the new Swiss representative as of January 1st, 2008. At the last TC 11 meeting discussions took place on how to improve the contacts between TC11 and member societies and also how to raise the visibility for the WGs and for IFIP in general. The implementation of the new IFIP strategy should help improving the situation. The lack of IFIP visibility in industry and government in Switzerland will be addressed in order to motivate new people to join working groups.
TC 13: Ute Klotz reported: she attended her first TC13 meeting. Main subjects were:
- INTERACT’07 and ’09,
- the expertise of TC13 members which should be shown on the website,
- the evaluation of WGs because of missing guidance. There are no Swiss member yet in TC 13 WG's.
Two Swiss papers (University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil & University Basel) were presented at the
INTERACT’07 conference in Rio. She plans to collect information on HCI work done in Switzerland and motivate
new people to join TC13 WGs and SIGs.

Several members hold active staff positions in the IFIP TC's:
B.Eschermann is Chairman of TC 10.
L.Hilty is Vice-chairman of TC 9
R.Morel is the Swiss delegate to the IFIP General Assembly, Council/Councillor Member since 2004 and Special
Consultant to TC 3.
H. Rudin is Special Consultant to TC 6 and ERCIM editor for Switzerland (http://www.sarit.ch/ercim/index.html)

All these people deserve our sincere thanks for their invaluable personal involvement.

Summary of 2007 significant Swiss events in the IFIP context:
- IFIP Special Seminar at Geneva University, June 2007, on: Reconfigurable Computing: Opportunities and
  Challenges (TC 1)
- TAP conference (Tests And Proof), ETH Zurich, February 2007 (TC 2)
- ICIAM (6th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics, July 2007)
- IFIP WG 8.1 Working Conference on Situational Method Engineering: Fundamentals and Experiences, ME07,
  June 2007, St. Gallen (TC 8)
- The 12th Conference of the Association Information & Management (AIM’2007) on “Free software and open
  source software” . June 2007, Univ. of Lausanne (TC 8).
- Concurrent Systems (ARCS 2007) in cooperation with IFIP WG 10.3, ETH Zurich, March 2007 (TC 10)

In addition to these specific IFIP related activities, several members are actively engaged in other
scientific organisations. Some of them are mentioned here after:

R.Morel, member of the SATW WBR (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat)
https://www.satw.ch/organisation/wbr is actively chairing the ICT Commitee
http://www.satw.ch/organisation/kommissionen/ict
http://www.ict-21.ch/com-ict
H.Rudin is ERCIM editor for Switzerland (http://www.sarit.ch/ercim/index.html)

14. Miscellaneous

Some other points could be also reported in this document, but concerning more specifically the ILC (International Liaison
Committee) or AGORA, the reader has to look at the corresponding reports to the GA’2008. It is the case for:
- the follow-up of EKS Forum («Engineering the Knowledge Society») during the World Summit of the
  Information Society (WSIS) with different actors through the annual WSIS clusters in May 2008
- IP3 and the international organisations (WTO, ITU, OIT)
- The IFIP AGORA initiative on LifeLong Learning in 2008
- Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) – Digital Solidarity Agency (DSA) and IFIP

Raymond Morel
Swiss GA Representative and
Councillor @ IFIP Board
Geneva, September 2008
in collaboration with P.-A. Bobillier