

IFIP Council

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Report from Technical Committee 6 (Communication Systems)

Prof. Guy Leduc (TC6 chairman)

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TC6 Web page – <http://www.ifip.tu-graz.ac.at/TC6/>

1. TC6 meetings held since last report for General Assembly 2006 in Santiago de Chile

Meeting 2006/2 – Paris, France – September 29+30, 2006 (after IFIP Autonomic Networking 2006).

2. TC6 meetings scheduled

Meeting 2007/1 – Atlanta, USA – May 18+19, 2007 (after IFIP Networking 2007).

Meeting 2007/2 – Borovez, Bulgaria – September 28+29, 2007.

Meeting 2008/1 – Singapore (in conjunction with Networking 2008)

Meeting 2008/2 – South Africa (mid-September, in conjunction with a WG6.9 event).

3. Changes in Membership and Officers

Guy Leduc (Belgium) is the new TC6 chair (Communications Systems)

Georg Carle (Germany) is the new WG6.2 chair (Network and Internetwork Architectures)

Pedro Cuenca (Spain) is the new WG6.8 chair (Wireless Communications).

Ioannis Tomkos (Greece) is the new WG6.10 chair (Photonic Networking) and Josep Sole Pareta (Spain) is the new vice-chair of WG6.10.

Marina Ruggieri is the new Italian delegate, but did not attend the 2006 meetings.

Plenty of IFIP member countries do not have delegates for TC6 (e.g. Cyprus, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Malaysia) or, if they have one, the delegate is inactive (e.g. Andorra, Australia, China, Greece, Singapore, Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Syria).

A few countries have recently nominated a delegate but in practically all those cases we have not yet seen this delegate. There is a relatively stable list of delegates who attend meetings and who contribute ideas more or less regularly – but a reasonable amount of new blood is missing. This is of big concern for the committee.

My personal opinion is that the nomination of delegates by National Computer Societies works poorly in most cases. It seems that many first class professors/researchers exist in many countries, but these people are simply ignored by their CS society. Also, National Delegates should not be nominated for the rest of their career (or life). A renewing process is needed to allow new blood in the TCs. Meanwhile, I would propose, as in TC1, to have several delegates per country: the one designated by the national society, and one or several others nominated by TC6. I will make this proposal to TC6 soon.

4. TC6 Governance

It was decided that TC6 should have a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. In any votes a Working Group shall have only one vote (irrespective of the number of vice- / co-chairs). Similarly for countries if we go for several delegates per country (see above).

In addition, several task forces will be responsible for critical issues such as quality control and publications.

5. TC6 web site

A new TC6 webmaster will have to be appointed soon. We have a proposal from Winfried Lamersdorf, which is not for free. If IFIP has a proposal for hosting a web site, whereby the TC6 chair or secretary can easily update the TC6 calendar and other issues, it is welcome.

6. New WG under study

A New WG on Networking and Security, jointly with TC11, is under study.

7. TC6 events

TC6 continues to be active in organising conferences, working conferences and workshops.

TC6 appreciates the new IFIP Event Request Forms.

For TC6, competition with ACM SIGCOMM and IEEE Communications Society, in particular, is very hard. IFIP is virtually unknown in the US, or when known its reputation is weak, probably also because the best people are not always members of IFIP TCs and WGs.

ACM and IEEE have good digital libraries and good reputation in general, and they help organizers. IFIP publications in the IFIP book series are merely write-only publications without impact. IFIP-LNCS is better, but the Springer Digital Library is expensive, which reduces the impact of IFIP publications.

All in all, times are hard, and many organizers are most often interested in IFIP co-sponsorship (rarely main or full sponsorship) and therefore avoid the IFIP fee (which is moreover considered unfair).

If IFIP gets less revenue from events proceeds and royalties are also decreasing (given the open access trend), another business model is urgently needed.

8. IFIP Publications – Digital Library – Open Access

Springer

TC6 has published many of its conference proceedings in Springer LNCS and later in IFIP-LNCS. For many organizers the difference between these two series is completely unclear. And this is also true for many WG chairs and conference steering committee members. With IFIP-LNCS, IFIP keeps the copyrights, but the proceedings are more expensive. Sometimes Springer sends the wrong copyrights transfer form to the organizers (LNCS instead of IFIP-LNCS) and then the copyrights are transferred to Springer. Even worse, for one of our conferences (DAIS), Springer published the proceedings under Springer copyrights while the copyrights had been transferred to IFIP (under IFIP-LNCS).

Open Access

TC6 fully supports open access and seeks to create an Open Access Journal on Networking, starting with extended versions of the best papers published in TC6 conferences, but without excluding an open call from the outset.

TC6 urges IFIP to step forward in the direction of an Open Access Digital Library.

Digital Library

TC6 was told that the copyright period in the Springer-IFIP publication agreement was no longer correct. It is now 18 months instead of 5 years. If this is true, IFIP should launch a procedure to make all its publications automatically available in an open access Digital Library when the 18-month period is over. For example, we could transfer all our proceedings into Google Scholar after 18 months. If there is no copyrights problem, Google is likely to be willing to do it. This should be considered by the publication committee.

IFIP should find a business model, whereby IFIP gets no longer revenues from book royalties.

IFIP should seek funding from UNESCO to support its Digital Library in order to give access to information technologies to all countries in the world, and especially developing countries.

Prof. Guy Leduc
(TC 6 chair)