

**Report from the TAC
(Technical Advisory Committee)**

August 29, 2001.

The TAC gives advice and guidance on the SIGCOMM Program Committee process, and on other issues as requested by the SIGCOMM Executive Committee.

URL: <http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/admin/tech-advisory.html>

TAC Membership:

Terms that expire January 2002:

- Sally Floyd, Chair
- Tom Anderson
- Dave Clark
- Jim Kurose
- Ian Leslie
- Nick McKeown
- KK Ramakrishnan
- Scott Shenker

Terms that expire January 2004:

- Roch Guerin

Ex-officio:

- Craig Partridge (SIGCOMM Chair)
- Lixia Zhang (SIGCOMM Vice Chair)
- Gary Delp (SIGCOMM Secretary-Treasurer)

Documents from the TAC:

- Current Practice for the SIGCOMM Program Committee, May 2000.
 - Selecting the PC, assigning papers, handling conflicts (i.e., papers co-authored by PC members), double-blind reviewing, the review process, shepherded papers, on-line access, etc.
- Current Practice for the SIGCOMM Program Co-Chairs, January 2001.
 - Choosing SIGCOMM Program Co-Chairs.
- Proposals for the SIGCOMM Conference, July 2001.

All available from: <http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/admin/>

Current Practice for the SIGCOMM Program Co-Chairs:

- Authority rests with the SIGCOMM Executive Committee. The TAC makes advisory recommendations to the Executive Committee.
- The choice of Program Co-Chairs is independent from the choice of location and General Chair.
- At SIGCOMM, discussion is sometimes taking place about the choice of Program Co-Chairs for two years away.
- It is possible for the TAC to recommend a member of the TAC for Program Co-chair.

Proposals for the SIGCOMM Conference

- Proposal for general philosophy:

"Sigcomm looks favorably on papers that open up new areas, present new ideas, and/or serve as a foundation for new work.

"Such papers are often unable to present complete and convincing cases for their ideas and, because the territory they cover is relatively new, the execution of the paper may be somewhat less than ideal.

"When the two are in conflict, Sigcomm values interesting and novel ideas and results over complete and flawless execution."

Review questions:

(1) "Does this paper address an interesting issue?"

- "To what extent is the *topic* of the paper important and interesting?"
- (In terms of either fundamental concepts, or increased understanding, or practical relevance.)

(2) "Does this paper present interesting results?"

- "Do the results provide worthwhile insight?"
- "Are the results likely to be widely used by others?"
- "Does the work open up new areas, present new ideas, and/or serve as a foundation for new work?"

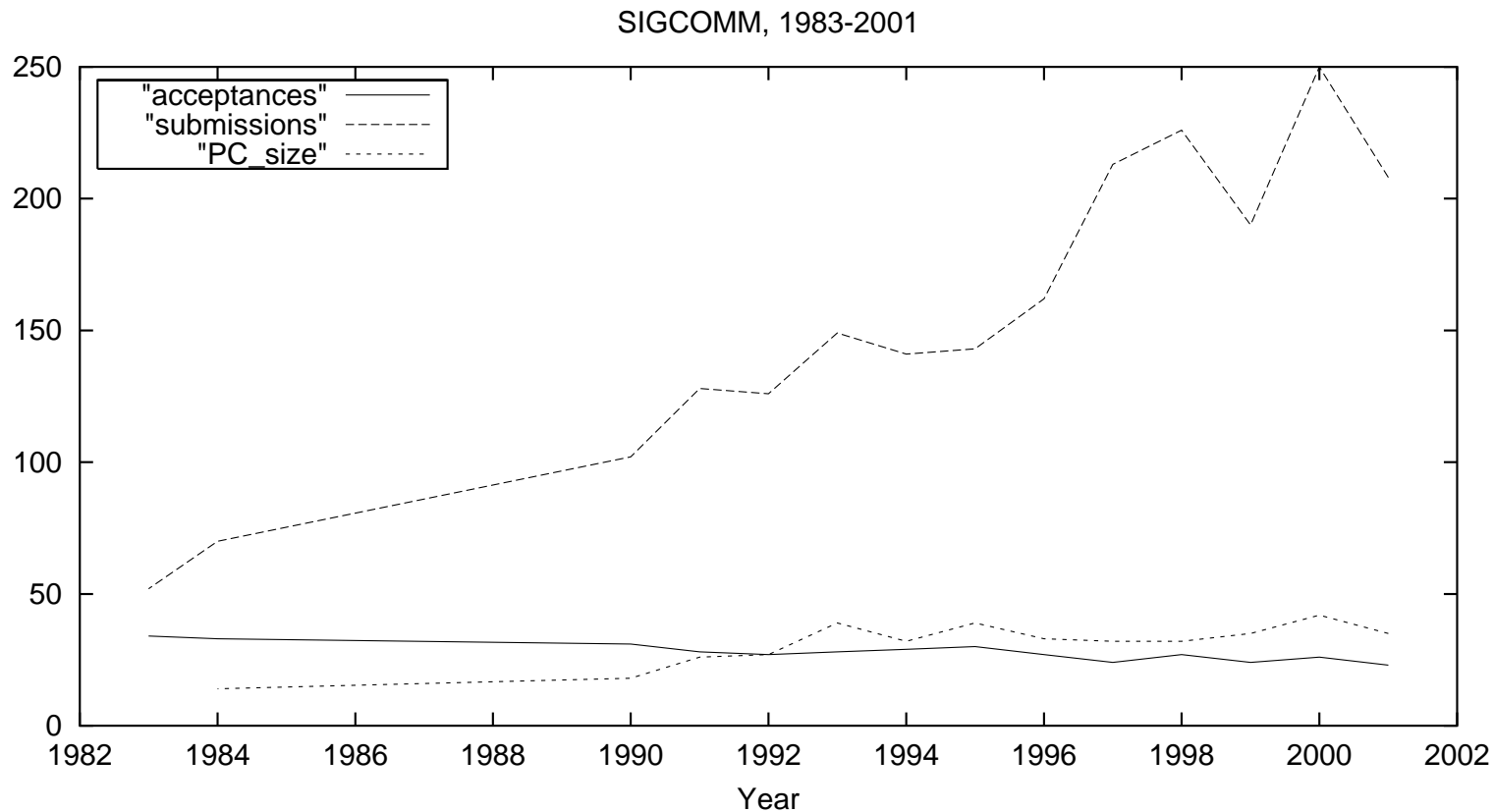
(3) "Is this paper sufficiently well executed?"

- "Are there flaws?"
- "Do the flaws fundamentally impact the results in the paper?"

- Proposal for an experiment in PC size:

The proposal is to *experiment* with smaller PCs, e.g., 25 people.

Hypothesis to test: smaller PC \rightarrow more coherent acceptance decisions?



Other proposals:

- The review process:
 - include outside reviews and light reviews.
- Fostering better submissions:
 - Provide a home for submissions addressing a wide range of issues (e.g., router design; mobility; measurement; etc.)
 - Experiment with position papers, to provide a home for submissions addressing general architectural issues.
- Fast-track some rejected papers to CCR.