

iSGTW Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday June 4, 2012, from **09:00** to **10:30** (US); 16:00 to **17:30** (Central European Time);
23:00 to 00:30 (Taipei)

Present

Chair: Catherine Gater (CG)

Present: Ruth Pordes (RP), Paul Avery (PA), Steven Newhouse (SN), Bob Jones (BJ), Katie Yurkewicz (KY), Vicky Huang (VH), Daphne Siefert-Herron (DSH)

Editors: Adrian Giordani (AG), Miriam Boon (MB)

Apologies:

Minutes: Miriam Boon / Catherine Gater

Proceedings

1. *Opening of the meeting and formalities*

Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved.

Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from February 2, 2012 were approved.

Review of actions

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS	REVIEW
20111004:1 pursue the volunteer/desktop grid organizations to promote iSGTW.	Jacqui Hayes	REMAINS OPEN. Will continue to interact with them, including the new Citizen Cyberlab project	Next Board Meeting
20111004:4 work with XSEDE & PRACE and others to get their level of engagement up to a level that the board is happy with.	Catherine Gater/Steven Newhouse/Ruth Pordes	REMAINS OPEN. CG to meet with Maria Ramalha at the ISC12 PRACE workshop, and attend XSEDE'12 meeting	Next Board Meeting
20111114:3 Pursue people with large numbers of followers on Twitter.	Jacqui Hayes	ONGOING. Followers of iSGTW and eScienceTalk have 1.6mill followers	Next Board meeting
20120202:1	Catherine	CLOSED. Kostas Glinos	

EU board members to contact the EC to see if they can put pressure on US projects, especially with NSF-funded projects.	Gater/Steven Newhouse/Bob Jones	(EC) and Alan Blatecky (NSF) discussed the benefits of the iSGTW collaboration, to be passed to the PIs at NSF	
20120202:2 Explore possibility of extending Miriam Boon's contract for one to two months.	Katie Yurkewicz	CLOSED. MB leaves on 15 June	
20120202:3 CG to consult project structure to find costs associated with maintenance costs of iSGTW, and email QMUL/Tilted for a timeline in moving the hosting.	Catherine Gater	CLOSED. Website now moved to QMUL server. New action on CG to pursue approval for funding the costs of maintenance from the e-ScienceTalk budget from the EC	
20120202:4 Prioritizing the list of tasks for Xeno over the next 2 months.	Catherine Gater/ Miriam Boon/Jacqui Hayes	Remains open	By 15 June
20120202:4 Purchase domain names for e-science weekly and e-science magazine	Catherine Gater	CLOSED. Domain names purchased by e-ScienceTalk	

2. Status report and staffing

Miriam Boon will leave Fermilab as US Editor on 15 June.

New US Editor post is currently being recruited at Indiana University, with Daphne Siefert-Herron leading.

New EU iSGTW Editor, Andrew Purcell of New Scientist magazine will join CERN on 1 August 2012.

Vivian Chang left ASGC as Asia Pacific editor on 1 June. ASGC remains committed to providing an Asia-Pacific editor and will provide cover by existing staff Vicky Huang and Catherine Wang in the meantime.

Most popular stories since the previous meeting (hits in brackets):

- Studying scientific software ecosystems (Feature from 2010) (3,315)
- Does scientific computation threaten the scientific method? (2,471)
- The smallest music in the universe (2,005)
- Seven innovative ways to cool a scientific computer (1,713)

The top story we had over the last 3 months was 'Is open hardware creating a more open world?' with 4,904 page views.

We're recruiting freelance writer contracts with Dan Drollette, Jacqui Hayes, Cristy Burn and Danielle Venton.

The Twitter ISGTW account passed the 1,000 follower mark.

The story, 'Smallest music in the universe' was republished by Symmetry Magazine, Discovery News, Wired UK and Wired US. But, Wired UK put the wrong link in the story, which meant we didn't get as much website visitors as we should have. The links were updated later.

The story, 'Gamma waves, gravity waves and galactic GPS' was also republished by Symmetry Magazine.

CERN re-tweeted the story, 'Is open hardware creating a more open world', which drove a lot of traffic to our website and a lot of new followers on Twitter.

Does computation threaten the scientific method?, one of our most popular stories, was re-tweeted by the ATLAS experiment and the main CERN Twitter account, and posted on the personal webpage of one of its authors, Les Hatton.

We moved over the iSGTW web hosting from Tilted planet and Xenomedia in the US to servers at QMUL in London. There has been intermittent downtime of the iSGTW website, but this issue is now resolved. The email system hasn't been moved yet. But, as we have prepared to clear out old email accounts, this has shown that 1,500 email addresses may need deleting. If this is done, this will heavily impact our subscriber numbers, but would improve other statistics, such as click-through-rates.

DISCUSSION

The board discussed options for removing the bounced email addresses, including redirecting the bounced emails without removal, manual removal of all bounced emails or auto-removal using a plug in module to Simple News.

DECISION

Investigate the costs of installing an auto-remove module that will automatically remove bounced email addresses from the list. This is the Board's preferred option if the costs are affordable.

ACTION: MB to investigate costs of installing the auto-remove module with Xenomedia.

ONGOING ACTION: MB/AG to prioritise the remaining updates needed to the website with Xenomedia before MB leaves on 15 June

3. Development and hosting of the site

Hosting report from Xenomedia

- Worked with Alex Owen to gain access to the Queen Mary University server, and set-up a development instance of the website.

- Worked through a few server config issues with Alex
- Completed several site/ module updates, including core Drupal, tested site functionality after each of the upgrades. Tested site email functionality.
- Set-up a production instance of site on QMU server and performed additional tests
- Performed migration of public site from Tilted to QMU (DNS change)
- Continued to monitor the site through the migration process and made changes as needed (adjusted caching, mobile detection, etc.)

Completed Fixes

- Remove titles from comments
- Sharing links, subscribe to newsletter, google+, remove nature networks
- Captcha on subscribe form
- Remove apture from site

Remaining Work

- AddThis analytics integration (scheduled for the week of 6/4)
- Profile feeds (scheduled for the week of 6/4)
- Remove URL field from events (still reviewing)

DISCUSSION

The server move has been achieved successfully, with some issues with large numbers of bounced emails as discussed above. The move of the email hosting is ongoing and should be achieved in the next 1-2 weeks.

Ongoing maintenance costs for updates to the website and day to day upkeep of the site should no longer form part of the Fermilab budget once the US Editor has left.

CG has submitted a request to use some of e-ScienceTalk's budget to cover these costs as a 3rd party cost. The request was submitted with an amendment to the Description of Work for the project in April 2012. No further feedback has been received from the EC.

ACTION: CG to pursue approval for funding the costs of website maintenance from the e-ScienceTalk budget with the EC

4. Sustainability for iSGTW

DISCUSSION - Funding

A proposal for the funding for the US Editor post at Indiana was submitted to NSF in May. The EC provided input on the value of the iSGTW collaboration verbally to the NSF via a conversation between Kostas Glinos of DG-INFOSO and Alan Blatecky of NSF.

The outcome of the NSF proposal should be available in 3 months, in around August/ September. This would allow a new person to join the post in September/October 2012. If confirmed, funding will be for 5 years.

The recruitment process can get underway prior to the confirmation of the funding, and the new person will have a 90 day notice period and can be recruited on an initial shorter term contract eg 12 months.

DECISION

CG will meeting with DSH at the XSEDE'12 event in Chicago in July to discuss recruitment options further.

DISCUSSION - Staffing shortage

During the second half of June and July 2012 until the new EU Editor joins the team, Adrian Giordani will be the only member of staff for iSGTW.

Board discussed options for reducing workload during the low staffing period, including reducing the amount of content in the magazine each week, and taking a summer publishing break.

DECISION

The Board prefers not to reduce the amount of content in the magazine ie to reduce the number of features, so the magazine will take a 2 week break from publishing during July.

ACTION: MB and AG to confirm the publishing schedule for June and July.

5. iSGTW name

The URLs for esciencemagazine and escienceweekly have been purchased prior to a final decision on the name. esciencemagazine would offer more flexibility, given that the frequency of publishing may need to reduce once e-ScienceTalk closes.

DECISION

A decision on the timing of the relaunch with a new name will be taken once the two new EU and US editors have joined the team.

6. AOB

CG thanked Miriam Boon on behalf of the Board for her hard work and contributions to the publication during her time at Fermilab. Vivian Chang has also been thanked for her contributions via email as she was unable to participate in the call.

Date of next meeting: Doodle poll to be launched for the first 2 weeks in September

Summary of actions

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS	REVIEW
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20111004:1 pursue the volunteer/desktop grid organizations to promote iSGTW.	Adrian Giordani	OPEN	Next Board Meeting
20111004:4 work with XSEDE & PRACE and others to get their level of engagement up to a level that the board is happy with.	Catherine Gater/Steven Newhouse/Ruth Pordes	OPEN	Next Board Meeting
20111114:3 Pursue people with large numbers of followers on Twitter.	Adrian Giordani	OPEN	Next Board meeting
20120202:4 Prioritizing the list of tasks for Xeno over the next 2 months.	Catherine Gater/ Miriam Boon	OPEN	By 15 June
20120604: 1 Investigate costs of installing the auto-remove module with Xenomedia	Miriam Boon	OPEN	By 15 June
20120604:2 Pursue approval for funding the costs of website maintenance from the e-ScienceTalk budget from the EC	Catherine Gater	OPEN	Next Board meeting
20120604:3 Confirm the publishing schedule for June and July	Miriam Boon/ Adrian Giordani	OPEN	By 15 June