USENIX notes

USENIX LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PRESENTED AT THE 2009 USENIX ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF GERALD J. POPEK

The late Professor Gerald J. Popek was one of those rare folks who always seemed to have been around at the right time with the right ideas. He will long be remembered for his research into system virtualization and distributed operating systems. In the mid-1970s, Jerry, along with Robert P. Goldberg, proposed a set of requirements for a computer architecture to support system virtualization (the "Popek and Goldberg virtualization requirements").

Today, we find these guidelines as revealing as they were 30 years ago. But Jerry did not stop there. After a sabbatical at PARC, he had the insight that, although the networked workstations communicated with one another and could share services, when users tried to use the computing environment as a system, the "seams" between machines became obvious. Jerry believed that those seams made using the workstations unnecessarily complicated. He was one of the first, if not the first, to use the word "transparency" in the context of distributed computing. He said that each computing service should be "transparent to the programmer, the administrator, and, most of all, the end users." Jerry's system, the Locus Distributed Operating System, was the first modern cluster system implemented. The term "single system image" was coined to describe Jerry's concept: while the system was actually made up of different computers, each able to act on its own, the operating environment as seen by the end user was to be that of a conventional single-computing system.

The USENIX Association honors Gerald Popek for his lifetime legacy of technical achievements inherited by all of us: we are far richer because of his work.

PRESENTED AT THE 2009 USENIX ANNUAL
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE TO JEAN-LOUP GAILLY
AND MARK ADLER

The STUG Award recognizes significant contributions to the community that reflect the spirit and character demonstrated by those who came together in the Software Tools User Group (STUG). Recipients of the annual STUG award conspicuously exhibit a contribution to the reusable code-base available to all and/or the provision of a significant enabling technology to users in a widely available form.

Today our systems and applications perform compression and decompression without us even being aware that that it has occurred. It is hard for us to believe that this was not always true. Some corporations, such as IBM and Unisys, considered data compression so important that they patented algorithms useful for the task, and by the mid to late 1980s they began believe those algorithms needed to be licensed or to be locked away and made available only to their customers. All of that changed on July 11, 1991, when the first version of a data compression algorithm developed by Jean-loup Gailly was made publicly available. Shortly thereafter he was joined by Mark Adler, who was interested in "zip style" utilities for use on his UNIX-based systems. Mark describes their collaboration as "one thing led to another."

These simple but generous actions by Mark and Jean-loup mean that the industry now uses their code and algorithm—as we noted, more often than not without even knowing they're being used. Jean-loup continues to contend that he spent

more time studying data compression patents than he took to write his own implementation. Mark says his contributions are a thank you for all the other software from which he has benefited. Whether for the time it took to discover how to create an open data compression algorithm or for their specific implementations, our community cannot thank Jean-loup and Mark enough for their gift to us all.

USENIX ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2008

Ellie Young, Executive Director

The following information is provided as the annual report of the USENIX Association's finances. The accompanying statements have been reviewed by Michelle Suski, CPA, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The 2008 financial statements were also audited by McSweeney & Associates, CPAs. Accompanying the statements are several charts that illustrate where your membership dues and registration fees go. The Association's complete financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, are available on request.

Things could have been a lot worse, considering the global economic crisis that hit in the autumn of 2008. Last year, USENIX incurred a deficit in operations of $322K. The main factors that contributed to this deficit were the cost of additional staff hired earlier in the year, an office remodel, additional board meeting and legal expenses, and an 8% drop in revenue from the LISA conference. Losses on investments contributed an additional $900K deficit, for a total year-end net deficit of $1.2 million.

USENIX established a reserve fund many years ago so that we could continue services and programs during difficult economic conditions like these. This fund, which is invested conservatively, is being used to cover some of our expenses during a time when we are experiencing reduced

revenue from conference attendance, sponsorship, and membership. USENIX has also been reducing expenses in overhead, staffing, standards activities, and direct expenses associated with the conferences, all without diminishing the conference experience for the attendee.

We expect that 2009 and 2010 will continue to be challenging. We are, however, continuing to hold all our flagship conferences (LISA, USENIX Security, OSDI, NSDI, FAST, USENIX Annual Technical Conference), as well as offering new workshops co-located with them (e.g., HotCloud, HotPar, IPTPS, LEET, WOOT, EVT/WOTE, WebApps). We continue to publish the Short Topics booklet series, keep the quality of *;login:* high, and find new ways to bring our members more content—e.g., for those who cannot attend the conferences, videos, slides, and proceedings of our conferences are now available online. We thank you for your continued membership in USENIX!

USENIX averaged 5,200 members in 2008, which is slightly down from the previous year. Of these, 2,300 opted for SAGE membership as well, and 440 people are SAGE-only members. Chart 1 shows the total USENIX membership dues revenue ($568K) for 2008, divided by membership type. Chart 2 presents how those dues were spent. Note that all costs for producing conferences, including staff, marketing, and sales and exhibits, are covered by revenue generated by the conferences. Chart 3 demonstrates how the "Good Works" money allocated to student programs, sponsorship of other conferences, and standards activities ($300K) was spent in 2008. Chart 4 shows how the USENIX administrative expenses were allocated. Chart 5 gives you a breakdown of what expenses your registration fees cover for a typical USENIX conference (e.g., FAST, NSDI, OSDI).

See the following pages for the Charts.

USENIX ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of December 31, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS		2008		2007
Current Assets				
Cash & cash equivalents	$	507,714	$	1,165,165
Receivables		47,511		37,694
Prepaid expenses		53,319		41,993
Inventory		2,433		3,925
Total current assets		610,977		1,248,777
Investments at fair market value		5,530,751		6,365,486
Property and Equipment				
Office furniture and equipment		564,353		555,393
Leasehold improvements		29,631		
Less: accumulated depreciation & amortization		(509,139)		(479,593)
Net property and equipment		84,845		75,800
Other assets		194,341		302,020
	$	6,420,914	$	7,992,083

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		2008		2007
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	$	219,009	$	429,593
Accrued expenses		157,830		80,484
Sponsorships for Linux Kernel '08		-		35,000
Deferred Revenue		108,240		168,715
Total current liabilities		485,079		713,792
Long-term Liabilities		194,341		302,020
Total liabilities		679,420		1,015,812
Net Assets				
Unrestricted Net Assets		5,741,494		6,976,271
Net Assets		5,741,494		6,976,271
	$	6,420,914	$	7,992,083

USENIX ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended December 31, 2008 and 2007

		2008		2007
REVENUES				
Conference & workshop revenue	$	3,360,576	$	3,206,716
Membership dues		567,608		543,762
Product sales		4,333		5,155
SAGE dues & other revenue		141,504		135,885
General sponsorship		-		4,000
Total revenues		4,074,021		3,895,518
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Conferences & workshops		2,848,684		2,723,827
Membership; login:		434,737		391,690
Projects & GoodWorks		311,129		230,397
SAGE		185,494		165,248
Management and general		573,645		446,683
Fund Raising		42,649		47,998
Total operating expenses		4,396,338		4,005,843
Net operating deficit		(322,317)		(110,325)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY				
Donations - non-cash		-		15,140
Interest & dividend income		238,825		251,051
Gains & losses on marketable securities		(997,095)		157,508
Investment fees		(64,891)		(64,908)
Other non-operating		(89,299)		(3,087)
Net investment income & non-operating expense		(912,460)		355,704
Increase/(decrease) in net assets		(1,234,777)		245,379
Net assets, beginning of year		6,976,271		6,730,892
Net assets, end of year	$	5,741,494	$	6,976,271

Chart 1: USENIX Member Revenue Sources 2008

Supporting
4%

Educational Inst.
4%

Corporate
4%

Student
4%

Affiliate
7%

Individual
77%
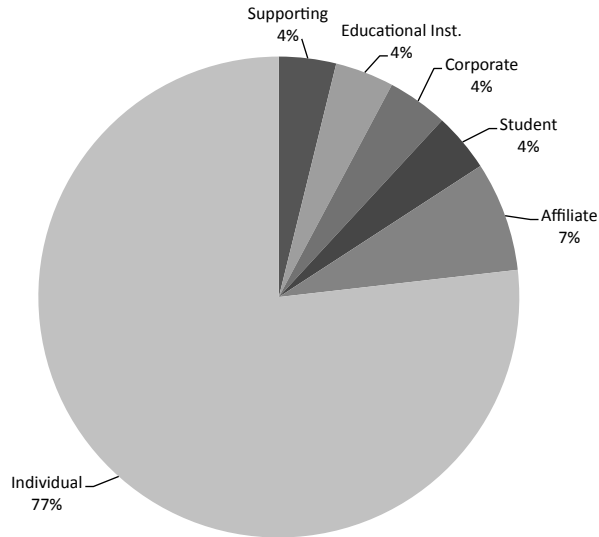
Chart 2: Where Your 2008 Membership Dues Went

Executive Office Expenses
30%

Executive Office Personnel
39%

;login:
31%

CHART 3: GOOD WORKS 2008

K-12 Program: USA
Computing Olympiad
7%

Support of Image of
Computing Task Force
8%

Sponsorship of
AsiaBSDCon, BSDCan,
DEBS, CRA Snowbird &
Middleware Conferences
9%

Student Grants to Attend
USENIX Conferences
52%

Standards Activities
24%
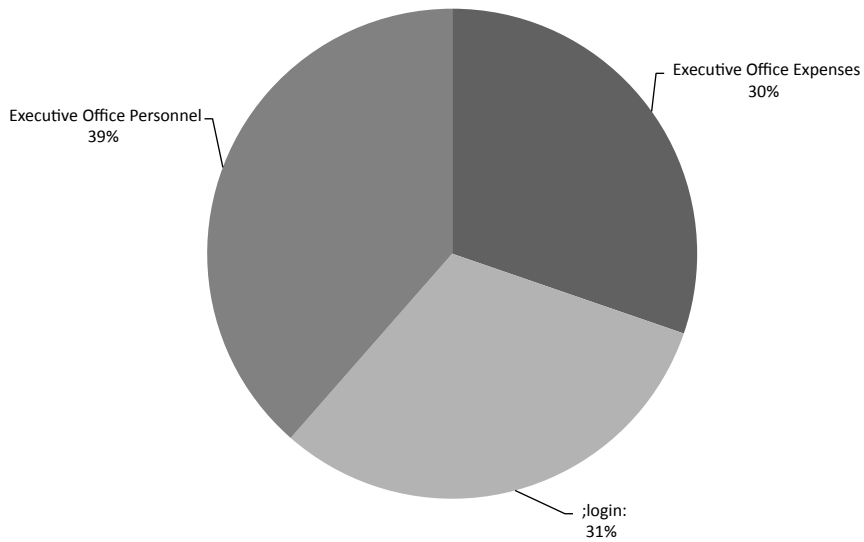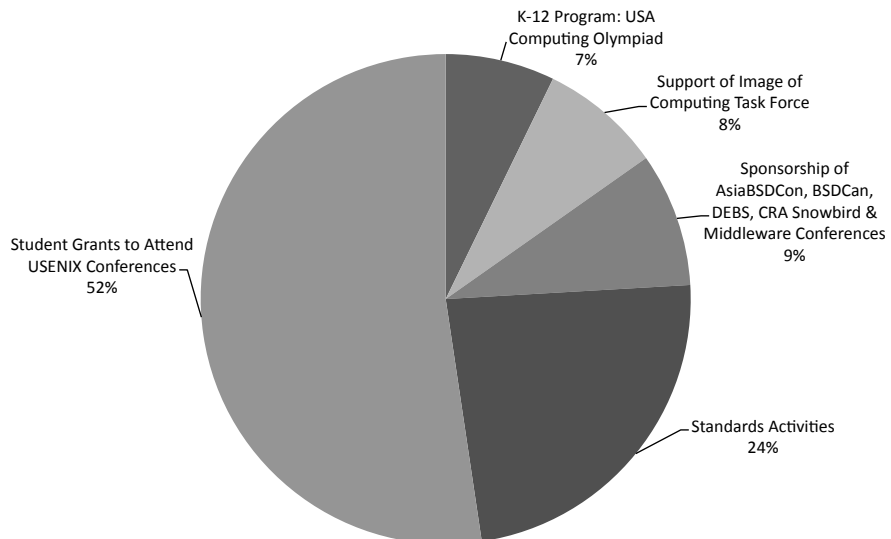
Chart 4:   USENIX Administrative Expenses 2008

Telephone & Connectivity
4%

Office & Computer Supplies
5%

Depreciation & Amortization
5%

Insurance
7%

Legal
8%

Accounting
8%

Marketing & PR
8%

Database, Systems & Web Admin
10%

Board Travel & Meetings
12%

Misc (Furn & Equipment, Bank Charges, Online Sales Processing Fees, Tax & Licenses, etc)
16%

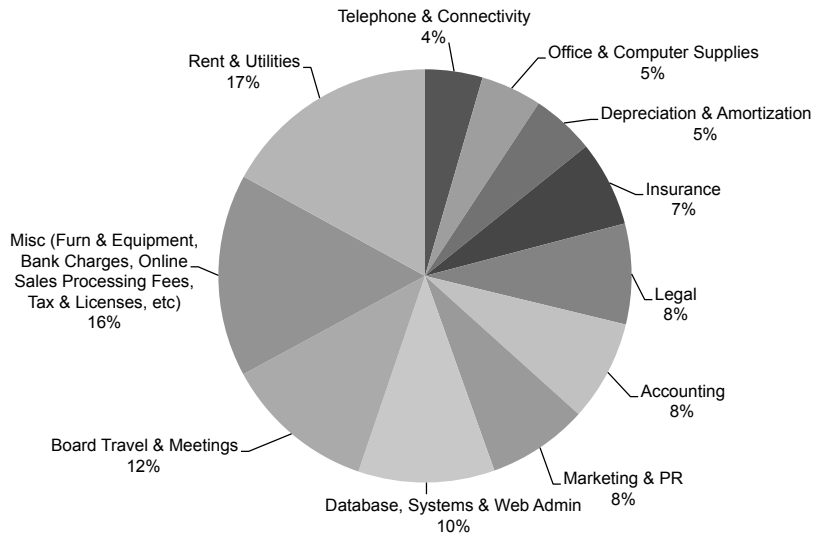Rent & Utilities
17%

Chart 5: What Conference Expenses Your USENIX Registration Fee Covers

Tech Sessions (Program Committee, Proceedings, Invited Talks, Signs, etc.)
4%

Registration (Credit Card Fees, Onsite Registration, Web Form)
4%

Misc (Marketing, Travel, Shipping, Awards, Temp Help, Giveaways, etc.)
6%

A/V & Connectivity
7%

Portion of USENIX Office Overhead
14%

USENIX Staff
28%

Catering
37%