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Did You Receive This Issue at a USENIX Event?

We hope you're enjoying the magazine! Join USENIX to receive this members-only benefit each quarter. Find out more at www.usenix.org/membership.

The Year of Engagement

Liz Markel, Community Engagement Manager

I've had lots of cause for reflection recently: in addition to the traditional goal setting that comes with the New Year, I am also approaching my two year anniversary with USENIX! Throughout that time, I've been building a collection of thoughts on engagement—both as it pertains to my interactions with all of you and as it pertains to my role as a facilitator of engagement between USENIX community members.

Engaging can be intimidating, but it can also be an incredibly valuable resource for inspiration, change, problem solving, connection, and much more. If I haven't admitted it before now, you should know that I am an extrovert; however, I can also be extremely shy! There are two things that have helped me overcome that shyness in this context: identifying specific engagement opportunities and goals related to those opportunities (more on this in a minute); and knowing that the USENIX community is full of kind people who are interested in authentic connections, and discussing topics that drive the field forward and that have the potential to change the world.

As an organization, we make choices that support inclusive and welcoming environments at our conferences, and I've been so proud to observe the positive impacts of these choices and to hear about them from our attendees. In a crowded space with many competing events and competing priorities for your time and attention, USENIX sets itself apart with its community, as well as with its conference content.

If you've been considering greater involvement with USENIX, and/or increasing your engagement with members of the USENIX community, here's a list of ideas:

Attend a conference. I mention it in every e-newsletter because I believe in the importance of face-to-face interaction as well as the chance encounters that come from the "hallway track" at our events. I can also confidently say that the interactions I've observed at our conferences are grounded in mutual respect and genuine curiosity.

View the calendar of upcoming events at usenix.org/conferences and find an opportunity to be present at an event that is meaningful to your professional and personal interests.

If you're a student, or if you identify as female or as a member of another underrepresented group in the field, you may qualify for a Student Grant or a Diversity Grant, which are offered for many of our conferences. These grants help defray the expenses of conference travel and are made possible by generous sponsors. The best source of information about the grant program and upcoming opportunities can be found at usenix.org/grants. If you're interested in underwriting the grant program as a sponsor, contact me for more information.

Set goals for your networking efforts at a conference you plan to attend this year. How can you maximize the advantage of the face time a conference offers, and how can you do it in a way that is comfortable for you?

Here are some goals I've set for myself at recent events, which might be helpful for you as well:

◆ Asking someone I already know well to introduce me to two or three other conference attendees that they know.

- Saying hello to attendees with whom I share geographic proximity (in my case, Chicago)—it's an easy conversation starter.

- Helping a new conference attendee feel welcome at the event by engaging them in conversation during a break or reception, introducing them to other attendees, and/ or answering any questions they may have about the event.

- Thanking at least one program committee member for their work.

- Connecting with at least one speaker at the conference by asking a question during Q&A. *(Did you know that many of our speakers also attend the social events at our conferences, creating more opportunities for interaction with attendees?)*

Engage on social media. Our Twitter accounts are one of the best sources of information when conferences are in progress, whether you're there or watching from afar. Track the event hashtags, and follow us:

@usenix
@USENIXSecurity
@enigmaconf
@lisaconference

Connect—or reconnect—with someone you spoke with at a conference. Do you have a stack of business cards you brought home from the last USENIX conference you attended? Spend a few minutes reviewing that stack and find one person you can reach out to via email or social media to say, "Thanks for a great conversation—let's keep in touch!" Also, remember that the attendee list is available to registered attendees, linked from the conference program web page for reference in helping to remember a name and to help you reconnect.

Collaborate. Can members of the USENIX community help you solve a pressing problem in your work by sharing knowledge or providing a different perspective on the issue at hand? Leverage our community by engaging on social media, in conference Slack

channels, or connecting with those you've met at past conferences.

Take advantage of open access content. Since 2008, USENIX has made conference proceedings freely available. Video recordings of many talks, which you can watch on our website at usenix.org/conferences /multimedia, are also available to everyone. Browse the offerings and see what new ideas or resources you can uncover. You can also support open access content through membership: your donation supports our mission and commitment to open access, and also offers benefits such as a subscription to *;login:* magazine and discounts on conference registration. Learn more at usenix.org /membership.

Whatever your plans are for 2020, I hope engagement with USENIX is on your list! Let me know how we can help you achieve your goals.

Enigma 2020

Melanie Ensign (Uber) responds to audience Q&A during the Disinformation panel, moderated by Andrea Limbago (Virtru). Renee DiResta (New Knowledge and Data for Democracy) was also part of this panel.

Enigma 2020 Diversity Grant recipients. Learn more about USENIX's grants program including how to become a grant sponsor at usenix.org/grants.

There were many opportunities to chat with other Enigma 2020 attendees and discuss ideas presented during the conference talks.

Enigma 2020 attendees enjoy one of the evening receptions at the conference.

Kathryn Kosmides, Founder, CEO of Garbo.io, delivers her talk, "Public Records in the Digital Age: Can They Save Lives?"

Yan Zhu (Brave) speaks as part of the "Browser Privacy: Opportunities and Tradeoffs" panel, moderated by Dr. Lea Kissner (Humu). Other panel participants included Tanvi Vyas (Mozilla), Justin Schuh (Google), and Eric Lawrence (Microsoft).

Laurin B. Weissinger (Yale University), left, answers audience questions following his talk, "Internet Infrastructure Security: A Casualty of Laissez-Faire and Multistakeholderism?" with moderation from Vanessa Sauter (Cobalt.io).

Enigma Conference leadership: Ben Adida (program co-chair, 2019 & 2020), Daniela Oliveira (program co-chair, 2020 & 2021), and Lea Kissner (program co-chair, 2021 & 2022).