

VP Electronic Presence
Report to the 2007 Winter Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein, January 14, 2006

Society Web Site

We have moved the Society's web site from the computers at the University at Albany to commercial hosting space – EVIServers.net. We now have dedicated Linux server in their Houston operations center and the cost for this is \$1200 per year.

Having our own server allows us to offer each Chapter and SIG its own web space and mailing list and removes restrictions on space usage that the publication of past conference proceedings was pushing against. Many thanks to Will Glass-Hussein for help in getting things up and running. Both the web site and web submission system have been moved to the new server. The system dynamics mailing list has also been moved there, though we are keeping the policy council mailing list at Albany for the time being.

The Student Chapter and Energy SIG currently have their web pages on the server. We have not really told the other Chapters and SIGS about this ability because both Roberta and I have been too busy, but will do so soon. We are also going to put up a Wiki when time allows.

We have done a limited amount of restructuring of the web pages to simplify coordination between Jack and the office. There remains quite a bit to be done there though.

2007 Conference Support

The submission system is now open for 2007 paper submissions. The system is largely the same but the review process has been changed to provide different information to the program committee. It is now also possible for the Thread Chairs to see the names of reviewers to allow them to weight the reviews based on their knowledge of the reviewer. This is all on the new server, but is still the same system. The office continues to use an Access database with updates downloaded from the server.

Electronic Meeting and Meeting Materials Support

We are again conducting an electronic meeting for the Winter Policy Council meeting. I have spent some time trying to make this meeting a more structured and hope that this will improve clarity and participation. The discussion forum has been put on the new server and the voting system remains part of the web submission system.

Publication of Conference Proceedings

Starting with the 2006 conference we are no longer creating a physical CD of the conference proceedings. Instead we create a CD, assign it a ISBN number and then make an ISO image of that CD that can be

downloaded from the website (the address for this is ftp://systemdynamics.org/sds_2006.iso). Anyone wanting a CD can then use this to create their own. Again this is part of the effort to make more publications freely available.

Bibliography and Past Proceedings

The Bibliography is now being presented as free of charge for all people and libraries. In addition we are putting up some of the past proceedings by scanning the papers.

Online Model Repository

No progress, but this is still on the to-do list.