VP Electronic Presence
Report to the 2008 Winter Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein, January 16, 2008

Web Submission System

The web submission system has been updated to allow for the hosting of more than one conference. The intent is to allow Chapters or SIGs that are holding conferences to make use of the same submission and review system that we use for the annual conference. Exactly the same mechanism is being used to manage report submissions for the Policy Council meetings (which is why it sometimes looks like you are submitting a paper and not a report). Currently the system will support the main conference, a Policy Council Meeting and up to two additional conferences. There remains some work to support additional conferences because the review preference settings are currently global and people will need to opt-in to review for an alternative conference. We will deal with that when someone actually decides to use the system for an alternative conference.

The way the system is implemented there is a single database of users maintained by the central office, and a different database of papers and sessions for each conference (sessions are not used for the PC meetings). When people submit a paper for an alternate conference or opt in as a reviewer for that conference then the name, title and contact information for that person will be made available to the conference organizers.

Electronic Voting

The electronic voting system is largely unchanged except that any votes must now occur within the context of a convened meeting. There will be 2 convened meetings regularly scheduled – the winter and summer meetings. Ad-hoc votes required between these meetings can be done either by convening an ad-hoc meeting or by opening early, or reopening, one of the regular meetings. I favor the latter approach – probably opening early, as it puts everything together into an easy to manage package.

Electronic Communication and Archives

With the new system for report submission we will be able to generate a reports web page with links to reports the same we way now generate conference proceedings. This will keep old reports better organized and make them easier to access with minimal effort.

For electronic communication we are continuing to use the policy council email list which has proven the most effective thing so far. We have abandoned the online discussion list. There is no automated mechanism to archive the email discussion but I would recommend that someone volunteer to collect all the messages and then print them to a pdf file and submit this as the final report for a session. That, along with the meeting minutes, should allow for a pretty complete record of the meeting – both in person and virtual.

The System Dynamics Wiki

I am working on a Wiki, but have not yet connected everything up. It will use MediaWiki and will be pretty open, but people will need to log in via the web submission system to actually edit any entries. This will allow us to put in place a blocking mechanism should we have any problems with spam or graffiti.

Online Model Repository

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