

VP Electronic Presence
Report to the 2010 Summer Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein, July 22, 2010

Summary

We continue to make updates to the web submission system. We had a student working on getting our website up in a Content Management System (we are using Joomla!). We made progress on this, but it was not completed. We have not yet been able to find a new volunteer web master.

Web Submission System

There are continued refinements to this, primarily in support of the work flow at the central office. No big changes have been made since 2009.

The System Dynamics Discussion Forum

The discussion forum continues to be active, though not to the extent that might be expected. I believe this is symptomatic of a larger issue, diversity in background and purpose, representing both the strength and weakness of the Society. I believe that this can cause conversations to become unbalanced so they do not flow as smoothly as they might. The overall design (with a number of subforums) is meant to accommodate that, but people seem to be using other means to communicate (or perhaps we simply are a taciturn bunch).

The System Dynamics Wiki

The System Dynamics Wiki appears to be dead. I find this discouraging.

Content Management System

Pallavi Thakare, a student of Vedat Diker, worked on porting the content of our web site to the Joomla! Content Management System (CMS) we have installed. She made good progress, but did not quite bring us to completion

Web Master

Currently we are without a Web Master. Robin Langer is mostly acting in that role, though that is not by design. I have had no luck in finding a volunteer to take on this role since Jack Pugh stopped. Hiring this activity out is a possibility. This would, however, require budget, and thus approval from the PC. I am also concerned that bringing in someone without expertise in System Dynamics runs the risk of being content poor on our web site.