

VP Electronic Presence
Report to the 2011 Winter Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein, January 6, 2011

Summary

We have changed hosts for the Society website making it easier to support Chapters and SIGS. The forum struggles to survive, the Wiki seems dead, other things are being worked on. We do not have a webmaster, nor was the content management system port brought to a satisfactory conclusion. On the bright side, the web submission system continues to work well. I have started to look for an AVP Electronic Presence.

Website Host

We have moved from an unsupported dedicated server to a managed Virtual Private Server. This saves us a little bit of money and also puts more of the responsibility for keeping the web site up and running on the hosting provider (which is now HostV/Citrix). The server also has a CPanel implementation running which makes it much easier to support Chapter and SIGs that want their own websites. They now effectively get an account that is the same as one would get setting up a website with a commercial provider.

Web Submission System

There are continued refinements to this, though no major changes. The workflow changed only slightly when we moved to the new host.

The System Dynamics Discussion Forum

Alive, but not vibrant, is probably the most apt description. Most queries continue to get responses so I do believe the discussion forum does server a purpose.

Wikis and Twikis

Dead is probably the most accurate description of the Wiki. The Student Chapter has set up a TWiki, but not yet begun its population. I am not completely clear on how this is intended to, or will, evolve, but hope to see material on it soon.

Web Master, Content Management System and Membership Directory

Robin Langer continues to act as the webmaster, but this is not what is intended. The last run at porting the website to Joomla (a Content Management System) pretty much died on the vine. I think I may try to reinvigorate this myself as it can distribute the role of webmaster. This could also house the membership directory which would save us some

money (since we pay for member clicks) and also smooth the process for recording changes.

AVP Electronic Presence

It would be nice to find an AVP who is into Social Networking – Facebook, Twitter...- in a big way. This is not something the Society currently direct much attention to, but clearly has the potential to reach out to much larger audiences.