

**VP Electronic Presence**  
Report to the 2012 Winter Meeting of the Policy Council  
Submitted by Bob Eberlein December 24, 2011

## **Summary**

There have been quite a few changes in our electronic presence. Most notable is the move to a content management system for the conference related portion of the website and the opening up of the case repository. We have also made substantial changes to the conference submission system and plan to move the membership directory onto our website.

## **Webmaster and Content Management Systems**

We are still without a webmaster, though the need for this role is beginning to diminish as we move parts of the website to Content Management Systems (CMS) as discussed below. Navid Ghaffarzadegan, who has been working in the Central Office as a research assistant for the last several years is moving on to other things, and many of his duties are being transferred to Jaehee Jong. This has resulted in a little bit of confusion around web responsibilities, though things are now resolving.

## **Conference Web Site – [conference.systemdynamics.org](http://conference.systemdynamics.org)**

We have moved the conference web site to be based on a content management system (Wordpress). This has worked reasonably well, though we are continuing to struggle with format and menu issues. The big advantage is that it is now possible for more people to edit the content as this no longer requires any html experience or skills. Modifying organization is a little bit more challenging, but we are getting there. Special thanks to Bart Steverink for help on the themes and menus in use.

## **Case Studies – [cases.systemdynamics.org](http://cases.systemdynamics.org)**

This is now up and running and also based on Wordpress. It was implemented by Navid Ghaffarzadegan who is no longer working in the office, but has offered to continue managing it for three years on a volunteer basis

## **Web Submission System**

We have made a fairly substantial number of changes to the submission system, mostly related to schedule formatting, the PhD Colloquium and the review process. Thread chairs will now have assigned threads within the system and be taken directly to the papers for their threads instead of having to go first to the full list of papers and then select a thread. There is a (slightly) different submission and review form for the PhD Colloquium papers and regular papers and reviewer identities will no longer be revealed to anyone listed as an author of a paper no matter their status. Session listings have been

organized to pull out regular, workshop, PhD Colloq and other sessions and problems with the master session scheduling matrix have been fixed.

### **The System Dynamics Discussion Forum**

This remains relative quiet but is still used. Some small changes to formatting were made as people were having trouble understanding the login process.

### **Wiki**

The Wiki has been removed. Some of the content from that will probably be included elsewhere.

### **The Student Twiki**

The Student Chapter has developed and are using a Twiki hosted on our website. This seems to be working fairly well and is mostly under the direction of the Student Chapter.

### **Membership Directory**

We are planning to move this to our site and integrate it with the conference web submission system. This will be more convenient for members and also make it easier for the Office to handle information changes.