

VP Electronic Presence
Report to the 2016 Winter Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein February 21, 2016

Summary

We are making ongoing improvements to the appearance and content of the web site. Babak Bahaddin has done significant work updating the cases site and we continue to refine the appearance of the Web Portal with much of that work done by Weijia Ran. We are continuing to try to extend our spread via social media and both Babak and Erin Sheehan have been active doing that.

We made some minor changes to the Web Portal to make it easier and less error prone to create the electronic conference record, a job Robin Langer has been doing for many years.

We suffered, just before the New Year, a significant period of downtime for our website as a result of hardware problems at our ISP. It is likely we will be changing to a new service provider in the fall.

Weijia is trying to set up a proxy server on our site so that members can log into the Web Portal and directly access the System Dynamics Review content at Wiley without needing to log in a second time. I am not sure if that will be working before Weijia finishes her tenure – she will soon be graduating (congratulations Weijia).

Chapters and SIGs are still having difficulty using the Web Portal facilities to send out email, something I need to spend some time to get to the bottom of. The current and past membership listings for Chapters and SIGs also remains somewhat difficult to understand, and this is a documentation shortfall.

Generally we are in production mode for most the web services we provide and doing maintenance updating. The process is working well with the server and the back-office integration but the way we are doing is quite idiosyncratic and at some point we may want to move to a more modern and integrated web infrastructure. One big advantage of the current set up is security – nobody develops exploits against one-off systems and the bridge between the web and Office activities (that the database) can only be crossed by manual activity originating in the office.