SIGOPS Annual Report 2011

Fiscal Year July 2010-June 2011
Submitted by Doug Terry, SIGOPS Chair

Overview

SIGOPS is a vibrant community of people with interests in "operating systems" in the broadest sense, including topics such as distributed computing, storage systems, security, concurrency, middleware, mobility, virtualization, networking, cloud computing, datacenter software, and Internet services. We sponsor a number of top conferences, provide travel grants to students, present yearly awards, disseminate information to members electronically, and collaborate with other SIGs on important programs for computing professionals.

Notable activities from the past year include:

- Elections were held for new officers, and Jeanna Matthews was elected as the new SIGOPS Chair, George Candea as Vice Chair, and Dilma da Silva as Treasurer. They will serve two-year terms from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013. The past officers (Doug Terry as Chair, Frank Bellosa as Vice Chair and Jeanna Matthews as Treasurer) completed their 4 years of service on June 30.
- Planning for the next *ACM Symposium on Operating Systems* (SOSP), which is scheduled for October 2011 in Cascais, Portugal, has been largely completed by Ted Wobber, the General Chair, and Peter Druschel, the Program Chair. The Second *ACM Symposium on Cloud Computing* (SOCC), which is co-sponsored between SIGOPS and SIGMOD, is being co-located with SOSP in Portugal.
- The first *SIGOPS Asia-Pacific Workshop on Systems* (APSys) was held on August 30, 2010 in New Delhi, India, immediately before the SIGCOMM 2010 conference. And the second instance of this workshop is being held in Shanghai, China, in July 2011.
- ACM released the first version of the *Cloud Computing Tech Pack*, which was produced by Doug Terry, the SIGOPS Chair.
- Consensus was reached on a set of principles concerning SIGOPS publications.
- An *ASPLOS Influential Paper Award* was created in cooperation with SIGARCH and SIGPLAN.
- A proposal was made to establish a *SIGOPS Distinguished Service Award*, but it was not approved by the ACM Awards Committee.

Awards

SIGOPS presents several awards on a yearly basis. Robert Morris received the Mark Weiser Award for creativity and innovation in operating systems research. The SIGOPS Hall of Fame Award, which

recognizes the most influential systems papers, was presented at the Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI) conference.

Programs and Services

Professional SIGOPS membership dues remain at $15, and student membership is just $5 per year. We offer a "member plus" package (for $20) for those who wish to continue receiving printed proceedings for the SOSP, ASPLOS, and EuroSys conferences.

Several widely respected conferences were sponsored or co-sponsored by SIGOPS this year. This includes the *EuroSys Conference* (with our European SIGOPS Chapter), the *International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems* (ASPLOS), co-sponsored with SIGARCH and SIGPLAN, the *Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing* (PODC), co-sponsored with SIGACT, the *International Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems* (SenSys), co-sponsored with SIGCOMM, SIGARCH, SIGBED, SIGMOBILE, and SIGMETRICS, the *International Conference on Virtual Execution Environments* (VEE), co-sponsored with SIGPLAN, the *International Conference on Mobile Systems, Applications, and Services* (MobiSys), co-sponsored with SIGMOBILE, and the new *Symposium on Cloud Computing* (SOCC), co-sponsored with SIGMOD. Additionally, the *Asia-Pacific Workshop on Systems* (APSys) has become a yearly event with the long-term goal of highlighting and supporting systems research in the Asia-Pacific region.

SIGOPS encourages participation in conferences and career building activities for young members of the community. For example, substantial funding was provided this year as travel grants for students to attend conferences and diversity workshops, with many of these grants targeted at women and underrepresented minorities.

SIGOPS also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Operating Systems Review*, which focuses on specific research topics or research institutions, manages an electronic mailing list, which is used for announcements, and maintains a web site: http://www.sigops.org/.

Key Issues

Enrollment in the optional printed proceedings package is extremely low, as are requests for printed proceedings at conferences. Soon, SIGOPS needs to decide whether to produce printed proceedings at all and whether it should continue distributing the OSR newsletter in printed form. Strong arguments can be made for going completely "green", i.e. paperless.

SIGOPS is focusing on increasing its membership in parts of the world beyond the U. S. and Europe. The establishment of the APSys workshop was one important step in this direction. Another potential step is the creation of new chapters, following the success of the SIGOPS European Chapter (EuroSys). However, questions remain to be sorted out concerning the scope of new chapters. Should we have one chapter for all of Asia or for individual countries or perhaps individual cities or universities? What

financial arrangements should exist between local chapters and SIGOPS? How can we recruit people to lead such chapters?

Often, during the course of a research project, papers get published on similar topics, perhaps with overlapping content and contributions. For example, a research group might publish a 5-page paper at a workshop (like *APSys*), later produce an extended version of this paper for a conference (like *SOSP*), and then produce a revised version for a journal (like *TOCS*); another version of this paper might be published as a technical report or in a newsletter (like *Operating Systems Review*).   Currently, SIGOPS does not have a policy on how to treat submissions of papers that are related to previously published papers. This leads to inconsistent treatment of such submissions across SIGOPS-sponsored conferences, workshops, and other venues. Discussions were started in the past year on this topic, but more work is needed for the community to reach consensus on a concrete policy.