IEEE IT Society Online Committee Report
(Pre-ISIT 2018 BoG edition)

Anand D. Sarwate

Online Committee Chair

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Status update

- **Term of service:** my term of service is coming to an end after this year. I am happy to stay on for another year to assist the new Online Committee Chair.
- **TOC announcements:** system seems to work well (as long as I get the information from the EiC).
- **Documentary:** ???
Change is in the air...

My term as Online Editor is coming to an end this year.

- We need to nominate a replacement...
- The job has changed over the years from Nick through Matthieu to me (more on this later).
- Suggestion: implement a shift-register system for the Online Editor as well (either formally or informally) to transfer over responsibilities. This may require a change to the bylaws. Perhaps the relevant committee can draft a motion?
Multi-level outreach

The film will drive more people to our site to learn more about information theory:

- **General public**: need to develop landing place for general information about information theory. Good place to gather resources and materials for public outreach: children’s book, YouTube videos, etc.

- **Industry**: currently a bit of a hole in our online resources. What do we have specifically for those who want to learn a bit more technical details but not at the level of doing research (c.f. SP Magazine articles).

- **Researchers (outside) IT**: we have an abundance of resources, monographs, slides, videos, etc. but they need to be organized by *topic* rather than event, and we may need to solicit some “glue” material.
Background

The current ITSOC site is running on Plone 4.3.14. Plone 5 was released in September 2015.

- Once Plone 5.1 is released (anticipated in 2018), there will no longer be security updates to Plone 4.3.x.
- The Society’s goal to be more outward facing (towards other disciplines, industry, and the general public) will require more engagement from society members in creating this content.
- Plone 5.x has a much better UI, more like WordPress, and it is faster. This can lower the barrier to entry for people to create content.
We will have to upgrade to Plone 5.x within the next year in order to

- avoid security vulnerabilities
- better create and curate content
- bring information theory to a broader audience

Unfortunately, upgrades for content-rich sites such as itsoc.org are not cheap. However, this upgrade should last for 5-6 years.
A bit of history

Here is brief history of budgeted and actual expenditures for the Online Committee (thanks to Aaron Wagner and Matt LaFleur):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY14</td>
<td>24,900</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>10,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY15</td>
<td>25,400</td>
<td>12,900</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>52,100</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY18</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is $35.5k that has been allocated previously to the Online Committee that has not been spent due to cost underruns.
Proposed work (2018)

The developers can split the upgrade across three phases. For 2018, the work would entail:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,260</td>
<td>Maintenance and retainer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,580</td>
<td>Phase 1 Upgrade to Plone 5.1: design elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,560</td>
<td>Phase 1 Upgrade to Plone 5.1: add-ons and customization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18,645</td>
<td>Integration with MailChimp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>topic-focused landing pages with dynamic content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45,045</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Phase 2 Upgrade would cost between $32,000 and $40,000 and can be requested in the budget for 2019.
**Motion**: the Online Committee requests an additional $48k ($33k + $15k) as a *new initiative* to bring new and enhanced functionality for the itsoc.org site.