

SIGCOMM  
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK  
MEETING

August 23, 2017

# Agenda

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- SIGCOMM 2018
- New EC introduction
- State of the SIG overview
- Past activities and possible new initiatives
- Feedback & suggestions: What should the SIG do better and/or differently

**Details in annual report online**

# SIGCOMM 2018

August 20-24

Budapest, HUNGARY

- 
- General chairs:
  - Sergey Gorinsky, János Tapolcai

# SIG Officers

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**R. Guerin**  
Chair



**Aditya Akella**  
Vice-Chair



**Lars Eggert**  
Secretary/Treasurer



**S. Keshav**  
Past Chair



**Olivier Bonaventure**  
Editor, CCR

See <http://www.sigcomm.org/about/what-does-the-ec-do/>



Anduo Wang  
Information Director



Dina Papagiannaki  
Awards Chair



Jussi Kangasharju-  
Conference Coordinator



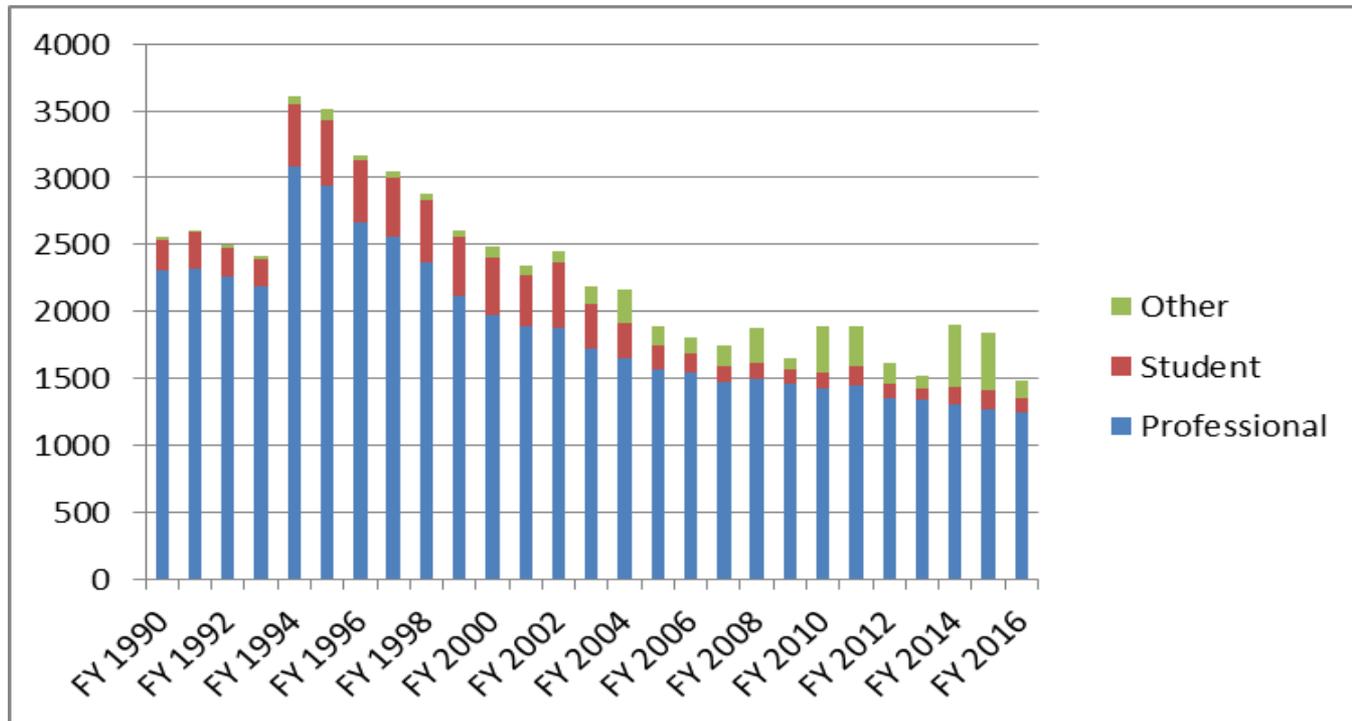
TBA  
Diversity & Outreach



Tristan Henderson  
Education Chair

# Membership continues to slowly decline

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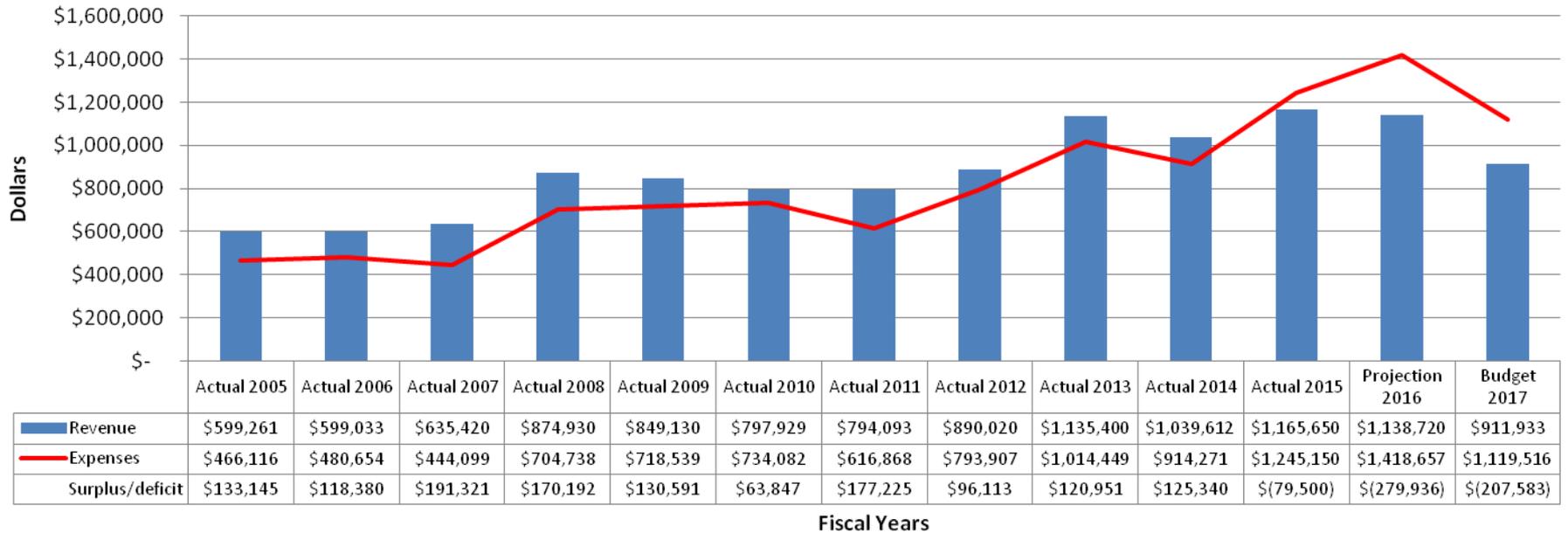


- Downward trend common to majority of SIGs and to ACM as a whole (a high of 103k in 1990 vs. ~37k in 2016)
- SIGCOMM as the 7<sup>th</sup> largest SIG, out of 38 (no real change from recent years)

# The SIG is financially sound

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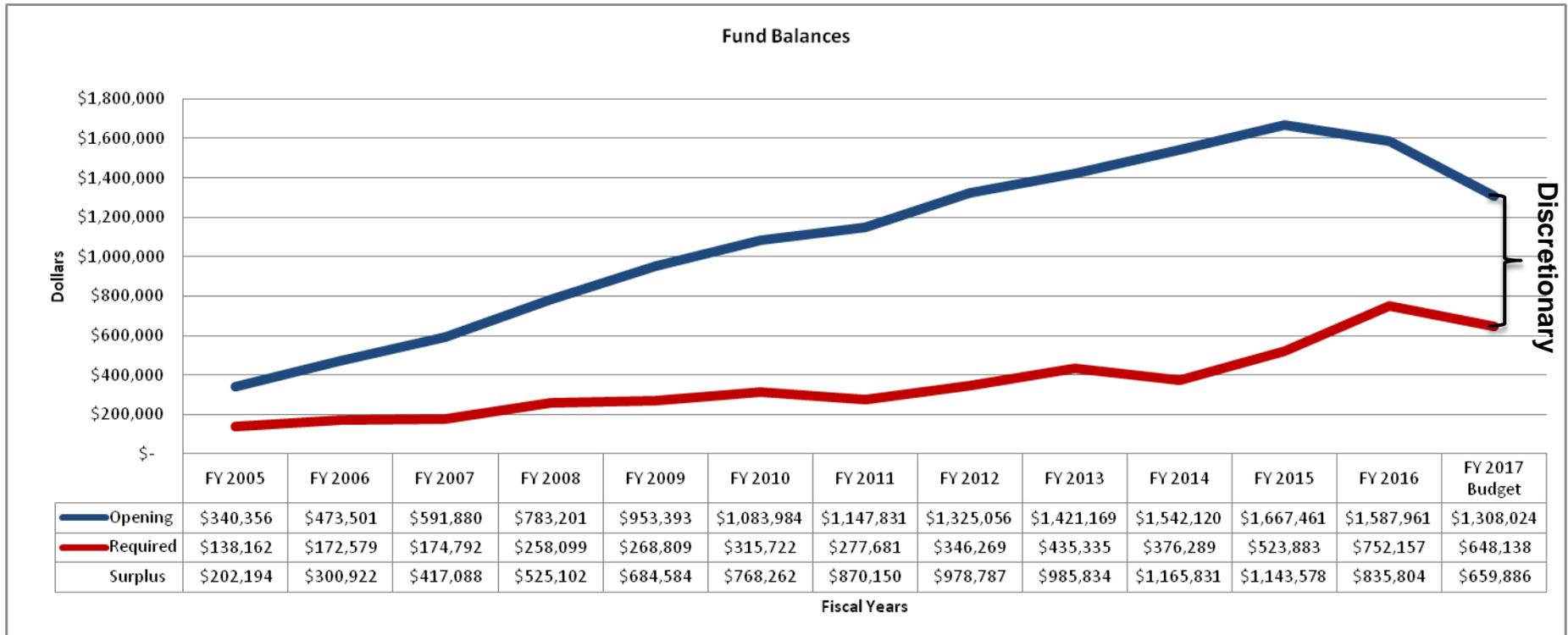
## Financial Operations (Total)



- But we have run a deficit for the past three years and have been drawing down on our reserve (as we had decided to)

# Though our fund position remains strong

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- we still have a healthy buffer that should allow us to continue supporting ongoing activities for some time

# Where does our money comes from?

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- In 2016
  - ▣ Approximately \$100k surplus per year from conferences (mostly from SIGCOMM'16 that generated a larger surplus than expected)
    - The 2017 figure is likely to be similar
    - Other conferences are mostly break-even as we have eliminated contingency margins to keep registration fees low
  - ▣ Approximately \$145k income from the DL, \$35k from membership dues, and \$20k from interest

# Where does our money go?

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1. Financially sponsor conferences, *i.e.*, cover their loss if they have one
2. Give awards
3. Give travel grants
4. Support CCR
5. Subsidize a number of special projects that are expected to benefit our membership

Check the [2017 annual report](#) for details

# 1. SIGCOMM Sponsored Conferences

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- Sole sponsorship
  - SIGCOMM (+\$120k)
  - CoNEXT (-\$2.5k)
  - HotNets Workshop (+\$5k)
    - ▣ Information-Centric Networking (ICN)
  - Future Energy Systems (e-Energy)
- Joint sponsorship
  - Internet Measurement Conference (IMC) – (-\$7k)
  - Architectures for Networking and Communication Systems (ANCS) – (+\$8.5k)
  - Networked Sensor Systems (SenSys) – (-\$20k)
    - ▣ Symposium on SDN Research (SOSR)
    - ▣ Joint ACM, ISOC, IRTF Applied Networking Workshop (ANRW)

# 1. Support for regional conferences

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- In cooperation status and travel support
  - COMSNET (India)
  - LANC (Latin America)
  - AINTEC (Thailand)
  - APNET (Asia-Pacific)

# 2. Awards

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- **SIG-wide**
  - SIGCOMM Award
  - Test of Time
  - Rising Star
    - Updated to replace the absolute age limit of “no older than 35” with a relative one of “within 10 years of receiving their Ph.D. or equivalent degree”
  - Doctoral Dissertation
- **SIGCOMM conference**
  - Best Paper
  - Best Student Paper

# 3. Travel grants

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- About **\$200K/year** for student travel grants across our sponsored conferences
- About **\$40k** to support attendance of our sponsored conferences by both grad students and junior faculty from under-represented regions
- About **\$35k** for student travel grants to national networking summits
- Travel grants to PC members from developing countries to attend PC meetings

# 4. CCR

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- CCR is now entirely online at <https://ccronline.sigcomm.org>
- CCR encourages the submission of papers that provides the artifacts (software, datasets, ...) that are required to reproduce the paper results. Those papers can be longer than six pages and the artifacts are reviewed as well as the paper
- CCR authors can opt to post submitted papers on ccronline for community feedback in parallel with the paper reviews
- CCR submission deadlines are March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st

## 5. Ongoing special projects

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- Reduced registration fees
- Childcare grants at SIGCOMM sponsored conferences
- Pay for excess page charges for best papers
- N<sup>2</sup>women workshop and dinner
- Summer school support for student travel (\$25K/school)
- Encouraging industry-academia interaction

# Specific highlights

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- Education initiatives and activities
- Industry liaison board update

# Education initiatives & activities

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- **Past:** sponsoring events in line with geodiversity, *e.g.*,
  - summer school on IoT in developing countries
  - Asia-focused APNet workshop
  - networking summer school in Chile
- **Present:** continue focus on geodiversity:
  - if you are running an event, please speak to us about potential geodiversity grants for students (*e.g.*, best paper award winners could receive SIGCOMM conference travel grants)
- **Future:** reproducibility / education activities
  - new ACM policy on reproducibility will mean more code and data sharing
  - if you are using shared code and data for teaching (or would like to) please get in touch ([Tristan Henderson](#))

# Industry liaison board

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- Initiated 3 years ago and originally chaired by Renata Teixeira
  - ▣ New chair: [Venkat Padmanabhan](#)
- Main activities
  - ▣ Industrial demo sessions at both SIGCOMM 2016 and 2017, and now part of regular conference organization
  - ▣ Created new Networking Systems Award (to start in 2018)
  - ▣ CCR editorial series on the “practice of networking”
- Work in progress (contact [Venkat](#) if you want to be involved)
  - ▣ Industry day events (where to locate them, how to attract the right audience, etc.)
  - ▣ What else do we need to do to bring industry to SIGCOMM?
  - ▣ How to engage with networking startups?
  - ▣ Measuring our progress (what metrics)

# Looking ahead

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- Improving our diversity and outreach
- Introducing PACM
- IoT initiative (ACM President)
- Rolling submission deadlines
- Student engagement

# Diversity and outreach

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- We are doing quite a bit, but we need to do more
  - Percentage of women among SIGCOMM members is still below 10% (stands at 9%!)
    - We have made progress in Asia and Europe, but our presence in South America (1.7%) and Africa+Middle East (1%) remains marginal
    - And we are losing members



- A new EC position focused on diversity and outreach
  - Focus on initiatives aimed at attracting **and** retaining a more diverse set of members

# Proceedings of the ACM (PACM)

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- What is [PACM](#)
  - A new journal series meant to afford “journal status” to papers published in our best conferences
    - Conference proceedings are not included in the major citation indices produced by the likes of Clarivate and Scopus
    - This is not of much concern in North America, but is important to many members in Europe, Asia, and South America where those indices are much more commonly used (by funding agencies, for promotions, etc.)
- PACM titles are associated with one or more conferences, which publish their papers in PACM in lieu of proceedings
- **Main PACM requirement** (see the [PACM Guidelines](#)) is to provide a review process that allows bona fide *revisions*

# PACM status

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- PACM series launched in 2017
  - Four approved titles
    - PACM on Programming Languages (POPL, OOPSLA, and ICFP) – Gold access journal
    - PACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (UbiComp)
    - PACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW and EICS)
    - PACM on Measurement and Analysis of Computing Systems (SIGMETRICS)
- Several issues already published (PACM PL & PACM IMWUT)
  - New “journal template” in the work for better readability
- Different approaches for handling revisions (multiple deadlines, journal first, tighter schedule)
- Benefits:
  - Broader recognition of journal/archival quality of the work
  - Perception of higher quality review process (because of revisions)

# IoT initiative

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- IoT is clearly an important and growing area
- ACM's new president, Vicky Hanson, wants to explore the possibility of launching new initiatives in that space
  - ▣ Contacts with SIGCOMM and SIGMOBILE
- This can only work if this is driven bottom-up
  - ▣ ACM can provide resources, but the community needs to be involved
  - ▣ Email me in case you are interested in getting involved and/or know someone who might

# Rolling deadlines

- Should SIGCOMM have multiple deadlines?
  - ▣ Other communities have moved to this successfully (Sigmetrics, VLDB, SIGMOD, Oakland, ...)
  - ▣ Many different models (3, 4, monthly deadlines...) and enough history
- Some early discussions on the SIGCOMM Facebook group
  - ▣ Mostly positive sentiments and good reasons why to do it
  - ▣ But many concerns exist too
- Informal discussion on Thursday at 7:30am
  - ▣ Email [akella@cs.wisc.edu](mailto:akella@cs.wisc.edu) if you want to contribute (there's very limited room)

# Student engagement

- How do we improve student engagement in/experience at SIGCOMM?
- Some existing efforts, e.g., student dinner, mentoring moments, but is it enough?
  - ▣ More student-driven events? E.g., S3 workshop at MobiCom
  - ▣ How to encourage better Q&A participation, networking with senior folks?
  - ▣ How should we structure the student dinner to make it as effective a forum as possible?
  - ▣ At a more basic level, what are students looking for? How can SIGCOMM help?

# In summary

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- SIGCOMM remains a sound SIG and we (still) have resources to launch new initiatives
- We'd like your inputs (and help) in figuring out how to be the most effective
- You can contribute in many different ways
  - Send us suggestions on what we can do better, or where we can do more and how
  - Contribute to CCR
    - ▣ Editorials
    - ▣ Offer to review submissions
  - Share resources on [education.sigcomm.org](http://education.sigcomm.org), get involved in curriculum development
  - Propose workshops at SIGCOMM, CoNEXT, or standalone
  - Propose a summer school