Life after ACM

Results of the Vote

The steering committee for the Symposium on Computational Geometry has concluded its third and final vote on the future relationship between SOCG and ACM. Voting was open for three weeks, from June 24 through July 15, and was made available to all subscribers to the compgeom-announce mailing list.

A total of **202** votes were cast, more than twice as many as in the previous vote. Here are the results for the main question:

- I prefer to stay with ACM: **68 votes (34%)**
- I prefer to leave ACM: **134 votes (66%)**

Results for the other poll questions are summarized below.

In light of the decisive majority in favor of leaving ACM, the SOCG steering committee (Mark de Berg, David Eppstein, Jeff Erickson, Joseph Mitchell, and Günter Rote), the 2015 local organizers (Bettina Speckman and Marc van Kreveld), and the 2015 program committee co-chairs (Lars Arge and János Pach) have unanimously agreed to immediately move forward with independence, starting with the June 2015 conference in Eindhoven. SOCG 2014 will be the last iteration of the conference affiliated with ACM.

- Open access forever

- Publication charges: 15€ per paper (5€ per registration)

- We have a five-year contract

    David and Jeff

Name change

- Last year: 30th **Annual** Symposium on Computational Geometry

- This year: 31st **International** Symposium on Computational Geometry

SOCG development fund

- Financial backstop previously provided by ACM
  - Purchases before registration (eg, housing deposits)
  - Contingency fund for unexpected expenses

- Target balance ~$10000

- Initial funding could be provided by
  - Registration surcharge ($25 for 2 years)
  - Personal donations?
  - Corporate/institutional sponsorship?

- Managed by steering committee

Proposed voting protocol

▸ Current steering committee terms end March 2016

▸ Solicit nominations for **all six** members in January

▸ Vote in February

▸ New committee chooses 3 members to serve only 2 years

▸ Next election in 2018 for three committee members

Approved by show of hands.

Computational Geometry Foundation?

- The steering committee is considering whether to found a formal sponsoring organization
  - US tax-exempt 501c(3) non-profit corporation
  - Steering committee = Board of directors

- Advantages
  - Relieves steering committee from *personal* legal responsibility
  - Direct control of finances
  - Tax benefit for US donations

- Disadvantages
  - Administrative/legal overhead (time and money)
  - May require US representation on steering committee

Computational Geometry Foundation?

▸ Similar organizations:

  ▹ Computational Complexity Foundation

  ▹ Computer Vision Foundation

  ▹ Machine Learning Foundation

  ▹ VLDB Endowment

Proposed approval process

‣ October: Draft bylaws posted for public discussion and revision

‣ November: Final bylaws posted for public discussion

‣ December: Electronic vote, similar to ACM vote

‣ January 1: Formal launch (if approved

‣ February: Solicit donations