Distributed and Scalable Computing Specialist Group AGM
Stanley Gill Room, BCS London Office
27/10/2010

The AGM began at 4:10pm.

Present: Chris Bore (CB), Souheil Khaddaj (SK), Peter Dzwig (PD), Ian Osborne (IO), Choi-Hong Lai (CHL)

1.   Introduction

There were no apologies for absence.

IO gave an introduction of the SG and mentioned that the past year has been a transition year from the old SG to the new SG. Many activities have been conducted, including one webinar and meetings at BCS London Offices. This transition year we have also attracted many new members.

2.   Annual report

IO reported various activities held last year. A webinar and one seminar were held in London; a survey of members to collect valuable information regarding the interests of members was organised by PD; in addition committee meetings were held regularly during the year.   The SG has also oriented itself towards multi-core and programming and members.   Finally IO thanked all committee members who have contributed a lot over the past year and that this is the right area to be continued to see expansion.

3.   Presentation of the Annual Accounts:

CB presented the Annual Accounts. CB commented that catering usage over the past year seemed to be low; he noted that keynote speakers at webinars could be reimbursed with transport and accommodation if needed, and suitable catering should be arranged. These would increased significantly to a higher amount as activities increase. CB also confirmed that funds could not be accumulated from year to year. He mentioned that the fund for the SG is earmarked. IO asked whether the fund is kept centrally. CB confirmed that it was; and added that expenses were reimbursed after an event was organised.

4.   Elections of new Committee

At 4:45pm the chair proposed that the committee members for 2009/2010 should resign. An election of the chair was carried out – PD was duly elected as chair for 2010/2011. Nominations for other posts were: CB (treasurer), CHL (secretary), SK (membership secretary). All posts were filled in the absence of other candidates except for "outreach and services".

CB proposed to co-opt IO as a member-at-large, PD seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Committee Members agreed that "outreach and services" be amalgamated with 'Membership Secretary'. After the other elections the two posts were amalgamated and SK will serve in the combined post.

5.   Survey of members

The new chair gave the Survey Report which was carried out in the weeks immediately before AGM. The immediate results were provided in rough numerical form (not attached).

In summary: There are a total of 340 members; multi-core seems to be the area of greatest interest to most members, parallel and cluster programming came second, cloud computing cames very low; GPUs are also an area of major interest as well.

Individual members had suggested hosting meetings at Daresbury. There is broad support for webinars to carry on allowing members and other people to watch good presentations. Topics of talks are very important when come to attracting people to come to central London for meetings.

IO suggested (and individuals had seperately also suggested) that Youtube be used to as a channel; CHL added that links to Youtube presentations should be put on the SG website for ease of access. Chris Bore's and Russel Winder's talks should also be put up on the site. PD suggested that the Survey results also be put on the SG website. All agreed that the SG website should contain a programme for 2010/2011 for members to view as soon as was practical.

PD said that he would investigate mechanisms for doing so as it had proven difficult to do so last year.

Action: PD

PD undertook to refine the report in time for presentation at the next meeting. It was agreed that in order to get the results up effectively, when agreed the report should be placed on the site without the actions resulting from the plan.

Action: PD

It was agreed that at the next meeting the Committee would discuss a programme of seminars and meetings for 2010/11. All to investigate the availability of sutable spaekers.

6.   AOB

6.1   Joint meetings

All agreed that joint meetings with other SGs and IMA should be hosted. There was a discussion of various possible candidates.

6.2   Voting, access of email list

PD will speak to Rachel Browning about voting. PD will also speak to her about mailings

It was noted that statistics on SG membership "churn" would be of interest.

Actions: PD

6.3   Committee meetings

PD suggested that committee meetings should be held on every second Monday of the month. Next committee meeting: Monday 15/11/2010 London office at 17:00.

The AGM closed at 5:40pm.