

BIW10 (reported by Joe Chew, LBNL)

- 10th Beam Instrumentation Workshop
 - Sponsored this time by Los Alamos National Laboratory.
 - La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, NM, USA, May 2-6.
- Small conference with simple structure
 - All orals in plenary session; one poster session.
 - Paperless and disk free—JACoW will be only form of publication.
 - Did not use SPMS committee, registration, or hotel features.
- 121 presentations (29 oral, 92 poster)
 - Pre-conference due date.
 - Most complied or begged a short extension (few weeks at most).
 - Publication not required for speaking
(but nearly everyone who presented also wrote a paper!)
 - 80% Windows, 20% Mac, few Linux.
- Being a “one-man band” editor busy enough, and + IT + logistics guy not recommended -- but sometimes necessary for small impecunious conferences... fortunately this time we had a small, good team

Help! and thou shalt receive

Why me? Because Los Alamos had these problems:

- LANL people with PAC07-vintage JACoW skills were not made available.
 - They got the news too late for training of a new one to be budgeted.
 - Corporate undesire to invest in a skill they seemed unlikely to use again.
 - Standing up a manuscript server problematic for a secure weapons lab.
- ...so in separate decisions they opted for me and submissions.lbl.gov

- Clay Dillingham, conference co-editor
 - Experienced though non-JACoW editor and writer.
 - Quick study on basic SPMS and JACoW-destined Word, Acrobat work.
 - Available from before abstracts through some postconference work.
- Cecelia Duenas, all-around office staffer who showed a taste for paper reception and some editing
- Webmaster/content-owner, also throughout conference cycle
- Averaged total of ~1.5 technical IT people pre- and in-conference

This was a good amount of help, mix of skills, etc. for a small (<150 delegate) workshop. And as Christine noted, teamwork is better.

Drivers and priorities from the SPC

Overarching consideration: it's a workshop, not archival literature

- In Proceedings editing, balance decent quality with speed
 - Conference prerogative of establishing its own standard
 - Online-only Proceedings not as demanding of perfect uniformity.
 - Goal: up to JACoW minimum standard (or better), not a showpiece.
- Pareto's Law enforced harshly (as always everywhere)
 - Most papers were pretty good (given the above).
 - Several required more extensive rework, sometimes by editors.
 - Authors instructed to obtain their own help as needed and submit a publication-ready manuscript; but still...
- Invest effort in making interim/preprint versions available
 - Abstracts, transparencies, manuscripts.
 - First "as-received" mss, then preliminary green dots.
 - User interface was that of conference website, not JACoW.

These were generally BIW10 SPC rather than JACoW priorities, and I didn't always agree, but it was all done with, by their lights, the needs of the user foremost

Some consequences...

- No LaTeX
 - Decision taken by SPC chair due to lack of local resources, low LaTeX use in this community.
 - Would-be LaTeX users mostly seemed to fall back on OpenOffice, with mixed results and some grumbling.
 - “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” regarding source of compliant .ps files.
- “Preprint” version consumed resources, benefitted delegates
 - Stamped, posted to conference website as submitted and ASAP.
 - Nice to take a quick early look and see where the trouble lay.
 - Used LANL conference website, not SPMS, by SPC choice.
 - Really glad to have teammates.
- Preprint work continued postconference
 - Much of several days.
 - Biggest challenge: a fairly universal way to embed media in PDF.

End or at least ≈end results

- Useful preliminary versions on conference website promptly
- JACoW acceptance test version at end of FY10 even though
 - The road to Hell is paved with good intentions and I always seem to be driving the steamroller.
 - Volker's computer rolls over and dies whenever it sees me coming.
 - LBNL office moves are similarly correlated with my editing a conference.
 - Despite it all, down to things on the order of “US” vs. “USA” in stamps.
- We (for some values of “we”) to do it again in 2012
 - Hosted by Jefferson Lab, which will have a freshly experienced (if exhausted) JACoW editor of its own
 - Is something being discussed regarding BIW and DIPAC relationship? (You know at least as much as I do...)

(A brief digression into ICAP09)

- Much lower yield: 51 of 115 orals, 32 of 61 posters resulted in Proceedings papers
- A few more changes needed before submittal for Volker's approval
- Slow progress due to combination of tolerant SPC chair w.r.t. deadlines, and events in my personal and professional life we needn't go into as they are mundane and boring
- Lessons learned about presentations management and need for realtime presentations and IT help benefitted BIW10

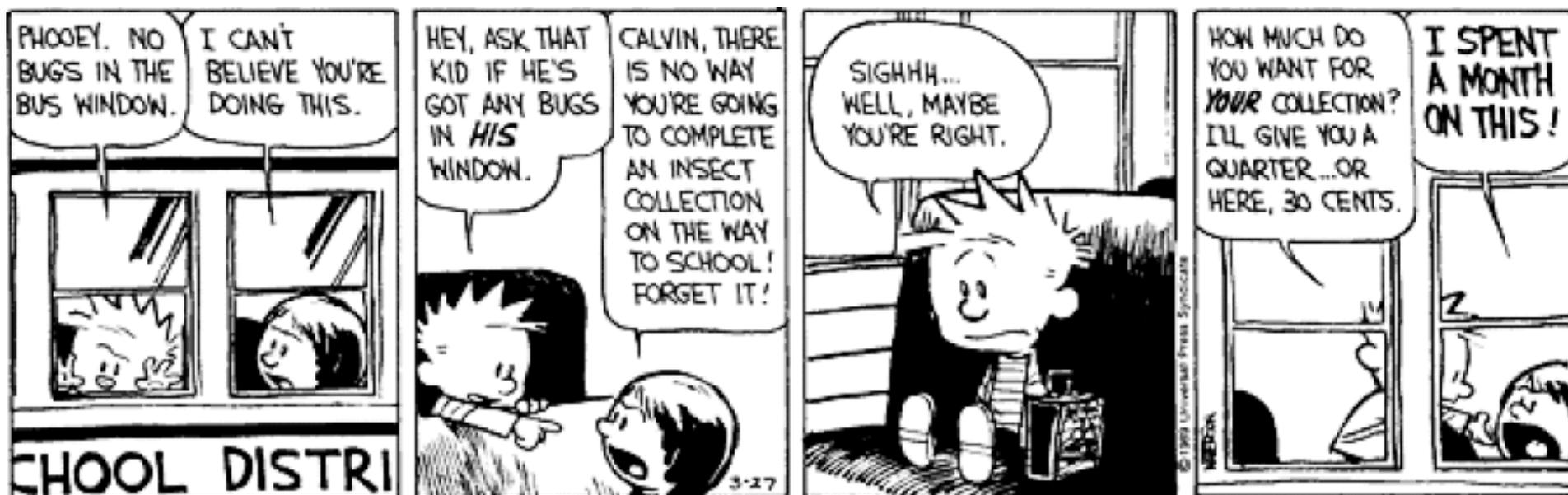
“Never take no cut offs and hurry along as fast as you can.”

-Donner Party survivor Virginia Reed

A/V agonistes

- Did not use SPMS for realtime transparency management
 - Homegrown LANL solution (ready-room Mac-cum-server -> podium Mac)
 - Worked well, but glad a local tech person was there
 - Perhaps slightly predated some of latest SPMS functionality
- Vugrafs are perilous when crossing platforms, crossing PowerPoint versions, playing embedded media... have as much quality help standing ready as you can
 - A/V demands are inherently urgent; work often detailed, extensive.
 - Somebody who knows Powerpoint (etc.) and takes initiative *and is there*
 - Must know file server system you use (SPMS or otherwise).
 - *This might be more than one person.*
- Even a small conference needs at least one “transparency manager”
- See Christine’s Wednesday slides as well as Takashi’s and Michaela’s

The root cause of many of our A/V (and other) problems



“Calvin, there is no way you’re going to complete your presentation on the way from the editorial room to the podium! Forget it!”

This expression of a universal truth of life in these times © Bill Watterson and Universal UClick LLC

Need PC and Mac at podium, help behind scenes (pick at least two of three)

- Decision to have one podium machine, and that it should be a Mac, caused or at least exposed many problems (fonts but also movies)
 - Can't have people using their own laptops on a tight schedule.
 - Vugraf styles and content often idiosyncratic
 - Author education can help but you're still going to get problems even if they do pay attention.
 - One approach is to have both Mac and PC at podium... but you still need to run through slides in the ready room.
 - *Expect cross-platform (or even same-platform) trouble with movies.*
- Even a small conference is likely to need at least one A/V person (again, see Christine's slides)
- Urge speakers toward "belt, suspenders, and Velcro navel" approach
 - Make a PDF on your own computer, with embedded fonts, and at least you'll have something.
 - *Speakers should have stand-alone as well as embedded movies.*
 - Ditto for a physical medium on author's person as well as SPMS upload.