

Charter for the Steering Committee of IEEE/IFIP International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks

1) Mission Statement

The Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN) Steering Committee (SC) provides directions to run the DSN conference and identify future long term and strategic evolutions, by virtue of the expertise and experience of its members. It does not serve as a conference committee, but rather as an advisory council. The SC will hold an Annual Meeting in conjunction with each DSN event to launch planning for the following DSN event. Much of the SC's effort consists of providing input on vision and providing support to the DSN organizers (general chairs, PC chairs).

The SC will perform the following duties each year to oversee the direction of the symposium:

- Select the PC Chairs for the DSN conference.
- Select the keynotes for the DSN conference.
- Select the top 3 papers as candidates for the Best Paper Award, out of the 6 papers provided by the TPC Chairs.
- Plan future DSN conferences and specifically solicit proposals for future conferences location.
- Evaluate how well each conference has achieved the objectives and mission of DSN.
- Collect feedback about DSN for the purpose of improving the conference over time.
- Approve the General Chair(s) and the Program Chair(s) for each DSN conference, as indicated in the selected proposal.
- Organize the selection process of the Test of Time, William Carter and Rising Star awards, and other awards of the conference.
- Create an experience record from earlier conferences to be handed to the new organizers.

The Steering Committee has the final authority on every aspect related to the organization and management of DSN up to the point of assigning the conference to the respective General Chair(s).

Selection of PC Chairs and Keynotes is done by majority voting.

By giving guidance and making recommendations, the SC will ensure the continued success of DSN events.

2) Committee Structure

The SC is composed of 12 members selected as following:

Leadership

- Chair SC, this is the chair of the TC-FTC, elected by the TC-FTC members
- Vice-chair, this is the chair of the IFIP WG 10.4, elected by the IFIP WG 10.4 members

Chair SC: According to the TC-FTC rules the Vice Chair of TC-FTC will be the next chair of TC_FTC and thus the next SC Chair. The term is 2 years for the SC chair.

Ex-officio members

- Current TC-FTC Vice Chair
- 2 past TC-FTC chairs
- Past IFIP WG 10.4 chair

Elected members

- Six additional members will be elected every 2 years to ensure continuity and fresh perspectives.
- Each SC member may nominate some candidates for consideration.
- The SC Chair will manage the election process and define the details of the voting procedure, ensuring a fair and transparent selection.
- All current SC members are eligible to vote. The SC candidates must have actively contributed to conferences within the past 5 years. For example, SC candidates should have served in the roles of an DSN “organizing committee” or “program committee” member, at least 3 times in the 5 past years.

It is expected that members of the SC should have contributed to the conference for many years and have played key leadership roles. Members should be ready to dedicate enough time by contributing to subgroups. Members should commit to attending the conference.

3) Changing the Charter

The rules outlined here represent the charter of the SG. Any changes to the charter should be made based on discussion and voting anonymously among the SG. Changing the charter requires two-thirds of positive votes out of the total positive and negative votes.

4) History

This document is based on the slides presented by Mohamed Kaaniche at the SC meeting in Portland 2019 and approved by the SC at the time.

DSN TPC Chair Guide

Technical program committee

The PC Chairs have complete autonomy in selecting the members of the DSN Program Committee (PC). However, they must ensure that the PC has sufficient expertise to cover the main topics of the conference. They should also consider diversity factors, including industry participation, gender balance, geographic and institutional representation, and a balance between junior and senior members.

TPC members are responsible for their own reviews. Although it is acceptable to obtain co-reviewers such as students, who may provide relevant expertise, it is not the student who is on the TPC, it is the TPC member, and ultimately that member is responsible for the review and must be personally able to argue for or against the merits of the paper.

A key recommendation is to invite colleagues who regularly publish at DSN but have not previously had the opportunity to serve on the PC. A suggested composition for the PC is:

- 1/3 new members
- 1/3 experienced DSN community members
- 1/3 members with occasional participation in previous PCs

The DSN PC of year X should also include the PC Chairs of DSN of years **X+1 and X-1**. PC Chairs are appointed by the SC around February, and invitations should align with this process. To encourage renewal, the PC should also include winners of the **Carter Award** from years X-1 and X-2, as well as potential winners of other awards such as the **Rising Star Award**.

Timing for Invitations

The process of setting up the PC should begin around March, with the final composition confirmed by early June. The General Chair must publish the PC information on the DSN website before the start of the current year's conference. The website will go live following the closing session of the current DSN.

Conflicts of Interest

To prevent bias, PC Chairs are not permitted to co-author any submissions to the conference. However, there are no such restrictions for PC members or other organizing committee members, including the General Chairs, as DSN enforces double-blind anonymization and conflict-of-interest resolution procedures. Notably, the General Chairs do not participate in any technical program processes, including PC selection, submission handling, reviewing, or paper acceptance decisions.

Program committee members with conflicts of interest related to a paper, including PC Chairs, must recuse themselves from discussions about that paper.

Participation and TPC Meeting

The Technical Program Committee meeting is mandatory, and all PC members are required to participate. This meeting may be conducted online to facilitate broader participation. The date of the TPC meeting has to be defined in advance (3-4 months).

To support the nomination of Best Paper candidates and to provide TPC members with a broad perception of the overall quality of the submissions, the PC Co-Chairs are required to make all anonymized reviews accessible to all TPC members prior to the meeting.

Interaction with the Steering Committee

PC Chairs will be invited to present a brief report to the DSN Steering Committee during the DSN conference. This session will also feature feedback from the current year's PC Chairs to inform future improvements. Incoming PC Chairs are encouraged to engage with their predecessors for insights and updated information.

Selection of Best Paper Award Candidates

During the PC meeting, up to six accepted regular papers should be nominated as candidates for the Best Paper Award (BPA). Discussion of potential candidates should occur at the time of paper acceptance to ensure thorough evaluation and minimize conflicts of interest. If necessary, a final vote will determine the top six candidates.

The PC Chairs must submit PDFs of the selected BPA candidates (maximum of six), along with anonymized reviews, to the SC Chair. Any conflicts of interest with SC members (whose names are available on the DSN website) must also be identified.