Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC) George Michael

The Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinator's job is to facilitate communication, both between members of the Region 8 Committee, and between this committee and present or future IEEE members.

IEEE Region 8 website (http://www.ieee.org/r8)

The IEEE Region 8 website serves as a common reference point for all information regarding our Region. It supports besides hosting of articles, the hosting of photo galleries and document repositories. From the website you can get information about: latest news regarding R8, offers and services from IEEE, jobs, the full section roster and links to the sections' websites, links to important conferences, IEEE related important links and many more. We are always accepting new articles so feel free to let us know of what your Section is doing so that we can let the whole Region know.

Server

We migrated the Region 8 website to IEEE owned servers. The site is again operational. Some functionality like emails is still not available yet but will be in the near future.

Before the migration we were using a shared plan on hosting provider, which it was not enough to handle the traffic of our site. We were not supposed to use more than 25of the CPU, which we sometimes did. Whenever that happened our site would be dissabled for a period of time. That period of time could be seconds or a few days depending on the severity of the situation. Right now, we are hosted on IEEE servers, we could not do in the past because we required more features than what was offered for a standard website. By migrating to IEEE servers that, we get the support of IEEE staff and the possibility for seamless upgrade of the server if needed in the future. IEEE has a better plan that any basic plan we would rent on our own, so that will allow us to have more bandwidth, processing power and replication capabilities. These mean that we should have a faster and more reliable website.

Statistics

According to the monitoring tool that has been installed on our websites these are the statistics that were obtained over the period from the 12th of August 2014 to the 15th of March 2015. Over this period, more than 32,000 people visited the website and over 78,000 pages were viewed with our homepage receiving more than 35,00of the traffic with more than 27,500 page views. On an average visit, a user stays for about a minute and a half. Our visitors come from 150 countries/territories all around the world, many of whom are outside Region 8. Our Facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/2490621134/ has more than 4,700 members! Please note that all of our news and articles are cross posted to the group.

Performance

In an attempt to improve the quality of service for our website we are now using the CloudFlare service that provides us with Caching/Mirroring and Firewall services.

Mailing Lists (http://listserv.ieee.org/)

It is the responsibility of the ECC to maintain the Region's mailing lists - depending on the type of group or list - this means adding/deleting members if subscribing is not permitted or reviewing/editing messages if moderating is required. Important lists for volunteers can always be found at the homepage of our site.

vTools (http://vtools.ieee.org/)

vTools abbreviation stands for "Volunteer Tools". vTools simplify the administrative tasks to our volunteers via use of online tools, reduce time spent managing activities, and assist in member development. vTools are developed and made possible by IEEE volunteers. The toolbox simplifies administration by offering web based software, reduces time spent managing activities, and assists in member development.

Redirects

To make it easier for our volunteers to promote the content they post on the website, we created redirects for their pages to shorten the URLs and make them more user friendly. For example the GOLD group can be accessed from this URL http://gold.ieeer8.org, Student activities from http://student.ieeer8.org and http://students.ieeer8.org. The same functionality is being applied to sections, for example http://cyprus.ieeer8.org translates to http://ieee.org.cy Sections and groups that want to use this functionality, please contact me.

Reports

During this period we are still testing various methods to receive the reports of the committee. For this reason a survey is being used to collect section reports at http://surveys.vtools.ieee.org and a word document with limited formatting capabilities is used by the rest of the members of the committee. The final version of the Agenda Book and the individual reports were converted to Latex to improve their quality of typesetting. As the incoming reports are not in Latex, this process takes significant amount of time to complete. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Youmna El Bitar for her invaluable help and the many hours she dedicated for the completition of this task!

Presentation Tools

A new timing tool was developed that is more flexible than the last one. It takes less space, it is highly configurable and it is more responsive.

Please contact with me at xeirwn@ieee.org for more information or assistance.