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.

New Server

The need for this task was to update to a more powerful machine as the old one was getting over-stressed. There was a risk of the software to crash on periods of high load. Also, the software on that server could not be further updated and this could potentially lead to a security issue. After the transfer we had to solve some new issues that arose which included rebuilding the user access support. Those problems were created after some plugins remained out of date for a long time and missed some upgrade steps.

Aliases over personal emails

In an attempt to protect personal information of the committee members and block malicious software, an alias email was created for each member. Those emails operate as mailing lists where there is only one member that is able to receive any incoming email. This way, we will have a public email for each position that goes through a spam/antivirus filter and at the same time we hide the private emails of the committee. By responding to an incoming email from that group, your email will be revealed to the original sender and can communicate with you directly. For the full list of aliases please visit: http://ieeer8.org/category/committee/

Mobile applications for Committee Meeting

Two mobile applications were developed for our next committee meeting (one for Android and one for iOS devices). These applications hold all available reports and basic information of the 110th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting to be held in Athens on 10-11 of March 2018. Specifically they contains:

- The Agenda Book
- All available OpCom reports
- All available Committee reports
- All available Section reports
- Meeting schedule
- Order of the day
- Travel information
- Photos and contact information of the OpCom so that new participants can identify them more easily

The biggest advantage of the application is that all content is available to the user without any internet connection, so it can be used by anyone while abroad.

The link to the applications for the Sydney committee meeting are available through the meeting website http://ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2018-march-athens/.

Presentation Tools

- The on screen clock / counter we use at the Region 8 meetings is available for download here http://link.ieeer8.org/timer2
- The Android and Windows applications that allow users to control PowerPoint presentations via their smartphones and tablets are available for download here http://link.ieeer8.org/clicker.

Articles cross posting

Our website offers the service to automatically post articles to mutliple services. We can post to social network services like Facebook groups and pages, Twitter accounts, Google+ accounts and to other Wordpress or Blogger websites. If you are interested to receive our articles automatically, please contact me for details. I would like to thank the Sections that are participating in this service with their Facebook groups.

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 our news feed can be accessed from this URL http://news.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.

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. We updated our theme to be mobile friendly and modified the structure of the menus as requested to provide easier access to certain categories.

Categories under own subdomains

To enchance the user experience of our online users, we added the functionality of enabling the conversion of any category of our website into its own subdomain. This way we can minimize the length of the urls and make them more user friendly. For example http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/educational-activities/easc-info/ became http://easc.ieeer8.org/easc-info/.

Statistics

We removed the Google Analytics tool in an attempt to make the site a bit more lightweight. The following statistics are from Wordpress.com, the tool was enabled mid-December 2017. 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 December 2017 to the 28th of February 2018. Over this period, near 7,674 people visited the website and over 17,847 pages were viewed. 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 1,050 members! Our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ieeer8/, has over 1,060 followers and it is linked to our group. Thanks to the efforts of Dora Fourou our page is receiving regularly updates with interesting content for IEEE members. Our Twitter account (https://twitter.com/ieeer8) receives the posts from our website. Right now we have 365 followers and counting.

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.

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