

Fred B. Schneider

- *Distributed Computing (EIC for 11 yrs; *ed board 18 yrs))
- *IEEE Security and Privacy (Assoc EIC for 10 yrs)
- *Springer Texts and Monographs in CS (EIC for 20 yrs)
- *Communications of ACM (2 yrs)
- ACM Computing Surveys (8 yrs)
- IEEE Trans on Dependable and Secure Computing (5 yrs)
- Information Processing Letters (7 yrs)
- IEEE Trans on Software Engr (6 yrs)
- High Integrity Systems (3 yrs)
- Annals of Software Engineering (5 yrs)

Conference program cmte: 50+

Your gun; your foot?



What we study has changed:

- Subject matter
- Breath / depth / boundaries
- Scale
- Legacy
- Potential economic impacts

... Pub model we employ exists in a (changing) context.

... **Need to understand connections between pub model and:**

- Nature of resulting science
- Structure / costs to CS community.

What has changed?

Easily observed:

- Ratio of conference to journal pubs per researcher
- Number of conferences we run
 - Number of relevant confs / workshops we attend (and do not attend).
 - Number of pgm cmtes we (must) staff
 - Number if papers we (must) publish
 - Number of papers submitted for evaluation
- Number of pubs expected at key career-transitions:
 - New PhD graduate (even if industry-bound)
 - Correlation with degree-completion times?
 - For academic typical promotion case
 - Effect on candidate quality / impact?

What has changed?

Not easily observed but worth knowing:

- Time/energy spent on reviewing
 - 1 round/conf x N confs VS 3 rounds/jrnl paper
- Pgm cmte review + pub deadline
 - Problems not caught
 - Repairs not enforced.
- Shorter papers and pgm cmte review
 - Incremental vs revolutionary work
 - Details not included (perf data, proofs)
 - Not reported or not undertaken?
 - Correct? Reproducible? Extendible?

What has changed?

Fundamental changes to our field?

- Meaning of a PhD degree?
 - “Capable of independently undertaking a significant piece of research?”
 - Multi-author papers (breadth vs production rates)
- Capacity for multi-disciplinary work

Conclusion: Let's get the facts!

- Anecdotes are no substitute for facts
 - What are the consequences of a publications culture for
 - the evolution of the science
 - our quality of life and community
 - How other fields “do it” and why that works (or doesn't)
- Advocate a full-fledged study!
 - What has been the evolution of our literature and its impact on the nature of the science we undertake and on our community's practices and structure.
 - Requires expertise in sociology, history of science, etc..