

Meeting notes for the ns-3 Consortium Annual Meeting, May 8, 2014

Attendees: Budiarto Herman, Ken Renard, Jared Ivey, Peter Barnes, Nicola Baldo, Daniel Lertpratchya, Felipe Perrone, John Abraham, Cristiano Tapparello, George Riley, Tom Henderson, Brian Swenson, Manuel Ricardo

The ns-3 Consortium Annual Meeting was hosted by Georgia Tech on May 8, 2014. The agenda of the meeting was to review the goals of the consortium, review 2013-14 activities, and discuss next steps. The meeting was open to all interested participants. Tom Henderson presented a set of overview slides, and discussion on specific topics is summarized below.

The recently concluded training session raised funding for the University of Washington gift account. We arranged for video recording of the session with the idea that the videos could be kept in reserve for use by consortium members only, and possibly for viewing (for a fee or by special arrangement) by others. We had discussion about whether to allow for viewing by people who had attended already (there have been requests for this). We decided to allow this but only after the videos were placed at a site where the viewing could be logged and subject to the agreement by the viewer that he or she would not redistribute the content. We had a discussion about whether to make the slides publicly available. Sentiment was mixed on this point. On the one hand, the viewing of slides could be used to circumvent paying for the training. On the other hand, most of the slides are already available from various sources, and the opinion was expressed that the real value of the videos was to listen to the code walkthroughs that are not available on slides. Felipe Perrone suggested possibly making teaser videos to show people, who may be downloading the (publicly available) slides, about the possibility to obtain more content through the videos. In the end, it seemed that the rough consensus was to continue to allow access to the slides. Tom agreed to look into platforms for posting the videos once they were produced.

Tom mentioned that the open source project still lacks maintainers for several modules, and it is difficult to find new maintainers. Some of the discussion about what to do about unmaintained modules or how to find maintainers was deferred to the developers meeting.

It was observed that despite the low cost registration for attending WNS3, participation numbers (roughly fifteen people on Wednesday) did not improve over the last few years with SIMUTools. Still, it was noted that the experiment concerning whether to hold the workshop as a standalone event should be considered successful, and it could be that the location (Atlanta is easy to get to but not geographically close to the most users and maintainers) and lack of enough publicity could account for the low numbers. Peter Barnes and Felipe Perrone mentioned that possibly expanding the call for papers scope to include ns-3 applications and usage (not just ns-3 development) may increase submissions and participation. Nicola Baldo suggested that trying to reassociate with a conference will lead again to the problem that we have to compress the schedule so as to not interfere with conference days, and remarked that the week-long event seemed to be appropriate for the level of activities. Having a meeting on the week before or after a big conference such as SIGCOMM also was considered unacceptable. Tom Henderson suggested the possibility of having the conference in Asia but the sentiment was that probably we are not ready for that expense given most of our users are in North America and Europe. Peter Barnes suggested that alternating between North America and Europe may work for the time being. Peter Barnes also offered to serve on the TPC for a second year, if someone were to join him who also would serve for a two-year term.

Tom mentioned briefly the 2014 Google Summer of Code program about to start and about the proposal (now accepted by the consortium steering committee) to offer student travel grants to accepted papers in next year's WNS3 for successfully completed summer projects.

Regarding further dissemination, we discussed again the desire to connect with people using ns-3 in industry, as we have further anecdotal evidence that usage may be high but that many users in companies are not participating in the open source project. Tom agreed to draft an initial document that could be used to reach out to industrial users, with a different emphasis that the consortium is not just about raising money through financial contributions and membership fees, but that in addition (and perhaps more importantly), we would like to facilitate technical users in companies to contribute some part of their time and energy towards the open source project, such as maintaining some aspect of the project.

The meeting discussed possible future venues for ns-3 training, for next year's Workshop, and for additional conference-related tutorials. Felipe Perrone noted that there is an opportunity to hold a half- or full-day tutorial at ACM MSWiM (September in Montreal). IEEE MILCOM in October (Baltimore MD) was discussed as another possibility. Nicola mentioned that perhaps the right model for the project is to hold our week-long annual meeting like we did this year (separate from conferences) but to also take these tutorial opportunities when they arise at conferences.

Tom Henderson concluded the meeting by thanking Peter and Felipe for serving as WNS3 TPC co-chairs, and to George Riley for hosting the week of activities and serving as general chair for WNS3.