

On Why Dependability Being Everywhere is Good and Bad

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Introductory thoughts, symptoms

- Half of us says there are too many subjects in DSN and the other half says the opposite
- Half of us says we should have more symposia, the other half says we should go back to one.
- We are broad,
 - in terms of segment areas (software, hardware, networks, distributed systems, operating systems, etc.)
 - in terms of thematic areas (e.g., recent dependability plus security trajectory)

Strengths

- Dep&Sec needed everywhere
- New threats emerging:
 - Info society is inexorably moving toward increased risk and dependence
- we understood it sooner than others:
 - that $\text{Sec\&Dep} > \text{Sec+Dep}$

Weaknesses

- After a few great and rampant years of DSN, we feel we got into a certain stagnation
 - that's normal, happens to all org's
- We have the right model for a conference that is rather complex
 - but we are lacking the most fit organisation rules
- We do not keep a steady line year after year about important rules and procedures
 - (this could be seen as “good! kind of we're creative”, but I think it got more toward the bad side of effects...)
 - that is impacting our quality control and also how it may be perceived outside

Weaknesses

- Lack of visibility e.g. in usual impact ratings or citation indices
 - For example, in citeseer impact rating, DSN didn't even show-up!, FTCS ranked 270, SRDS ranked 252
 - DSN appearance in ISI Web of Science (used in some recruiting metrics) is meeeeeager
- However, anyone doing a decent homework (e.g. Google Scholar + Harzing PoP) sees a different reality

Publication	Cites/Year	Cites/paper
IEEE Transactions on Computers	1533	64,4
ACM SIGCOMM	1190	39,42
IEEE Pervasive Computing	930	11,07
ACM Transactions on Information and System Security	864	46,18
IEEE Real-Time Systems Symposium	569	16,18
IEEE International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems	492	15,94
IEEE/IFIP Dependable Systems and Networks	357	8,93
PLoS Biology Journal	327	4,39
Distributed Computing Journal	250	23,52
ACM Transactions in Embedded Computing Systems	234	8,89
Group Decision and Negotiation	225	8,71
Symposium on Reliable Distributed Systems	180	11,28
Euromicro European Conference on Real-Time Systems	146	6,26
IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing	131	5,79
ACM SIGIR Conference	119	4,86
Distributed Objects and Applications	47	6,04
Symposium on Applied Computing	39	3,06
Symposium on Operating Systems Principles	20	3,45
ACM CIKM Conference	20	2,49
Conference on Cooperative Information Systems	7	7,71
Journal of Real-Time Systems	4	2,59

Threats

- External competition in terms of conferences on other subjects that **now** do Dep&Sec
 - no point arguing with that: Dep&Sec concerns every field, everybody thinks they should and **can** do it
- External competition in terms of Dep&Sec conferences, some of them "new"
- External competition in general, impacting standing of researchers in area versus others
 - Dep&Sec is a restricted community, however qualitatively important to society, does not carry the number of resources of e.g., networks, OSs, SW eng.

Opportunities

- There is a crying need for Dep&Sec, other communities are alert to the concept (e.g., Dave Patterson's quote on Dependability; wave related with CIIP)
- Conferences on other subjects that need Sec&Dep: let's export our body of knowledge; let's import their interest for the subject (e.g HotDep)

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