

ICC'24 Meeting Minutes

Sunday June 9, 2024, from 11:00 am to 12:00 (MDT)

In person at the Columbine Room at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, I. M. Pei Tower.

Via zoom (Session recorded [here](#).)

Members Attending

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Agenda

- Approval of Agenda
- Welcoming Remarks and Overview of CommSoft
- Approval of GC'23 Minutes
- Website Considerations
- Update on e-Letter
- Update on Standards
- Update on ComSoc Student Competition
- Update on TC P&P Revisions
- Awards Subcommittee
 - 2023 Technical Achievement Awards
 - 2024 Awards Season
- Updates on SIGs
- Updates on Sponsored Symposia and Conferences
- Updates on DLP Nominations
- Other Business (if any), and Next Steps

Approval of Agenda

The chair, Abd-Elhamid Taha, confirmed that the agenda was shared with attendees in advance. No requests for modifications or additional topics were raised. The agenda was then unanimously approved as presented.

Welcome and Introductions

- The chair, Abd-Elhamid Taha, welcomed everyone to the CommSoft Technical Committee meeting at ICC'24 and thanked attendees for joining both in person and online.
- **Mission of CommSoft TC:** Abd-Elhamid reiterated the mission of the committee, which is to advance the state of the art in communications software and serve as a key forum for professionals in both communications and computer industries.
 - The committee continues to work on increasing engagement, especially among industrial representatives, and enhancing diversity within the community.
- **Membership:** The committee has 457 members on the mailing list, with 56 active members as of the last meeting (GC'23).
- **Encouraging Participation:** Attendees were encouraged to promote membership and engage with their local IEEE Communication Society Chapters to foster collaboration. There have been successful collaborations with chapters in Saudi Arabia, France, and Canada.

The chair also introduced the current executive team for 2023-2024:

- Chair: Abd-Elhamid M. Taha
- Vice Chair: Hassine Mouncla
- Secretary: Moayad Aloqaily
- SIG Coordinator: Marwane Ayaida
- Newsletter Editors-in-Chief: Aiman Erbad, Moayad Aloqaily
- Standards Liaison: Mohannad Alharthi
- Student Competition Program Lead: Hyunbum Kim
- Website Administrators: Safa Otoum, Ouns Bouachir

Approval of GC'23 Minutes

- The minutes of the GC'23 meeting were posted on the CommSoft TC website prior to the ICC'24 meeting for review.
- The chair opened the floor for any remarks or concerns regarding the GC'23 minutes. As no objections were raised, the GC'23 minutes were unanimously approved.

Considerations Website

- The chair acknowledged the work of the website administrators, Safa Otoum and Ouns Bouachir, in maintaining the CommSoft TC website.
- The website contains all relevant TC news, updates, minutes, agendas, and symposium information.
- Members were invited to offer suggestions for improving the usability and accessibility of the website.
- The chair encouraged attendees to regularly check the website for the latest updates and utilize it as a resource for accessing minutes and other relevant materials.

Updates on e-Letter

- Aiman Erbad, the Co-EiC TC's e-Letter, provided an update on its status.
- The e-Letter has been consistently published twice a year, and it serves as an important platform for sharing news, publications, and other updates relevant to communications software.
- Attendees were encouraged to contribute content for future editions, including news about publications, funding, and activities in their respective labs.
- The chair emphasized that the success of the e-Letter relies on the active engagement and contributions from members.

Updates on Standards

- Mohannad Alharthi, the Standards Liaison, provided an update on the activities of the ComSoc Standards Development Board (COM/SDB).
- The Standards Liaison's role is to report on standardization activities of interest to the TC and inform COM/SDB about the TC's ongoing efforts.
- A key focus is to support and promote participation in standardization activities relevant to communications software. Mohannad encouraged TC members to reach out and participate in working groups.
- Notable active projects include:
 - P1954: Self-Organizing Spectrum-Agile Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Communications
 - P1920.2: Vehicle-to-Vehicle Communications for Unmanned Aircraft Systems
 - P1916.1: Standard for Software Defined Networking and Network Function Virtualization Performance
 - P1912: Standard for Privacy and Security Framework for Consumer Wireless Devices
 - P1935: Standard for Edge/Fog Manageability and Orchestration
- Attendees were encouraged to get involved in these working groups and contribute to the ongoing standardization efforts.

Updates on ComSoc Student Competition

- The chair provided an update on the revisions to the Policies and Procedures (P&P) of the TC, which were finalized and approved by the ComSoc TC Board on March 12, 2024.
- The key points of the revisions included:
 - Alignment with the most recent ComSoc bylaws and P&P.
 - Definition of “active member”: Emphasizing not just attendance but also engagement and contribution to TC activities.
 - Introduction of new positions, including Industry Liaison and Women in Communications Engineering (WICE) Representative.
 - Streamlining the process for creating, evaluating, and retiring Special Interest Groups (SIGs).
 - A review and update of the TC’s awards portfolio to ensure it reflects the evolving needs of the community.
- The chair mentioned that further roles and awards would be developed and expanded over time, and the revised P&P document is available on the TC website.

Awards Subcommittee (2023-2024), and Update on Awards

The page acknowledged the work of the TC’s Awards Subcommittee for 2023-2024 as approved by the TC on October 25, 2023, namely

- Jalel Ben-Othman (as chair)
- Adlen Ksentini (member)
- Cheng Li (member)
- Eirini Eleni Tsiropoulou (member)
- Hassine Moun gla (member)
- Melike Erol-Kantarci (member)

Technical Achievement Award 2023

- The chair announced the recipients of the 2023 Technical Achievement Award. The award was split between two recipients:
 - Pascal Lorenz, recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field of wireless networks within communications software.
 - Burak Kantarci, honored for his significant contributions to the application of AI and machine learning in network security, as well as his work on trustworthy Internet of Things (IoT) systems.
- Both recipients were acknowledged for their enduring contributions to the communications software community. Pascal Lorenz was recognized remotely, while Burak Kantarci accepted the award in person.
- The chair expressed gratitude to all members of the Awards Subcommittee for their dedication in reviewing the nominations and selecting the awardees.

2024 Awards Season

- The chair introduced the 2024 awards season, highlighting four major awards that will be presented:
 - **Technical Achievement Award:** Recognizing outstanding technical contributions in communications software.
 - **Student Achievement Award:** Honoring exceptional contributions by students in the field, with a focus on thesis work, publications, patents, and other forms of rigorous output.
 - **CommSoft TC Service Award:** Presented annually to members who have shown exemplary dedication and leadership within the TC.
 - **Test-of-Time Paper Award:** Recognizing influential research in communications software, awarded to papers published at least five years ago that have demonstrated lasting significance.
- The Call for Nominations will be sent out to the TC on October 1, 2024, with a submission deadline of November 15, 2024.
- Members were encouraged to nominate colleagues or students who meet the eligibility criteria, and the chair noted that detailed guidelines for nominations would be shared in the forthcoming awards announcement.

Report on SIG Activities

- Marwane Ayaida, the SIG Coordinator, provided updates on the ongoing activities of the TC's Special Interest Groups (SIGs).
- The following SIGs are active, each focusing on a key area within communications software:
 - Machine Learning and AI for Networking (Lead: Dr. Melike Erol-Kantarci)
 - Security in Communications Software (Lead: Dr. Safa Otoum)
 - Big Data and Communication Software (Lead: Dr. Hassine Moun gla)
 - Blockchains and Applications (Lead: Dr. Moayad Aloqaily)
 - Performance Evaluation (Lead: Prof. Abdellatif Kobbane)
 - Communication Software for Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks (Lead: Prof. Hacene Fouchal)
 - NFV and SDN Technologies (Lead: Prof. Sudip Misra)
- Details on reported activities can be sought either in the meeting recordings or through the meeting slides provided on the TC's website.
- Members interested in joining any of the standing SIGs are encouraged to contact the respective SIG coordinator.

Updates on Sponsored Symposia and Conferences

- The chair provided updates on the TC's involvement in sponsoring and supporting symposia and conferences, emphasizing key events such as ICC'24 (Denver) and GC'24 (Cape Town).
- Submission rates for symposia have declined compared to previous years, with 49 submissions for ICC'24 and 59 submissions for GC'24. This reflects a broader trend observed in several symposia due to a variety of factors.
- The chair encouraged TC members to submit their work to these flagship conferences and support the TC by participating in symposiums and reviewing submissions.
- The TC also supported additional conferences, including the SoftCom conference, which continues to grow and be a major event in telecommunications and computer networks.
- Call for Participation: Members with experience in serving as symposium chairs or track chairs were invited to volunteer for upcoming roles in conferences such as ICC and GLOBECOM.
- The chair expressed appreciation for the efforts of those who have served as symposium chairs and track chairs, noting that their contributions are crucial to the success of these conferences.

Updates on DLP Nominations

- The chair encouraged members to submit nominations for the ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP), which is an opportunity to recognize members with exemplary lecturing and leadership skills in the field of communications software.
- The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2024, with results expected by the end of the year.
- Members were reminded that the TC is actively supporting DLP nominations and that those interested should reach out to the chair for assistance with the nomination process.
- The chair also mentioned previous successful nominations, including Nizar Zorba and Tamer ElBatt, both of whom are working through their respective tours.

Other Business

- The chair opened the floor for any other business, but no additional topics were raised by the attendees.
- The chair reminded the members of the importance of engaging with the TC's activities and encouraged participation in upcoming conferences, symposia, and SIGs.
- Members were also reminded to promote the TC and its initiatives within their local chapters and to increase membership diversity.
- The next meeting will be coinciding with GC'24 in Cape Town.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM (MDT) on Jun 9, 2024.