How to get your paper accepted

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Overview

1) Writing your paper
   • Writing style
   • Paper structure
   • References
   • Common mistakes

2) Submitting your paper
   • Where to submit
   • Acceptance rate

3) The review process
   • The reviewer
   • The TPC meeting
Writing style

Why would someone be interested in your work?

It is YOUR task to make the reader interested!

Put yourself into the position of the reader
  • Have a clear idea about your target audience
  • What will your reader already know?

Explain your contribution in a few lines
  • elevator pitch

How to get the reader interested?

Include pictures of scarcely dressed Ph.D. students

Include many figures

Include some research questions

Reference the reviewer’s work

Include many equations
Include some research questions

• Triggers the reader to think first

• Forces the author to formulate the key contributions in a precise way

• Helps to explain the research approach and paper’s structure

• Allows meaningful conclusions

Example of research questions

The goal of this paper is to investigate how SNMP is used in practice. In particular, the following questions will be investigated:

Is SNMP primarily being used for monitoring, or is it also being used for configuration purposes?

Is management primarily based on standardized, or on vendor-specific MIB objects?

Is security an issue in network management? In other words, is SNMPv3 being used in practice?
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Paper structure

Abstract
   - Contribution
1. Intro
   - context of your work / motivation for research in this area (broad)
   - what is the specific problem this paper focuses on
   - research questions (3 to 6)
   - approach / how will you answer these questions
   - paper organization

2. Contents
   X-1. Contents
   X. Conclusions
   X+1 References
V. Conclusions

General conclusion

Answer research question 1

Answer research question 2

Answer research question 3

Further work
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References

• Be consistent!
  - Example: http://www.tvu.ac.uk/hrs/guides/harvard.html
  - Bibtex can be useful (Google Scholar)

• If possible, avoid referencing Internet-drafts

• Reference the sources, not derived work
  - RFC, and not a book by some author
  - RFC of latest standard, not a historic version

• Do not create obvious references
  - No need to reference http://www.ietf.org/
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Common mistakes

• Violation of IEEE Policy on Self Plagiarism:
  If authors have used their own previously published work(s) as a basis for a new submission, they are required to cite the previous work(s) and very briefly indicate how the new submission offers substantial novel contributions beyond those of the previously published work(s).
Common mistakes

• Paper does not follow the author's guidelines
• Text contains errors:
  – Ask English native speaker
  – Use MS-Word: grammar & spelling check
• Figures are hardly readable:
  – Before submission, print paper on black & white paper
  – Take care with PDF: press versus screen quality
• Too much information is put into the paper
  – Less is more!
  – “I would have sent you less if I had had time” (Kurose)

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Where to submit

• Workshops and Summer Schools
  - E2EMON, BDIM, BcN, FeBID, MUCS, ACNM, MACE, EVGM
    (Co-located with IM / NOMS / Manweek)
  - AIMS Student workshop
  - EUNICE Summer School

• Conference
  - IM / NOMS
  - Manweek: DSOM, MMNS, IPOM

• Journal
  - IEEE Communications Magazine: Series on N&S Management
  - IEEE Transactions on N&S Management
  - JNSM
  - International Journal of Network management
  - IEEE Network, ToN, JSAC, ...

Where to submit

• Emanics / Simpleweb RSS feed
  - http://www.simpleweb.org/cfp.rss

• TCCC mailing list
  - tccc@cs.columbia.edu

• CfP list Alex Slingerland
  - http://dutetv.g.et.tudelft.nl/~alex/CFP/

• CfP list Tim Moors
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Acceptance rate conferences

[Graph showing acceptance rates for different conferences over years 1989-2006]

source: http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~almeroth/conf/stats/
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The experienced reviewer

• Reads abstract, intro and conclusions
• Scans references
• Has an initial idea about acceptance, rejection
• Reads the remaining chapters to find evidence

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The TPC meeting

Papers are ranked by the TPC chairs
- JEMS has automatic facilities for this

Assume 200 papers have been submitted
- Top 10 is accepted without discussion
- Worst 90 are rejected without discussion
- 100 “grey” papers remain to be discussed
- 3 minutes per paper remains

The TPC meeting

How are papers discussed?
- TPC members from the same institute as the authors leave the room
- Discussion started by TPC member who reviewed the paper
- All TPC members can see all reviews
  - they scan reviews for consistency
  - they scan confidential comments to the TPC
  - they scan rebuttal
SUMMARY

- Put yourself in the position of the reader
- Realize reviewers have limited time
- Your introduction and conclusions are vital
- Clearly indicate the contribution of your paper
- Consider formulating research questions
- Be consistent / show you’ve invested time