



# PC USER GROUP Meeting

**WEDNESDAY**

**May 9**

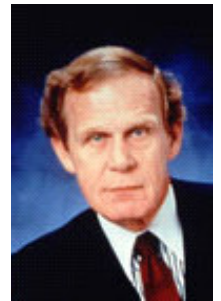
**7:15 PM**

**Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto**

Hosted by: SPAUG (Stanford Palo Alto User Group for PC)

*Topic:* **Get Ready for Your Next Purchase**

*Speaker:* **Andy Marken**, President, Marken Communications < [andy@markencom.com](mailto:andy@markencom.com) >



Andy Marken has been to lots of shows and research conferences. Here's your chance to catch up on the latest/trends in:

- smartphones
- best/newest apps
- cameras—video with ease
- desktop and portable systems
- eReaders/tablets
- storage trends
- TV/content everywhere

Andy will be prepared to discuss areas you find of most interest, most importance. Bring those gnawing questions/doubts.

**Andy Marken**, president of Marken Communications, has been involved in the marketing of storage technology for more than 15 years. He has worked with Panasonic, Verbatim, Matsushita, Plasmon, Nikon, Mitsubishi Chemical and a number of hard drive manufacturers.

You are invited to join us for an optional no-host dinner before our meeting, at **5:45 pm**, at **The Bistro—Elks Lodge, Ground Floor**

Upcoming meetings (2012): **5/9**, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14  
(2013): 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10

**SPAUG — Stanford Palo Alto Users Group for PC**  
PO Box 20161, STANFORD CA 94309-0161  
<http://www.pa-spaug.org> OR <http://svuga.org/>  
Jim Dinkey, President, 650-493-9307 [jimdinkey at jimdinkey.com](mailto:jimdinkey@jimdinkey.com)

**Dues: \$30 for 12 months**

# STANFORD PALO ALTO USER GROUP FOR PC (SPAUG)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of SPAUG—

1. Provide the information requested on this form.
2. Send this form and a check for **\$30.00**, payable to **SPAUG**, to the address on the right:

**SPAUG**  
**PO BOX 20161**  
**Stanford, CA 94309-0161**

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First

Your mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street, PO Box, etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP (All Nine Digits—xxxxx-xxxx—Please) ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Area Code) Number Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ (Area Code) Number

Areas of expertise you would be willing to share with SPAUG:

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Areas of special interest:

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What are you hoping to find in SPAUG?

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How did you learn about SPAUG? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

SPAUG

Vol. XXX No. 5



# Print Screen

Newsletter of the Stanford/Palo Alto Users Group for PC  
A Non-Profit / Educational Organization • <http://www.pa-spaug.org>  
Post Office Box 20161, Stanford, CA 94309-0161

## Notes from the Prez

by Jim Dinkey

*SIRs has already had several members' accounts compromised. I was asked to set forth what went wrong and how to stop the ability of outsiders to use SIR members' computers for spamming purposes. This is the explanation, and a reminder to SPAUG members.*

Once you make up a password, probably years ago, that password is available to those you have consented to have service your account. Then there are outsiders who do not have that password but they gain access by either repeated trials or password cracking.

The symptom that you have been cracked is a friend telling you that you have sent out either SPAM or nasty emails to that friend, or URLs to some advertising site. In actuality, the salacious email or SPAM has been sent to ALL those on your email list – but not to you – so you are unaware of what you sent and to whom.

There is a new way that the bad guys are PASSWORD CRACKING in order to get onto your computer in order to send lots of SPAM in your name.

The method that is used to do these dastardly deeds is that the bad guys approach your computer and try to log in.

When you are presented with the tools used to crack your computer, you will no longer consider this a trivial threat to our security. Ignoring the threat of having your password cracked is endemic now as many botnets of up to 200,000 computers have been turned loose on the Internet to do the cracking of a single computer.

That seems simple enough, but if the computer refuses the approach because the right password was not presented, the offending computer then resends another password as fast as it can – this time to hope to get the password accepted. An alternative is to cap-

*(Continued on page 2) ►*

**General Meeting @ Elks Lodge—Wed. May 9 @ 7:15 PM**  
**4249 El Camino Real - Palo Alto (directions on page 3)**

**Optional Dinner at Elks Lodge Bistro**  
**Elks Lodge, Ground Floor, 5:45 pm (see page 3)**

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ture the encrypted password and pass it on to a third party for cracking.

This goes on until the password is cracked. You would think that this is a simple but long task, and it is. But then the real ingeniousness of the situation comes into play for the cracker. Some facts:

- Desktops in general can test between one million and fifteen million passwords per second!
- Graphics Processors can speed up the cracking process by a factor of 100 over general purpose computers!
- Graphics Processors can test up to 2,800,000,000 per second on a standard desktop computer.
- Botnets can multiply that speed many times.
- Floating Point Gate Arrays (FPGAs) can speed up the process even more!

So where does this leave us?

One of the saving graces in this situation is that the selection of the computer to be hacked is controlled by the amount of resources and time needed to crack the easier ones and to terminate early those that are requiring too many resources to accomplish their task of cracking the easier ones. The crackers then ignore the computers that are proving difficult (excessive time) to crack.

The answer to this problem, therefore, is to have LONG passwords – on the order of 25 characters. That is not a problem is you use something like your street address, an address of a deceased relative or other information that is significant to you – all in the 25-character password range.

Which brings up the very favorite trick of having your computer login to itself. I have not had to sign onto my computer for 10

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## Recent SPAUG Meeting Videos

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Mtg Date</u>
SPAUG Experts Part 1.....	Member Q&A.....	8.10.11
SPAUG Experts Part 2.....	Member Q&A.....	9.14.11
Jay Elliot.....	<i>Steve Jobs Way</i> .....	10.12.11
Maurice Green.....	Video Editing .....	1.11.12
Gene Barlow.....	Acronis True Image .....	2.9.12

Robert Mitchell

Email: rfmitch66@gmail.com

## Meeting Day: Wednesday, May 9

### General Meeting

**Palo Alto Elks Lodge,  
4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto**

**Meeting time is 7:15 pm**

### Andy Marken

Speaking about:  
**Get Ready For Your  
Next Purchase**

The Elks Lodge is a light-colored two-story bldg on the North (bay) side of El Camino Real (ECR), just east (toward Los Altos) from the Charleston-Arastradero-ECR intersection. It's diagonally across ECR from the Crowne Plaza Cabaña hotel.

Park your car in the parking lot that wraps around the lodge, and proceed to the front door (on the West side of the bldg.). This is a keycarded door. If you cannot get in the front door because you are late, press the intercom button on the post to the left of the main entrance, identify why you're there (try "computer club"), and you should hear the door unlock. Pull handle and enter

Proceed to the Lodge Room—upstairs. An elevator is available behind the stairway.

### Typical Meeting Agenda

- 7:15 "Boot up"
- 7:30 Announcements.
- 7:35 Guests introduction.
- 7:40 Random Access (Crosstalk)
- 7:50 Break
- 8:00 SPEAKER
- 9:15 SIG Reports
- 9:20 Raffle
- 9:30 Adjourn

### Optional pre-meeting dinner

Join us for dinner before our General Meeting at —

### *The Bistro—at the Elks Lodge*

There's no dining place closer to our meeting place than this. It's on the ground floor toward the back of the building,

**Directions:** It's on the ground floor toward the back of the lodge building.

**Menu:** <http://www.paloaltoelks.org/bistro-menu>

**Review:** <http://www.yelp.com/biz/palo-alto-elks-lodge-no-1471-palo-alto>

Note the **time** for  
this month's  
dinner.

**Dinner time is 5:45 pm**

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years because my password is saved and submitted to the Microsoft XP operating system.

If you chose to make a very long 25-character password, and you don't have an internal security problem (kids) then you can use Magical Jelly Bean Software <<http://www.magicaljellybean.com/>> to tell you what your password is currently and then go through the process of changing your password to something in the 25-character range and then hiding the whole mess all over again (or for the first time).

Just in case you have ascribed all of my comments to the PC, the Apple computers are also vulnerable – it is just that until now no one wanted to crack them because there was little incentive to do so for lack of depth.

Now that Apple has about 12% of the market, they are becoming a target because their clientele is larger. For that reason, the spam purveyors are spending much more effort on the Apple. The same parameters apply to all of the Apple products.

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**Editor's Note:** Here are some other ways to learn if your address list has been compromised:

- Set up a private/secret email address, different from your "public" address(es) to use only for testing purposes. Include that private address in your address list, and have Mailwasher check it for new mail when you check your other addresses. Then, if new, unexpected, email shows up either to or from that address, you can be pretty sure your address list has been compromised.

- Leave in your address list one or more addresses you know to be non-working, so if you get an unexpected "bounce" email from any of them you'll have an indication your list may have been compromised.
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### **11 April 2012 General Meeting by Stan Hutchings—*edited for use here***

*NOTE: The scheduled speaker for this meeting failed to appear, so we had an impromptu "SPAUG Experts Q/A Session" instead.*

**Email hijacking** is currently a large problem. Bad guys get your address list and use it to send bogus messages using your name and email address.

- It is necessary to have a long secure password, 20 to 25 characters, including non-ASCII characters, on your email account. Use upper and lower case, not words. There are password managers and vaults that will make it easier to give unique passwords, but you have one master password WHICH MUST BE EXTRA-SECURE to access all sites and passwords.

Yahoo and other web based accounts are especially vulnerable to being hacked.

- If your email is hijacked, you should get a new email account.
- If you get a bogus email from a known correspondent, you should notify the person who sent it, by phone or other email account, because they may not realize they have been hijacked.

**Editor's Note:** There's not much you can do when your address is taken from

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some other source. Here are some related articles from Lifehacker:

- “*How Can I Find Out Why My Email Account Just Spammed My Friends and Family?*”—  
<http://tinyurl.com/7gw9kwg>
- “*How Can I Stop Someone Impersonating Me Online?*”—  
<http://tinyurl.com/d25x3u5>

**Mailwasher** is a good application to filter your SMTP (not online) email. It will filter spam (indicated by a red line). You can preview your email on the server before it is allowed on your computer.

**Patch Tuesday** is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Also check for the extra updates.

**Malwarebytes and Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE)** are good applications to remove all kinds of malware. These should be run automatically during computer down time. Also a backup should be routinely run.

**When trying to print web pages or email**, if you pick the wrong Print button, you will get more than just the text. Use Print Preview to see what you are actually getting.

**CCleaner** may help with problems due to interactions. Clean the registry and get rid of unused programs. Just use caution not to delete too much.

**SVCS.net** has a link to the **NAPP** (National Association of Photoshop Professionals).

**May 5 at Foothill College is Adobe day**, 3 sessions of 2 classes each. Photoshop, InDesign, Adobe X. Maury will post more info on the SVCS.net site.

**SPAUG needs an Archivist**. We have 2–3 boxes of papers from the beginning of the club. Includes extra newsletters, records of meetings, etc. Email John Sleeman, Bev Altman or Jim Dinkey.

**Corning’s visions of what tomorrow will be like**, on Youtube:

- “*A Day Made of Glass*”—  
<http://tinyurl.com/8ax42qe>
- “*A Day Made of Glass 2: Same Day Expanded*”—  
<http://tinyurl.com/ccs5u3w>
- “*A Day Made of Glass 2: Unpacked The Story Behind Corning’s Vision*”—  
<http://tinyurl.com/cg4gl8t>
- Background info—  
<http://tinyurl.com/6nq3dyz>
- Corning website—  
<http://www.corning.com>  
<http://tinyurl.com/7vfhvjk>
- More—  
<http://tinyurl.com/7ylmysa>  
<http://tinyurl.com/74fd3sk>

**<http://support.microsoft.com/fixit/>** will help you solve problems with your computer. With luck it will find, identify and fix your problem. It has fixed sound problems, DVD problems, and others. You select the problem category, and they will try to find the problem. It does not tell you what it did, but it proposes that it will try to fix a problem it found.

A **solid state hard drive** is much faster than a spinning platter hard drive, and much less subject to damage. It also reduces battery requirement. It is considerably more expensive, though. There are hybrid drives that combine both modes, keeping static data (OS

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and other seldom-changed data) on the solid state drive, and other data on the platter drive.

## Notes on SPAUG Planning Meeting 2012-03-21

by Stan Hutchings—*edited for use here*

**Location:** The meeting was at Bev Altman's home, at 7:15 pm.

**Attending:** Bev Altman,  
Jim Dinkey (presiding),  
John Sleeman,  
Nat Landes,  
Stan Hutchings,  
Robert Mitchell

### GENERAL MEETINGS

#### *Review of April 11 Meeting—*

- 43 members and 2 guests attended.
- Our scheduled speaker did not appear, so Jim Dinkey extended the Crosstalk session to include security.
- Maury Green presented two videos by Corning Glass on the future of interactive touch screens.

#### *Future 2012 meetings—*

- **May 9**—Andy Marken on what is in the future for gadgets (mentioned were USB ports integrated with wall sockets for power.)
- **June 13**—Roger Melen of Toyota—Future Efficient Electric Vehicle Charging Network
- **July 11**—Red Calub
- **August 8**—Hank Skawinski
- **September 12**—SPAUG Experts panel

### MEMBERSHIP

122 members, 7 renewals.

### OLD BUSINESS, UPDATES, AND STATUS REPORTS

#### *SPAUG General Meeting DVDs—*

- *Print Screen* could have an ongoing section listing DVDs available for sale.
- The website should have a new page that lists all DVDs that are available for sale, with cost and contact (Robert Mitchell) for purchase.

The DVD list will grow as the DVD library grows. We don't expect it to be a money-maker, but rather a service to members who perhaps cannot attend a meeting but would like to hear and see it later.

*Newsletter DVD*—The Computer History Museum accepted the Newsletter DVD and the extra paper copies we had.

### Filler

by John Buck

#### **Be Careful Buying Tech at Office Depot**—based on personal experience.

In late 2010, I bought an HP All-In-One Printer-Scanner-Copier at the Sunnyvale Office Depot, to replace a just-failed 5-year-old HP AIO that I had been happy with. Took the new one home, connected it, installed software, and . . . it didn't work. After it failed several troubleshooting attempts, I called HP Support. After a long time on the phone following suggestions, the HP guy asked for my unit's serial number. When I told him, he said that the number indicated the unit had been refurbished. I returned it to Office Depot and got a full

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refund with no questions asked. Bought a Canon Pixma MP280 from Micro Center instead, and am generally happy with it.

Early in 2012, I bought an APC uninterruptible power supply from Office Depot to replace a several-years-old one that had failed. Got it home. Connected it, and an alarm in the unit sounded. Even though I'd experienced the same thing with the predecessor unit, I decided to call APC support about it. After some testing, their support person asked me for the serial number and told me that, based on the serial number,

- The unit was out of warranty, because it hadn't been put into service soon enough after it was made
- The battery must be charged within six months of the manufacturing date or it will be no good.
- The unit had been made over six months before I'd bought it. An inspection document attached to the unit verified what the support person had told me.

With my new knowledge, I took my newly-purchased APC UPS back to Office Depot for a refund. This time, they tried to shine me off. One person pointed to a statement on one of the box's flaps that said that a defective product must be returned to the manufacturer. I stood my ground and quietly said that Office Depot would refund my money. After a bit more back-and-forth, I got the refund I wanted. I didn't have to resort to Dennis Rockstroh's favorite two-word phrase—"Action Line". I then went over to Micro Center and bought an APC UPS whose serial number indicated it had been made three months earlier,

There were some interesting commonalities in my two "adventures"

- Both occurred at Office Depot
- Both involved products made in the Philippines
- Both had serial numbers that indicated that the products were not new, although they had been sold as new.
- Although the drive to Office Depot is shorter, buying at Micro Center was more efficient overall.

So, my advice, based on two out of two consecutive purchases about 18 months apart, is to be careful when you buy electronic products at Office Depot.

Now, on to other Filler items.

### **How to Protect Your Data in the Event of a Webapp Shutdown (and Prevent the Problem in the Future)**—[Lifehacker]—

"Using a web service is an investment, so you don't want to simply sign up and hope for the best. In this post we're going to take a look at how you can make more informed choices when selecting the webapps you'll use and how you can keep your data safe in case your cloud service of choice disappears nonetheless."

—<http://tinyurl.com/7jbftcl>

### **Tired of crappy software?**—

[AlternativeTo]—"AlternativeTo is a new approach to finding good software. Tell us what application you want to replace and we give you great alternatives, based on user recommendations.

—<http://alternativeto.net/>

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**What's The Best Way to Back Up My Data for the Long Haul?**—[Lifehacker]—

“Virtually every type of backup method commonly in use today—even tape backups often used by large companies—are subject to media decay and the inevitable progress of technology. Your best defense is to make sure you back up your data in different methods and different formats. Your Most Practical Option: Use a Cloud Backup Service.”

—<http://tinyurl.com/6uzj7rf>

**Videos Near Me Shows Videos Filmed at Certain Locations**—[Lifehacker]—

“Videos Near Me is a simple webapp search engine that collects geo-tagged videos based on location.”—[YouTube Videos Near Me]—  
“Internally, this Google Maps mashup computes the latitude and longitude of the point under the marker and then uses the YouTube database to find geo-tagged videos that are within a 2 mile radius of that point.”

- <http://tinyurl.com/7j3fnnc>
- <http://ctrlq.org/youtube/>

**How to Pick the Perfect Laptop**—[Lifehacker]—“If you're in the market for a new laptop, here are all the things you'll want to look for—and stay away from.”

—<http://tinyurl.com/dxvtmpe>

**Microsoft Security Essentials Updates with Better Performance, Virus Detection, and Interface Changes**—[Lifehacker]—

“Microsoft Security Essentials is our favorite antivirus software for Windows, and a new version is out that's even lighter and easier to use than ever.”

—<http://tinyurl.com/6o55wtl>

**Why You Should Care About and Defend Your Privacy**—[Lifehacker]—

“We teamed up with the Electronic Frontier Foundation to get to the heart of the issue, and dispel some common myths around the ways your data is used.”

—<http://tinyurl.com/c2dopsu>

**In a Flood Tide of Digital Data, an Ark Full of Books**—[NYTimes]—

“We want to collect one copy of every book,” said Brewster Kahle, who has spent \$3 million to buy and operate this repository situated just north of San Francisco. “You can never tell what is going to paint the portrait of a culture.”

As society embraces all forms of digital entertainment, this latter-day Noah is looking the other way. A Silicon Valley entrepreneur who made his fortune selling a data-mining company to Amazon.com in 1999, Mr. Kahle founded and runs the **Internet Archive**, a nonprofit organization devoted to preserving Web pages — 150 billion so far — and making texts more widely available.

- <http://tinyurl.com/7yr3zoz>
- <http://archive.org/index.php>

**MOOCs, Large Courses Open to All, Topple Campus Walls**—[NYTimes]—

“Massive Open Online Courses are free, non-degree programs that have been drawing top professors and are seen as a tool for democratizing higher education.”

. . . [S]everal of these courses now come with an informal credential (though that, in most cases, will not be free).”

—<http://tinyurl.com/7mcyam8>

## May 2012 SPAUG News

SPAUG CALENDAR						
Always subject to change; verify event with host or Jim Dinkey						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30		2			5—Clinic, by appointment only
8	7 7–9 pm BIYSIG Micro Center		9 5:45 pm Dinner (Optional), Elks Lodge—Bistro 7:15 pm General Meeting Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino, PA <b>Speaker:</b> Andy Marken			12—Clinic, by appointment only
	14 7–9 pm WinSIG Micro Center		16 7:15 pm Planning Meeting, Bev Altman's			19—Clinic, by appointment only
	21 7–9 pm DISIG Micro Center		23			26—Clinic, by appointment only
	28 <b><u>NO</u></b> WebSIG Today!		30			2—Clinic, by appointment only

### Saturday Clinic

Clinics usually are held when needed. **Call Jim Dinkey** to make a reservation. The clinics are to help you unscrew your Windows XP and Windows 7.

Email: jimdinkey at jimdinkey.com or call 650-493-9307 for an appointment.

### Planning Meeting

Planning meetings are usually held on the **third Wednesday** of each month at Beverly Altman's home at 7:15 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Please phone Jim Dinkey or Bev Altman to confirm venue.**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, **May 16, 2012 at 7:15 pm, at Bev Altman's home.**

### SIGS

***NOTE: SPAUG-member participation in any of these SIGS requires membership in SVCS, currently \$12/yr. SVCS is not a part of SPAUG.***

- **Build It Yourself SIG**—1st Monday each month, at Micro Center, Santa Clara
- **WinSIG**—2nd Monday of the month, at Micro Center in Santa Clara
- **DISIG**—3rd Monday of the month, at Micro Center in Santa Clara
- **NO WebSIG** May 28 only.

**For more info about these SIGs, go to [svuga.org](http://svuga.org)**

**Listserver**    [spaug-list at svpal.org](mailto:spaug-list@svpal.org)

Any member on the spaug-list can send messages to all other members on the list automatically by sending e-mail to this address. This list is intended for announcements of interest to all SPAUG members. Please avoid excessive or trivial announcements, since some members are paying for connect time. Additions or corrections can be sent to:

**info at pa-spaug.org**

**The SPAUG Web Page is available at**

<http://www.pa-spaug.org>

hosted by  
[www.svpal.org/](http://www.svpal.org/)



## Door Prize Tickets

**Free**

You get one ticket for free when you sign in at a general meeting.

**Buy a Ticket**

\$1 each

**Buy More Tickets**

Quantity discount: Six tickets for \$5

**Must be present to win**



## ***Without-Whoms***

*SPAUG is an all-volunteer operation. Listed below is contact information for those who work to keep it happening.*

*You are invited to help.*

**President:** *Jim Dinkey*  
jimdinkey at jimdinkey.com  
(650) 493-9307

**Vice President:** *John Sleeman*  
sleemanjc at copperhouse.net  
(650) 326-5603

**Recording Secretary:** *Stan Hutchings*  
stan.hutchings at gmail.com  
(650) 325-1359

**Treasurer:** *Nat Landes*  
natlandes at gmail.com  
(650) 851-2292

**Membership:** *Beverly Altman*  
bev at altman.com  
(650) 329-8252

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**WebMasters:**

- *Stan Hutchings (see above)*
- *John Sleeman (see above)*

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**Newsletter Editor:** *John Buck*  
jbuck1467 at mindspring.com  
(650) 961-8859

**Newsletter Production:**

- *John Sleeman (see above)*
- *Robert Mitchell*  
rfmitch66 at gmail.com  
(650) 867-2852

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**Computer Clinic:** *Jim Dinkey (see above)*

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▶▶▶ **Positions Open:**

- Program Chair
- Publicity