**FY2007 Annual Report of the
U.S. Public Policy Committee of ACM
(USACM)**

For the Period July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

USACM OVERVIEW

USACM is the U.S. Public Policy Committee of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). USACM members include leading computer scientists, engineers, and other professionals from industry, academia, and government.

USACM OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

USACM operates through a transparent and democratic process to reach consensus on policy activities. Draft policy statements, position papers, and letters are usually posted to USACM at-large for review and comment before being forwarded to the Executive Committee of USACM (USACM-EC) for final review and approval. Otherwise, the USACM-EC acts based on consensus. The USACM-EC conducts regular calls with the ACM Policy Office staff to update and coordinate activities. The calls are also an opportunity for USACM-EC members to bring issues and events to the attention of USACM staff as well as other USACM-EC members. Through items discussed on these calls USACM staff can conduct policy research on issues identified by USACM-EC and initiate contacts and meetings with relevant policymakers on a timely basis. Finally, the USACM-EC meets in person at least once a year to review policy activities and determine priorities. ACM's Office of Public Policy in Washington, D.C., and ACM headquarters staff in New York support the work of USACM and are responsible for raising issues within the committee.

During the FY2007 period, the membership of the USACM-EC changed as Jim Horning joined the EC to fill a vacant position. At the close of FY2007, the USACM-EC consisted of the following members:

Eugene Spafford (USACM Chair), Annie Antón (NCSU), Charles Brownstein (Homeland Security Institute), Dave Farber (CMU), Edward Felten (Princeton), Andrew Grosso (Andrew Grosso & Associates), Jim Horning (SPARTA, Inc.), Harry Hochheiser (Towson University), Jeanna Matthews (Clarkson Univ., SIG Representative), Stu Feldman (ACM President), Barbara Simons (former ACM President), Ollie Smoot (retired), Emil Volcheck (US DoD, SIG Representative), and John White (ACM CEO).

USACM continues to grow both in terms of membership and activities. It added eight new members this fiscal year, with none leaving:

Jeremy Epstein, Thomas Gideon, Paul Hyland, Kim Lawson-Jenkins, Clayton Lewis, Vincent Lipsio, Aaron Massey, and David Wagner.

Complete information about current USACM members is available at http://www.acm.org/usacm/members.html.

FY2007 OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

This past fiscal year was one of USACM's most productive and eventful years. Several members of the committee testified before Congress on an different policy issues. The committee's expertise also continues to be recognized by the media and the community with national press coverage of its members and invitations for its members and the ACM policy staff to speak on panels and at significant events.

ACM's Policy Office and USACM work closely with the Computing Research Association (CRA) on issues that impact the computing field. This relationship continues to strengthen as CRA and ACM have joined in several letters to Congress on various issues. CRA's leadership and USACM also share close connections - four members served on both CRA's board and USACM, two of whom were on the USACM-EC (Antón and Spafford).

USACM's policy agenda is primarily organized around four themes: 1) Advancing the computing discipline, 2) balancing innovation and intellectual property protection, 3) protecting privacy in a technology-intensive society, and 4) advocating for secure and reliable computing systems. The sections that follow have more detail on USACM's FY2007 activities, achievements, and events:

Advancing the Computing Discipline

USACM ENDORSES REPORT CALLING FOR MORE BASIC RESEARCH FUNDING TO FUEL INNOVATION. The Task Force for the Future of American Innovation, of which ACM is a member, released a major report benchmarking numerous measures of economic competitiveness and innovation. The report advocated increased funding the physical sciences and focus on policies to increase the number and quality of STEM graduates to stay globally competitive.

ACM POLICY DIRECTOR ORGANIZES A PANEL ON K-12 COMPUTING EDUCATION ISSUES. As part of the National Center for Women in Information Technology's (NCWIT) semiannual conference, Cameron Wilson, ACM's Policy Director, moderated a panel of K-12 education experts. The panel touched on many challenges facing computing education at the K-12 level and the decreasing interest in computer science among students.

ACM JOINS COMPUTING COMMUNITY IN EDUCATING POLICY MAKERS ON COMPUTING RESEARCH FUNDING AND DIVERSITY ISSUES. With Congress considering legislation intended to foster innovation, ACM joined with the Computing Research Association, IEEE-USA, Microsoft and other members of the computing community in informing policy makers about the value of basic research funding and the importance of fully funding the President's request for research funding at three key agencies – the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. ACM also joined members of the

community in communicating to Congress the need for NSF to continue funding of important diversity outreach programs.

Balancing Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection

USACM WARNS AGAINST TECHNOLOGY MANDATES. USACM, drawing from the policy statement it adopted in 2006 on digital rights management (DRM), warned Congress that legislative DRM mandates can chill technology development and harm consumers. The letter was in specific response to legislative proposals to enact a broadcast flag and an audio flag, but the arguments are applicable to any technologies designed to limit use.

Protecting Privacy In a Technology-Intensive Society

USACM URGES REVISIONS TO REAL ID RULES. The Real ID Act and its implementation was one of the top privacy issues in 2007. USACM filed detailed comments calling into question the privacy safeguards of the Department of Homeland Security's draft rules for implementing the REAL ID Act. The comments submitted to the Department detail USACM's concerns with both the underlying law and the draft rules with respect to identity theft; insider threats; and the lack of privacy, security, and accuracy guidelines, among other issues.

USACM-EC MEMBER TESTIFIES ON THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS. Dr. Annie Antón, USACM-EC member and Associate Professor of Software Engineering at North Carolina State University, testified in front of the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means on protecting the privacy and security of Social Security numbers (SSNs). Dr. Antón's testimony emphasized the need to stop using the SSN as an identifier and authenticator because the conflicting uses make the SSN more attractive for identity thieves.

Advocating for Secure and Reliable Computing Systems

ACM COSPONSORS HILL BRIEFING ON BOTNETS. ACM cosponsored a Capitol Hill briefing with Microsoft about the growing threat of botnets, networks of programs that can remotely control computers. The Senate Science and Technology Caucus hosted the event. Two caucus members spoke (Senators Pryor (D-Arkansas) and Bennett (R-Utah)) and the event featured three experts who spoke about different perspectives of botnets: Dr. Ed Felten from Princeton University and USACM member; Phil Reitinger, Director of Microsoft's Trustworthy Computing Department; and Scott O'Neal from the FBI's Computer Intrusion unit.

USACM MEMBER ENCOURAGES SAFEGUARDS FOR EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM. Dr. Peter G. Neumann, USACM member and Principal Scientist in the Computer Science Laboratory at SRI International, testified before the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee on the proposed Employment Eligibility Verification System, or EEVS. The EEVS is part of the

immigration legislation recently debated in the Senate. Dr. Neumann testified on behalf of USACM about the challenges of developing and implementing large-scale computer systems, which would be a part of any nationwide EEVS.

USACM CALLS ON CONGRESS TO CLOSE GAPS IN ELECTRONIC VOTING
In connection with a July 19 joint hearing of the House Science Committee and the Committee on House Administration, USACM noted in a letter to Congress that even with improved standards, more steps are needed to close gaps in the testing and accreditation process through which electronic voting systems are approved for use.

USACM MEMBERS TESTIFY ON ELECTRONIC VOTING. USACM members Dr. David Wagner, Dr. Edward Felten, and Dr. Barbara Simons all testified at several hearings in 2006-2007 on various aspects of electronic voting. In hearings before the House Science Committee and the Committee on House Administration, USACM members testified to the security, reliability and privacy issues that have come up in the last several years as electronic voting systems have spread throughout the country.

USACM URGES ADOPTION OF SOFTWARE INDEPENDENT VOTING SYSTEMS. Responding to a working paper released by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) outlining recommendations for electronic voting systems, USACM issued a letter urging their adoption. Key among them was the advocacy of software independence for voting systems – that the votes can be confirmed independent of the underlying software. The body charged with developing Federal voting system standards ultimately adopted the software independence concept.

DETAILED ACTIVITIES

The following is a more comprehensive and chronological listing of USACM activities for the year.

July 2006
USACM CALLS ON CONGRESS TO CLOSE GAPS IN ELECTRONIC VOTING

In connection with a joint hearing of the House Committee on Science and the Committee on House Administration, USACM noted in a letter to Congress that even with improved federal voting system standards, more steps are needed to close gaps in the testing and accreditation process through which electronic voting systems are approved for use. Besides encouraging audits and voter verification of ballots, USACM encouraged several new policies intended to increase the transparency, usability and security of voting systems and the voting process. The full text of the letter is available at: http://www.acm.org/usacm/Letters/USACM_Evoting_Comments.pdf.

At the hearing, Dr. David Wagner, Professor of Computer Science at Berkeley testified that the new standards fell short of what was necessary to ensure confidence in voting systems. Dr. Wagner was on the ACM committee that developed a report on Voter Registration Databases, and is currently a member of USACM.

USACM WARNS AGAINST TECHNOLOGY MANDATES

USACM, drawing from the policy statement it adopted earlier in 2006 on digital rights management (DRM), released a letter to Congress warning legislative DRM mandates can chill technology development and harm consumers. The letter was in specific response to legislative proposals to enact a broadcast flag and an audio flag, but the arguments are applicable to any technologies designed to limit use. From the letter,

"As many members of USACM are copyright and patent holders, we support the goal of curbing copyright infringement and recognize the desire to continue the broadcast of unencrypted television. However, we also understand that technology can only do so much to curb infringement. By mandating a technical approach that may be foiled, consumers and innovation will suffer, while having little impact on infringement."

The full letter can be read at:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/Letters/USACM_DRM_Flag_Comments.pdf

August 2006
USACM ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

USACM released its fiscal year 2006 report, chronicling the activities of the committee. Covering the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The report can be viewed at http://www.acm.org/usacm/annualreports/FY2006_USACM_Annual_Report_Final.pdf.

September 2006
USACM MEMBERS TESTIFY FOR PAPER TRAILS BEFORE CONGRESS

USACM-EC members Dr. Barbara Simons and Dr. Edward Felten testified on the need for voter verification and paper audit trails (VVPATs) in a hearing before the Committee on House Administration. At the hearing reviewing security for e-voting machines, Dr. Simons cited a range of defenses against multiple security risks, including the kinds of human error that have plagued primary elections in several parts of the country. Dr. Felten testified about the detailed analysis his research team conducted of the security of one of the most widely used e-voting machines. His research revealed specific vulnerabilities as well as broader systemic problems with the voting machine he studied. "Because they are computers, e-voting machines are susceptible to familiar computer problems such as crashes, bugs, mysterious malfunctions, data tampering, and even computer viruses," he said.

Their testimony can be read online at:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/SimonsTestimony.pdf
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/FeltenTestimony.pdf

USACM-EC MEMBER APPOINTED TO DHS PANEL

Dr. Annie Antón, Associate Professor of Software Engineering at North Carolina State University and USACM-EC member, was appointed to serve on the Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee of the Department of Homeland Security. She joined Dr. Lance Hoffman, also a USACM member, on the panel, and will serve a three-year term. The committee advises the DHS Privacy Office on the privacy issues that arise from the Department's work, which includes several data-intensive organizations. The committee was also responsible for reviewing and commenting on the privacy impacts of the Real ID Act (which is discussed later in this report.)

October/November 2006
USACM ENDORSES REPORT CALLING FOR MORE BASIC RESEARCH FUNDING TO FUEL INNOVATION

The Task Force for the Future of American Innovation, of which ACM is a member, released a major report benchmarking numerous measures of economic competitiveness and innovation. These measures – ranging from investments by the federal government in research to the number of high-skilled science, math, technology and engineering (STEM) graduates – reflect that the United States is falling behind relative to other countries in an increasingly global marketplace for talent and ideas. The report advocated increased funding the physical sciences and focus on policies to increase the number and quality of STEM graduates to stay globally competitive. The full report can be found at:

http://futureofinnovation.org/2006report/

December 2006
USACM URGES ADOPTION OF SOFTWARE INDEPENDENT VOTING SYSTEMS

Responding to a working paper released by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) outlining recommendations for electronic voting systems, USACM issued a letter urging their adoption. Key among them was the advocacy of software independence for voting systems – that the votes can be confirmed independent of the underlying software. The software independence recommendation was formally adopted by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (chaired by the NIST Director and supported by NIST staff) and will be forwarded to the Election Assistance Commission for final approval. USACM Member David Wagner is a member of the Committee.

The full letter is available here:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/USACMCommentsSTSPaper.pdf

January 2007
USACM SUBMITS COMMENTS TO FEDERAL IDENTITY THEFT TASK FORCE

In response to a request for public comment from the Federal Identity Theft Task Force, USACM submitted comments on the technical implications of several different proposals to combat identity theft. The request for comment includes discussion of the use of Social Security numbers, the effectiveness of a possible nationwide policy on data security and data breach notification, and the idea of identity files for victims of identity. The Task Force is a joint effort of the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Referencing the Privacy Recommendations released by USACM in June 2006, the response noted "where identity theft is concerned, two major issues go hand in hand: computer security and privacy." It encouraged the Task Force to follow those recommendations as it proceeded with its work, to have people approach personal data "as a steward rather than as a custodian." The response went on to address three specific concepts mentioned in the request: data security and data breach notification procedures, the use of Social Security numbers, and national identity files. The full text of the USACM comments is available at:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/ID_Task_Force_Letter.pdf

ACM JOINS COMPUTING COMMUNITY LETTER IN TO CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND KEY RESEARCH AGENCIES

The President's "American Competitiveness Initiative" proposes to double funding for three research agencies – the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy Office of Science and the National Institute of Standards and Technology – over the next ten years, but the turmoil from the November 2006 elections left this proposal in doubt. These agencies support many of the key computer science research programs funded by the Federal government. ACM joined with other leaders of the computing community in a letter on the importance of fully funding the President's proposal as part of the Fiscal Year 2007 agency funding legislation. Congress ultimately passed

legislation that substantially increased funding for these agencies, but only NSF was fully funded to the President's request. The letter can be found here: http://www.cra.org/govaffairs/blog/archives/000555.html

February 2007
USACM RESPONDS TO CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION STORY ON E-VOTING

Responding to a January article on the relationship between the State of Georgia and Kennesaw State University with respect to electronic voting, USACM submitted a letter to the editor. The article failed to capture many of the concerns the computing community has about electronic voting, including the demonstrated security flaws, risks from insider fraud, and unforeseen errors.

The initial article ran in the issue dated January 19. The letter from USACM ran in the issue dated March 2. You can read the full version of the letter at: http://www.acm.org/usacm/weblog/index.php?p=473

USACM MEMBERS SPEAK ON E-VOTING ISSUES AT NAE SYMPOSIUM

Several members of USACM were invited presenters at a special NAE Symposium on E-Voting issues, held in honor of Dr. William Wulf, the outgoing president of NAE. Although not an official USACM activity, the role of USACM was mentioned several times in the presentations. Speaking at the symposium were USACM members Dr. Edward Felten, Dr. David Jefferson, and Dr. Eugene H. Spafford. Written versions of the remarks by Drs. Jefferson and Spafford were published in the Summer 2007 issue of *The Bridge*, the journal of the NAE, and can be read here: http://www.nae.edu/nae/bridgecom.nsf/weblinks/MKEZ-744MLY?OpenDocument

USACM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

Members of USACM's Executive Committee (EC) met in Washington, D.C., the weekend of February 25 for their 2006 policy summit. The group meets annually in D.C. to set goals for the coming year, review USACM accomplishments during the past year, and discuss the current (and future) technology policy climate. Peter Harsha of CRA presented the current outlook on federal funding for information technology and computing research. The focus of this year's meeting was more on future planning: possible directions and activities for the future, as well as discussing new ways to better engage both policymakers and other components on ACM and the computing community.

ACM JOINS COMPUTING COMMUNITY IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE DIVERSITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS AT NSF

As part of its mission, the National Science Foundation (NSF) funds underrepresented minority outreach programs to broaden participation in the sciences. ACM joined with

the computing community in recognizing this important function in a letter to Congress, and raised the issue that NSF does not continue funding successful programs after their initial grant. The letter informed Congress on the value of these programs and noted the need to clarify that NSF could and should continue to fund diversity programs with a demonstrated record for success rather than relying solely on new approaches. This proposal was included in the House Science Committee's legislation to reauthorize NSF. The letter can be found here:
http://www.cra.org/govaffairs/ComputingCommunityLettertoGordon.pdf

March 2007
USACM MEMBERS TESTIFY ON ELECTRONIC VOTING

Two USACM members testified during a series of hearings on electronic voting before the Committee on House Administration. On March 15, Dr. David Wagner testified on source code review of election systems. On March 23, USACM-EC member Dr. Edward Felten testified at a hearing covering auditing of election results. These hearings were before the Elections Subcommittee of the Committee on House Administration, and not connected to specific e-voting legislation.

Dr. Wagner's testimony is available at:
http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~daw/papers/testimony-house07.pdf

Dr. Felten's testimony can be read at:
http://www.freedom-to-tinker.com/doc/2007/Felten_evoting_testimony.pdf

April 2007
ACM COSPONSORS HILL BRIEFING ON BOTNETS

On April 25, ACM cosponsored a Capitol Hill briefing with Microsoft about the growing threat of botnets, networks of programs that can remotely control computers. The Senate Science and Technology Caucus hosted the event. Two members of that caucus, Senators Pryor (D-Arkansas) and Bennett (R-Utah), made opening remarks about how the Internet is increasingly integrated into society and how computer security is an ever-increasing arms race with new exploits and upgrades rapidly succeeding each other. The event featured three experts who spoke about different aspects of botnets.

Dr. Ed Felten from Princeton University and USACM member described how botnets form, how they are used and a few ideas for dealing with them. Mr. Phil Reitinger, Director of Microsoft's Trustworthy Computing Department, described how the industry must constantly deal with short-term patches to address the latest threats and consumer education about the while looking toward longer-term breakthroughs that might come from basic research into computer security. Mr. Scott O'Neal from the FBI's Computer Intrusion unit described how the agency combats these networks. Much of their work is reactive in responding to someone that has been hit with a denial-of-service attack, fraud, etc., but he talked about their growing proactive measures including trying to infiltrate botmaster networks.

The event was well attended by Congressional staff, members of the press, and staff from other federal agencies. Footage recorded at the event resulted in a short news report broadcast on several local newscasts across the country.

USACM INFORMS CONGRESS ON THE VALUE OF BASIC RESEARCH FUNDING

Building on the momentum gained in the Fiscal Year 2007 funding for the President's "American Competitiveness Initiative" (see Jan. 2007 item for background), USACM joined with a diverse group of companies, trade associations, scientific societies, and universities to advance the goal of full funding for the initiative in Fiscal Year 2008. (The President's proposal seeks to double funding for three research agencies -- the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy Office of Science and the National Institute of Standards and Technology -- over the next ten years.) The letter informed Congress on the long-term value of basic research funding and its role in increasing domestic competitiveness. One of the letters to Congress can be found at: http://futureofinnovation.org/media/Obey-Lewis%20-%20Taskforce%20letterhead.pdf

USACM MEMBERS RECEIVE ACM AWARDS

Two USACM members were recognized by the ACM. Eugene Spafford, Chair of USACM, received the President's Award, which recognizes individuals who have "demonstrated their exceptional abilities to advance computing technology and enhance its impact for the benefit of society through generosity, creativity and dedication to their respective missions." Dr. Spafford is a Professor at Purdue University, with appointments in both Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is an ACM Fellow.

USACM member David Wise received the 2006 Award for Outstanding Contribution to ACM. Wise chaired the ACM Special Interest Group on Programming Languages (SIGPLAN) and has held the ACM positions of vice president and secretary-treasurer. He led the creation of the Federated Computing Research Conference to facilitate communication among researchers in different computer science and engineering fields. Wise helped advance the usability and content of ACM's world-renowned Digital Library by creating its subscription and copyright policy, and advocating for early inclusion of newsletters and conference proceedings from ACM's Special Interest Groups. An ACM Fellow since 2004, he is currently a member of ACM Council as well as several other executive committees. Dr. Wise is a Professor of Computer Science at Indiana University.

May 2007
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZES TURING AWARD RECIPIENT

On May 1, the House of Representatives passed a resolution honoring Dr. Fran Allen for winning this year's A.M. Turing award from ACM. The Turing Award is considered by many to be the Nobel Prize of Computing. Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

introduced the resolution to bring attention to both Dr. Allen's accomplishments and that she is the first woman to receive this award. Rep. Woolsey noted the problems that the information technology field has had in recruiting women and the inspiration that Dr. Allen has provided for this underrepresented group.

The resolution can be read at:
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc110/hc95_eh.xml

USACM URGES REVISIONS TO REAL ID RULES

USACM filed detailed comments on the Department of Homeland Security's draft rules for implementing the REAL ID Act. Congress passed the controversial REAL ID Act in 2005 over the objections of many privacy, security and technology experts, including USACM, which submitted a letter to Congress outlining its concerns.

The comments submitted to the Department detail USACM's concerns with both the underlying law and the draft rules with respect to identity theft; insider threats; and the lack of privacy, security, and accuracy guidelines, among other issues. To address some of the concerns USACM recommended that:

"At a minimum, the final rule should require stronger, more detailed privacy, security and accuracy provisions than the NPRM. Even with the improvements to the proposed rulemaking we suggest below, existing technology and approaches cannot solve the policy problems raised by the REAL ID Act. We urge the Administration to send Congress proposed legislation to address these issues and frame the policy around privacy, security and accuracy goals – or to repeal the REAL ID act entirely. These issues should be addressed before the REAL ID Act becomes active."

The full comments are available at:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/USACM_REAL_ID_Comments_FINAL.pdf

ACM POLICY DIRECTOR ORGANIZES A PANEL ON K-12 COMPUTING EDUCATION ISSUES.

As part of the National Center for Women in Information Technology's (NCWIT) semiannual conference Cameron Wilson, ACM's Policy Director, moderated a panel of K-12 education experts, consisting of:
- Len Scrogan – Director of Instructional Technology for Boulder Valley Schools
- Barb Ericson - Director, CS Outreach, College of Computing, Georgia Tech (state of Georgia policy)
- Chris Stephenson – Executive Director, Computer Science Teachers Association
- Leslie Conery – President, International Society for Technology in Education
- Dr. Robert Schnabel – (then) Vice Provost, University of Colorado at Boulder, Chair of ACM's Education Policy Committee.

The panel touched on many challenges facing computing education at the K-12 level including the impact that the No Child Left Behind Act was having on high school Computer Science education, the lack of certification standards for Computer Science teachers, and the generally poor state of technology education in the K-12 system. This panel also was the first dialog with the computing community about ACM's launching of an Education Policy Committee, which will review public policies that impact computing education and advocate for reform.

ACM APPLAUDS ADVANCE OF E-VOTING REFORM LEGISLATION

With e-voting reform legislation passing the House Administration Committee, USACM recognized the committee's efforts in making needed changes to the Help America Vote Act. USACM members Dr. Ed Felten, Dr. David Wagner and Dr. Barbara Simons have all testified on e-voting before the House Administration Committee as it considered this legislation. From the USACM press release:

"Barbara Simons, a member of ACM's U.S. Public Policy Committee (USACM), sees today's passage of legislation by a U.S. House of Representatives Committee as a critical and much needed step forward toward reforming the e-voting system. Simons, who chairs USACM's voting subcommittee, said the bill, H.R. 811– the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 – reflects much of what the computing community has sought as a means of protecting the voting process against security risks, potential software bugs, or voting machine failure during an election. This act would require voting jurisdictions to use properly designed paper records and random manual audits to clearly convey voter intent and dramatically increase the transparency of America's voting system. The legislation also makes several important reforms to improve the testing and certification process for e-voting systems."

The full press release can be read at:
http://campus.acm.org/public/pressroom/press_releases/5_2007/legislation.cfm

USACM MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN PANEL DISCUSSION ON E-VOTING

As part of the 2007 Computers, Freedom and Privacy (CFP) conference (of which ACM is a sponsor), several USACM members participated in a panel on Electronic Voting Integrity on the morning of May 4. The CFP conference is in its 17th year of examining the connections among computers, freedom and privacy. Moderated by USACM member Peter Neumann, the panel discussed recent developments in electronic voting, including recent problems as well as options for the future. The session was well attended and provided a useful update on the issue. Other USACM members participating in the panel were Barbara Simons, Doug Jones, and Lillie Coney.

June 2007

*USACM MEMBER ENCOURAGES SAFEGUARDS FOR EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY
VERIFICATION SYSTEM*

Dr. Peter G. Neumann, USACM member and Principal Scientist in the Computer Science
Laboratory at SRI International, testified before the Social Security Subcommittee of the
House Ways and Means Committee on the proposed Employment Eligibility Verification
System, or EEVS. The EEVS is part of the immigration legislation recently debated in
the Senate. Dr. Neumann testified on behalf of USACM about the challenges of
developing and implementing large-scale computer systems, which would be a part of
any nationwide EEVS. The Social Security Administration would be a part of the
proposed EEVS, as the system would use Social Security numbers to verify status. As Dr.
Neumann noted in his testimony,

"Widespread problems have arisen in efforts to develop complex systems that must
satisfy critical requirements for security and privacy; these problems are also considered.
Furthermore, there is a pervasive tendency to overestimate the benefits of computer-
related technologies as would-be solutions to societal problems. We should not expect
easy technological answers to inherently difficult problems."

Dr. Neumann's full testimony is available at:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/EEVS_Testimony_Peter_Neumann_USACM.pdf

*USACM-EC MEMBER TESTIFIES ON THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBERS*

Dr. Annie Antón, USACM-EC member and Associate Professor of Software Engineering
at North Carolina State University, testified before the Social Security Subcommittee of
the House Ways and Means Committee on protecting the privacy and security of Social
Security numbers (SSNs). The hearing was called, in part, to address several pieces of
legislation under consideration that would restrict the sale, purchase and/or display of
SSNs. Dr. Antón's testimony emphasized the need to stop using the SSN as both an
identifier and authenticator because the conflicting uses make the SSN more attractive for
identity thieves. To better protect personal information, she argued that public policy
should strive to reduce the use and exposure of the SSN.

Dr. Antón's testimony is available at:
http://www.acm.org/usacm/PDF/SSN_Anton_USACM_testimony.pdf

*COMPUTING AND LAW CONFERENCE HOSTS E-VOTING PANEL, USACM
MEMBER AND ACM POLICY DIRECTOR PARTICIPATE*

In cooperation with ACM, the American Bar Association held its inaugural Computing
and the Law Conference in San Francisco, which featured several panels on technology
policy issues, including one on e-voting. ACM's Director of Public Policy, Cameron
Wilson, moderated the e-voting panel that featured the following speakers:

- Barbara Simons, Chair of USACM E-Voting Subcommittee
- Lowell Finley, State of California, Deputy Secretary of State for Voting Systems Technology and Policy
- Matt Zimmerman, Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, Duane Morris LLP

The panel discussed several different voting issues, including different technologies for voter verification, legislative reforms being proposed in the House and Senate, the value of software disclosure, and voting accessibility issues for minority language voters.