



Fiscal
Year
2024
Annual
Report of
the
ACM U.S.
Technology Policy Committee

For the Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Submitted by
Larry Medsker, Chair

FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT
U.S. Technology Policy Committee of the
Association for Computing Machinery
Technology Policy Council
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

1. BASIC INFORMATION

The ACM U.S. Technology Policy Committee (USTPC) is chartered as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology and computing *except* education and workforce issues. The USTPC is authorized to take policy positions and maintains a systematic process for developing, reviewing, and approving such policy positions. These positions reflect the analysis of USTPC and not necessarily that of either ACM.

1.1 Leadership

The USTPC is guided, and its formal positions determined, by a small executive group and larger Secretariat. The composition of the Committee's leadership for the period covered by this Report was:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Larry Medsker, Chair
Jody Westby, Vice Chair
Jeremy Epstein, Past Chair
Andy Grosso
Jim Hendler
Jeanna Matthews
Stuart Shapiro

SECRETARIAT

Secretariat Permanent Members

Larry Medsker (Chair)
Jeremy Epstein (Immediate Past Chair)
Jim Hendler (Past Chair)
Stuart Shapiro (Past Chair)
Edward Felton (Past Chair)
Eugene Spafford (Past Chair)
Chuck Brownstein (Past Chair)
Barbara Simons (Past Chair)

Secretariat Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs

John Murray (Accessibility)
Jeanna Matthews (AI and Algorithms)
Carl Landwehr and Alec Yasinsac (Security)
Simson Garfinkel (Digital Governance)
Andrew Appel and Douglas Jones (Voting)
Paul Hyland (Intellectual Property)
Andrew Grosso (Law)
Brian Dean (Privacy)

Secretariat Members-at-Large

Joshua Kroll

USTPC General Members

The USTPC membership continues to grow, with a total membership of around 200 individuals at the end of FY24.

1.2 Purpose

USTPC educates the public, policymakers, and the community about public policy issues that affect technology development or where technology influences policy issues to better inform policy decisions. Its contributions to public policy are drawn from the deep technical expertise of the computing community. These individuals apply their technical knowledge to bring relevant scientific research, best practices, perspective, and foresight about computing and innovation to public policy issues.

The USTPC seeks consensus policy positions firmly grounded in scientific and technology knowledge that consider the diverse interests of ACM membership and the computing field.

1.3 Subcommittees

Accessibility - John Murray, Chair

The Accessibility Subcommittee strives to advance public policies, practices, and research in usability and accessible technologies.

AI & Algorithmic Accountability – Jeanna Matthews, Chair

The AI and Accountability Subcommittee monitors developments in the constellation of fields broadly identified as related to Artificial Intelligence, emphasizing early identification of the potential policy implications of emerging technologies and new research.

Digital Governance – Simson Garfinkel, Chair

The Digital Governance Subcommittee addresses government online operations and the sustainable development of the Internet.

Intellectual Property - Paul Hyland, Chair

The Intellectual Property Subcommittee works to ensure that public policies related to patents and copyrights promote innovation and balance the legitimate interests of inventors and creators with those of consumers and the public.

Law - Andrew Grosso, Chair

The Law Subcommittee monitors the legal landscape for developments that affect computing policy.

Privacy - Brian Dean, Chair

The Privacy Subcommittee seeks to facilitate a greater understanding of the issues at the intersection of privacy and technology.

Security – Co-Chairs: Carl Landwehr and Alec Yasinsac

The Security Subcommittee promotes the embodiment of security in computing and computing-related infrastructures and seeks to contribute to policy solutions that foster secure, stable, robust, and trustworthy computing environments.

Voting - Co-Chairs: Andrew Appel and Douglas Jones

The Voting Subcommittee encourages policies that support the security, reliability, accuracy, accessibility, usability, and verifiability of public elections.

1.4 Meetings

The USTPC meets approximately on a quarterly schedule of virtual meetings. In addition to facilitating Committee business, these meetings featured guest speakers who engaged members in discussion after introductory remarks and permitted new general members of USTPC to briefly introduce themselves.

USTPC otherwise operates mainly through listserv discussions among the members. In addition to the main listserv for all members, each subcommittee and working group operates a listserv to keep its members informed of policy activities, events, policy engagement opportunities, and relevant information. Standing committees also may hold periodic conference calls to discuss action and progress on specific policy projects.

2. PRINCIPAL FY 2024 USTPC POLICY PRODUCTS

In FY24, the USTPC continued to educate and inform policy leaders, ACM members, the computing community, and the public about U.S. policy issues related to information technology and computing. These efforts were accomplished by the Committee through the following products:

- [Statement in Support of Mandatory Comprehensive Digital Accessibility Regulations, US Technology Policy Committee](#) (May 31, 2024)
- [Comments to Office of Management and Budget on Privacy Impact Assessments, US Technology Policy Committee](#) (April 1, 2024)

- [Comments to DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency re: Secure Software Design](#), US Technology Policy Committee (February 20, 2024)
- [Response to OMB Request for Comments Regarding Advancing Governance, Innovation, and Risk Management for Agency Use of Artificial Intelligence](#), US Technology Policy Committee (December 5, 2023)
- [Response to US Copyright Office Concerning Study of Artificial Intelligence and Copyright](#), US Technology Policy Committee (November 29, 2023)
- [Comments to Departments of State and Commerce on G7 Hiroshima AI Process Principles](#), US Technology Policy Committee (October 24, 2023)
- [Comments to Federal Election Commission on Petition for Clarification of Fraudulent Misrepresentation Statute](#), US Technology Policy Committee (October 15, 2023)
- [Statement on Development and Use of Generative AI Content Detection Systems](#), US Technology Policy Committee (October 6, 2023)
- [Comments to Department of Justice on Accessibility Standards for Government Websites](#), US Technology Policy Committee (October 2, 2023)
- [Letter to FDA re AI in Development of Drug and Biological Products](#), US Technology Policy Committee (August 7, 2023)
- [Comments to White House OSTP on National AI Priorities](#), US Technology Policy Committee (July 7, 2023)

All recent USTPC policy products may be viewed at: <https://www.acm.org/public-policy/ustpc/policy-products>

2.1 Additional Activities and Outcomes of Note

In addition to producing and promoting the formal Committee policy documents identified above, the committee also raised awareness of public policy issues periodically in FY24 through [@ACMpolicy](#) and [@USTPC](#) on Twitter, regular policy updates in ACM's monthly [MemberNet](#), periodic press releases, and OpEds and media interviews by member leaders, including:

The Committee also continued its [HotTopics](#) webinar series:

- *Death by Algorithm – The Use, Control, and Legality of Lethal and Other Autonomous Weapons Systems*, April 25, 2024
- *AI Regulation*, October 19, 2023

2.2 TechBriefs

ACM TechBriefs is a series of technical bulletins by ACM's Technology Policy Council that present scientifically grounded perspectives on the impact of specific developments or applications of technology. Designed to complement ACM's activities in the policy arena, the primary goal is to inform rather than advocate for specific policies. These TechBriefs appear in ACM's Digital Library and are a product of the ACM Technology Policy Council. Shown below with an * are the lead authors who are USPTC members. Notably, USTPC member Stuart Shapiro was the FY24 Chair.

*[Larry, I have indicated with an * which authors are USTPC members. I don't know all the members, though. Can you indicate others?]*

TechBrief No. 8: "[Generative Artificial Intelligence](#)," ACM Technology Policy Council (Summer 2023) Authors: David Leslie and Francesca Rossi.

TechBrief No. 9: "[Trusted AI](#)," ACM Technology Policy Council (Fall 2023) Authors: Bran Knowles and John T. Richards.

TechBrief No. 10: "[Automated Vehicles](#)," ACM Technology Policy Council (Winter 2024) Authors: Larry Medsker*, Philip Koopman, Carl Landwehr*, Simson Garfinkel*, Andrew Grosso*, John Murray*, and Alec Yasinsac*.

TechBrief No. 11: "[Data Privacy Protection](#)," ACM Technology Policy Council (Spring 2024) Authors: Micah Altman, Aloni Cohen, and Kobbi Nissim

3. SELECT PLANS FOR FY'25

The USTPC will continue to engage with current ACM members and collaborate with other structures and groups within ACM and peer external organizations. USTPC will also work with ACM's Europe Technology Policy Committee to identify issues and areas of common concern that the Committees may address jointly.

Specific projects anticipated in FY 2025 include:

USTPC looks forward to expanding projects with Europe TPC and supporting the Technology Policy Council and the new Co-Chairs in encouraging the start of additional TPCs in other parts of the world and achieving ACM plans for global policy outreach.

Participation in "Framing the Future: A Collaborative Summit on AI Policy and Governance," hosted by the [AI Policy Lab](#) and [Mila - Quebec's AI Institute](#). USTPC Vice Chair Jody Westby will represent ACM at the event.

The UN General Secretary has called the [4th UN Financing for Development Conference](#), to be held in Seville, Spain, next year, its main topic being how to finance the Sustainable Development Goals. The hope is that this document may open the door for ACM to participate in the conference next year and start being recognized as a player that may influence major decisions by introducing digital components into them. If we are accepted to participate in the Conference, then all ACM Technology

Policy bodies of ACM may have the opportunity to play a significant role in shaping our participation. Larry Medsker plans to attend the NYC “[multistakeholder hearings](#)” remotely on October 28th, and the USTPC plans to be involved if ACM is invited to participate in the 4th UN Financing for Development Conference.

4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

The USTPC is mindful of the need for diversity in its efforts and attempts to ensure diversity in the composition of committees and subcommittees.

In addition, the USTPC has an Accessibility subcommittee that, as described above, strives to advance public policies, practices, and research in usability and accessible technologies to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of daily life.