

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Technical Committee on Audio Forensics Meeting

at 125th AES Convention

October 3, 2008

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Rich Sanders; Chair, Eddy Brixen; Co-Chair, Durand Begault; Co-Chair, Christopher Peltier, Wanda Newman, Jim Wheeler, Gordon Reid, Michael McDermott, Gregg Stuchman, Charles Van Winkle, Roderick Evenson, Christoph Musialik, Rob Maher, Jeff Smith, Gabriel Wallaeh and Mikel Estrin

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes

- Minutes from the AES 124th Convention in Vienna, Austria, AES Technical Committee on Audio Forensics meeting were reviewed. Christoph Musialik moved to accept the minutes. Wanda Newman seconded. Vote was taken: unanimous approval with no abstentions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review of AES 33rd International Conference: Audio Forensics – Theory and Practice

- The AES 33rd Conference was successful, including over 80 participants in attendance from 14 different countries. It was noted that more attendees were from outside United States than from within, which represents a worldwide concern about audio forensic issues. The exhibitor space was well done. Gordon Reid stated that those coming from Europe all thought it was very worthwhile, including the exhibit space.

Future Audio Forensic Conference Planning

- A survey was distributed to attendees at the 33rd Conference regarding preferences for future conferences. Survey results indicated:
 - o Participants were asked when they would like to have another conference on audio forensics. The average respondent was interested in having another conference in 2 years. Gordon Reid stated that for the participants and exhibitors coming from Europe may have a difficult time coming to Denver every two years and that it would be nice to alternate in some way between Denver, London and Copenhagen.
 - ? It was noted by the committee the frequency of conferences is dependent on number of planned paper sessions. The committee brainstormed ways to call for papers that would result in a greater number of submissions, including mentioning an emphasis on a particular area of audio forensics in the initial call for papers.
 - ? The committee discussed the importance of paper submissions for the conference vs. the convention. It is important for the audio forensics field to maintain a presence at conventions, which can be accomplished by having 4-8 papers and at least one workshop.
 - o Participants were asked where they would prefer to hold the next conference. More than 50% of the respondents preferred to hold the next conference in Denver again. The remainder of respondents were split almost evenly between Denmark and Copenhagen.
 - ? The committee noted that it would be more inclusive to do the next conference in Europe, especially for those who had travelled from abroad to come to Denver for the past two conferences.
 - ? It was noted that providing consistency in conference offerings (both time line and location) may result in higher attendance.
- The committee discussed enhancement and voice identification workshops, as well as a possible focus on the topic of authenticity.
- To increase interest and participation, it may be worth pursuing advertising in various related magazines by partnering or trading advertising with other organizations/societies. It was also suggested to extend outreach efforts by including other forms of media in conference proceedings.
- The committee agreed to work toward planning a conference in Europe in Summer 2010, perhaps at the end of June – depending on the venue. Several committee members indicated that they may have more than one paper submission for the conference.
- The scheduling and announcement of conference would need to happen soon. Eddy Brixen will contact the Conference Planning Committee to request approval and coordination.

AES 126th Convention Workshops

- The 126th AES Convention in Munich is focusing quite a bit on audio forensics. The committee is still waiting to hear about the approval of the exhibition.
- Interest was expressed in conducting voice identification workshop. If approved, Eddy Brixen needs to be contacted to coordinate the workshop.
- There also was an interest in discussion about practical ideas with regard to restoration. A proposed workshop would last approximately 4 hours, perhaps split into two sessions.
- It was noted that the goal of both workshops is to invite participation from people who are not currently in the field.
- Rich Sanders will be present at the Technical Council meeting to propose both workshops.

Codex related to Voice ID

- This topic was reviewed during the last committee meeting as a possible focus for papers at the 126th Convention in Munich. The call for voice identification papers on this topic cannot be too specific; an emphasis on a broad range of work in this area must be clear.

Enhancement Effects on Voice ID and Authentication

- Durand Begault proposed that the committee develop a white paper to answer the following questions: will enhancement alter the possibility of authentication in voice identification? Will enhancement alter a transcript?
- A white paper outlining 'best practices' agreed upon by committee could serve as a guideline for the non-audio legal community as to certain types of non-destructive enhancement vis-à-vis transcript. It could also be revised as techniques develop. This effort could serve the larger community as well as and enhance committee members as experts. The work could also potentially lead to workshops/discussions.
- Durand will create an outline of a white paper on this topic, and distribute it to the committee for review.

Listing of Audio Forensics Articles on AES website

- The committee discussed posting a list of the titles and abstracts of papers on audio forensics that have been presented at AES Conventions and Conferences. The committee would like to include links to purchase full papers, where available.

Meeting ended at 10:56 a.m.

Rich Sanders approved 12/10/2008