

Dear CSCW Community,

July 13, 2021

We apologize for any confusion and inconvenience caused by shifting from the 4-cycle submission model to a half-yearly submission model for CSCW 2022. This decision was made based on discussions between the Steering Committee, and CSCW 2021 and 2022 Papers Chairs. We understand many of the questions are due to the elimination of the October 2021 cycle for new submissions and the timing of the announcement. We want to explain the issues we have been facing as a community in the past year and why we needed to make this move to mitigate the challenges.

While CSCW 2021 is still on its way and won't happen until late October 2021, the 2021 Papers Chairs and the 2022 Papers Chairs have started the discussion, preparing to hand-over the paper peer reviewing duties in early June 2021. In the discussion, we surfaced and discussed at length the issue of sustaining the 4-cycle year-long paper review model. While the 4-cycle model has been beneficial to authors, allowing for many submissions throughout the year, the ACs, Editors, and the Papers chairs have been concurrently managing between roughly 10 to 380 papers across different phases of reviews and submission cycles. This heavy load is particularly challenging to all our volunteers at the time of the pandemic, and it's increasingly difficult to recruit qualified ACs and external reviewers throughout the year. The issue has been brought up to the Steering Committee Chair since early March, and was discussed again on June 22, opened up for a community-wise discussion on Facebook CSCW Meta on June 23. In the past two weeks, the Steering Committee and the Papers Chairs of both years have been working hard to determine ways we can address the outstanding issue in the coming year. After an extensive discussion, we reached the conclusion that this issue needs to be addressed immediately; at the same time, it's also clear that the Steering Committee will need more time to deliberate and identify a long-term solution. As a short-term measure to mitigate the impact of year-long paper reviewing during the pandemic, we temporarily reduced the cycles from four to two for new submissions in 2021-2022, as approved by the Steering Committee.

To implement the half-yearly submission model, we've considered the previous paper submission, minor revision, and major revision deadlines, and strived to make as minimal as possible impact on revision deadlines that have been announced, including the July 15 cycle that's around the corner. To lessen the impact on authors due to the reduced submission cycles, we will allow quick turnarounds for major revisions and rejected papers. Authors can submit revisions to the earliest deadline after receiving notification (starting from the October revision deadline), without having to wait 2-3 cycles.

We hope the community will understand that we are implementing this measure to make the CSCW peer review process more workable and sustainable, especially as the pandemic is still impacting many of our volunteers, and that everyone is doing their best in their respective positions to keep this community going.

CSCW 2021 and CSCW 2022 Papers Co-Chairs.