Fred B. Schneider

- *Distributed Computing* (EIC for 11 yrs; *ed board 18 yrs))
- *IEEE Security and Privacy* (Assoc EIC for 10 yrs)
- *Springer Texts and Monographs in CS* (EIC for 20 yrs)
- *Communications of ACM* (2 yrs)
- ACM Computing Surveys (8 yrs)
- IEEE Trans on Dependable and Secure Computing (5 yrs)
- Information Processing Letters (7 yrs)
- IEEE Trans on Software Engr (6 yrs)
- High Integrity Systems (3 yrs)
- Annals of Software Engineering (5 yrs)

Conference program cmte: 50+
What we study has changed:

- Subject matter
- Breath / depth / boundaries
- Scale
- Legacy
- Potential economic impacts

... Pub model we employ exists in a (changing) context.

... Need to understand connections between pub model and:
  - Nature of resulting science
  - Structure / costs to CS community.
What has changed?

Easily observed:

- Ratio of conference to journal pubs per researcher
- Number of conferences we run
  - Number of relevant confs / workshops we attend (and do not attend).
  - Number of pgm cmtes we (must) staff
  - Number if papers we (must) publish
  - Number of papers submitted for evaluation

- Number of pubs expected at key career-transitions:
  - New PhD graduate (even if industry-bound)
    - Correlation with degree-completion times?
  - For academic typical promotion case
    - Effect on candidate quality / impact?
What has changed?

Not easily observed but worth knowing:

- **Time/energy spent on reviewing**
  - 1 round/conf x N confs VS 3 rounds/jrnlp paper

- **Pgm cmte review + pub deadline**
  - Problems not caught
  - Repairs not enforced.

- **Shorter papers and pgm cmte review**
  - Incremental vs revolutionary work
  - Details not included (perf data, proofs)
    - Not reported or not undertaken?
    - Correct? Reproducible? Extendible?
What has changed?

Fundamental changes to our field?

- **Meaning of a PhD degree?**
  - “Capable of independently undertaking a significant piece of research?”
    - Multi-author papers (breadth vs production rates)

- **Capacity for multi-disciplinary work**
Conclusion: Let’s get the facts!

- Anecdotes are no substitute for facts
  - What are the consequences of a publications culture for
    - the evolution of the science
    - our quality of life and community
  - How other fields “do it” and why that works (or doesn’t)

- Advocate a full-fledged study!
  - What has been the evolution of our literature and its impact on the nature of the science we undertake and on our community’s practices and structure.
    - Requires expertise in sociology, history of science, etc.