

Föreningen FSCONS

Verksamhetsberättelse 2017

Annual meeting

The annual meeting was held on 2016-04-09 at Språkbanken. Ten members attended the meeting.

Board

The board for 2016 constituted

Chair person: Stian Rødven Eide

Secretary: Andreas Skyman

Treasurer: Leif-Jöran Olsson

Member: Inari Listenmaa

Member: Thomas Gramstad

Alternate member: Oliver Propst

Auditor

Auditor: Gustav Eek

Alternate auditor: Fransisco Blas Izquierdo Riera

Board and member meetings

Except for the constituting meeting, the board has had three meetings during the year, all held over IRC. In addition matters of import have been handled by mail or telephone.

The conference

The conference was held the weekend 12–13 November 2016 at Marstrand Havshotell. The title of the conference was set to “FSCONS X” to reflect this year’s theme: the ten year anniversary of the conference. The conference had just below fifty participants, which was lower than the aim of 100. Approximately 39% of the participants identified as non-male, which is a considerable improvement to previous years, being just below the aim of a gender balance in the interval of 40/60. In contrast, 8 out of the 12 invited speakers identified as non-male, which, though it constitutes an imbalance in the opposite direction, is none the less considered a success by the board, since it breaks away from prevailing patterns in tech-oriented conferences. Two invited speakers withdrew with late notice, but one of the cancelled sessions was replaced by a discussion session on the topic of driverless cars. A total of 11 sessions were held.

List of sessions

- *Driverless cars, an informal discussion*; Thomas Gramstad
- *In the absence of progress*; Dougald Hine
- *Power, politics and imaginations of artificial intelligence: The case of the driverless car*; Maya Indira Ganesh
- *Devuan GNU+Linux: where we are, how we got here, where we are going*; Jaromil
- *Privacy, you keep on using this word...:The politics behind notions of privacy on the internet*; Elinor Carmi
- *The Magical Lives of Corporate Software Developers*; Paula Bialski
- *Civic Tech for Democratic Change in Hungary*; Marietta Le
- *Empowerment. What does that even mean?!*; Laura Laugwitz
- *Period tracking: At the interface of technologies, female reproductive health and cultural norms of body & gender*; Marie-Luise Kochsiek
- *Collective Action in the Age of Ubiquitous Computing*; Emma Harrison
- *Bitcoin, Blockchain and Virtual Business*; Ivar Duserud

In order to create space and time for informal discussions and meetings lunch and dinner was served at the venue. In addition, the hotel's saunas and SPA were open to the participants and included in the price for participation.

Holding the conference at a hotel lead to a price of participation three times higher than the regular fee from previous years. This, combined with the more remote location, undoubtedly served to limit the accessibility of the conference, leading to the lower than hoped for number of participants. The board had hoped to mitigate this by offering subsidised tickets for those in need of it, generously payed for by the sponsor Friprogramvarusyndikatet. Though these tickets were eventually claimed, it was found that many former participants were reluctant to accept this form of subsidy, preferring to not participate rather than not “paying their dues”. Though the conference was much appreciated by those who participated, it would be disingenous to say anything other than that the board was disappointed with the turn-out.

Sattelite events

The conference was preceeded by an event hosted by FOSS-GBG. The event consisted of talks and discussions, and was held in Gothenburg the evening of Friday 11 November. This was followed by an informal social gathering at a restaurant. Both the FOSS-GBG meeting and the restaurant meeting that followed were well received.