

# PAC 2003 Database

An editor's perspective

# Challenges

- Management issues
- Database access problems
- Lack of a development database
- Web-based work
- Ongoing development and application creation
- Need for affiliations/profiles plug-in

# Management Issues

## ● Proposed database setup

- Matt Arena would update the PAC01 database to send to LBNL for PAC03
  - Based on PAC01 experience, suggestions from JACoW and improvements that were made for EPAC02
- LBNL database administrators would install and manage the PAC03 database

# Management Issues

## ● Actual database setup

- LBNL database administrators had many questions and problems as they set up the database
- They began to rely on Matt's help more and more until Matt took on the role administrator for the PAC03 database

# Database Access

- The database was installed behind a firewall at LBNL (no one outside of LBNL computing could directly access it)
  - Oracle forms and reports could not be used to access the database without a major workaround
  - Inability to query directly into Excel
  - Even as administrator, there were certain things that Matt could not do
    - We had to rely on LBNL to make certain changes and updates, which often resulted in lag time

# Lack of a Development Database

- The work-around that allowed us to use Oracle forms took away our development database
  - The only place to test many of the features was in the production database
  - This lead to non-conference data being placed on the production machine

# Web-Based Work

- Since we were unable to access the database via Oracle forms, Matt created web screens for Joe and me to update/change the database
  - This was a last minute fix, so we discovered some problems as we worked with them
  - Much of the work could have been done more quickly and efficiently with Oracle forms

# Ongoing Development and Application Creation

- The file upload/download features were not created at the time the database went online
  - Required extensive testing and changes close to the start of the conference
  - Not tested as fully as I would have liked
  - Applications were created by two different people (different from the DBA), so things did not interface seamlessly
  - The requirements of the different applications were misunderstood and there was lack of communication between the parties



# Need for Affiliations/Profiles Plug-in

- An extensive amount of work was required to check and correct author names and affiliations
    - Names are still not written in a standardized fashion in our database—only in our books
    - Affiliations were standardized to the extent possible, but there may be some anomalies
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# JACoW Considerations

- How much support comes with the JACoW database?
  - This needs to be spelled out VERY carefully to avoid false expectations from member conferences
  - Detailed documentation for installation and end-user procedures should be provided to reduce dependence on the database creator

# JACoW Considerations

- Provide the following in the installation instructions
  - Guidelines on platform/firewall issues
  - Guidelines on what different users will need to access (i.e. Oracle forms, reports, Excel queries, etc.) and on what the different forms and reports do
  - Guidelines on the creation of a development database

# A Final Word

- Most of the challenges with the PAC03 database were due to the way that it was installed and supported. It is difficult to install and manage a database created by someone else and it is difficult to try to remotely manage a database set up by someone else.
- Even if they receive a deliverable, member conferences will need dedicated support from their institutions to install and manage the database. They will also need to take ownership of the database to make changes or updates necessary for their conference.
- JACoW may still need to provide some support for the database.

# Discussion of Issues

