

Candidate statement for IFIP TC6 chairmanship (period 2007 – 2009)

I have been asked by several national delegates to apply for a second chairmanship period of IFIP TC6.

This would be my fourth (and definitively last) election period after 1992 – 1997 and 2004 – 2006.

After a very controversial thinking about the pro's and con's I came to the conclusion that I should run for this chairmanship renewal.

Now, since delegates (at least those who attend our meetings more or less regularly) know me very well I don't think that I have to tell you too much about the history. Anyway, my CV is attached.

Here is what I would like to change, improve, modify in a second election period:

- increase the visibility and the responsibility of our working groups; making every effort to concentrate on a single flagship event per WG and – in addition to that – on experimental workshops devoted to newly emerging topics; insist that WG chairs do more than writing a short (and often late) report for our TC6 meetings
- work towards a better structure and visibility of our educational programme – predominantly devoted to developing countries; the efforts have to be done in close cooperation with WG 6.9
- simplification and efficiency improvement of numerous internal IFIP procedures (Event Request Forms, ...)
- make every effort towards a significantly improved publication policy on the way to a visible, internationally accepted and free-to-read digital library together with working on new business models which will keep TC6 alive after the classical sources of income – namely event proceeds and book royalties – will be nonexistent any more
- find a constructive way to cooperate with others (e.g. IEEE) without being eaten up by these competitors
- try to implement the TC6 governance rules (proposed by Augusto Casaca) as far as possible
- improve the position and the visibility of TC6 within IFIP's Technical Assembly, in General Assembly and in Council
- and last but not least trying to make the „TC6 life“ more interesting by some unconventional actions, e.g. by a ceremony „6x6 years of TC6“ (remember that we had the 30th anniversary of TC6 at the occasion of meeting 2002/2 in Lisbon; this was admittedly a little early – maybe 6 month or so – thus the 36th anniversary should be celebrated at meeting 2008/2 or at meeting 2009/1).

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Otto Spaniol

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PROF. DR. OTTO SPANIOL

Prof. Dr. Otto Spaniol was born in 1945 in the very small village of Otzenhausen, Germany, some 50 km from Luxemburg. He studied mathematics and physics at the University of Saarbrücken from 1964 to 1968, after which he engaged in research and teaching, as an Assistant professor in the Computer Science Department of the University until 1976. Moving to Bonn, he served as Associate Professor at the University until 1981, specializing in the area of operating systems. For three years, he was a full Professor at the University of Frankfurt, also in operating systems, after which he moved to the Aachen University of Technology, specializing in communication and distributed systems. He got several offers from other universities (e.g. from Technical University Munich) but decided to stay in Aachen. Prof Spaniol has a particular interest in interdisciplinary activities, encouraging intensive cooperation among the departments of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Philosophy. His main areas of interest in research and engineering are distributed systems, modeling and evaluation of computer systems, mobile communication, high-speed networks and network management. A newly developed interest is in distance learning.

Prof. Spaniol is coordinator of an international master programme on Media Informatics at the Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology. He is founder and chairman of two graduate schools on "Informatics and Technics" (1991-2000) and "Software for Mobile Communication Systems" (2001-2009). Furthermore, he is co-chairman and principal investigator of the excellence cluster UMIC (Ultra high-speed mobile information and communication).

He has engaged in a variety of consulting activities in Germany for ministries, industry, and other organizations, in particular the European Union in Brussels.

He is also the author of several books, more than 100 research articles, and encyclopedia articles, as well as the co-editor of computer science journals.

For six years (from 2001 until 2006), i.e. for the maximum possible time of two periods of two years each) he has been a member of the scientific council (conseil scientifique) of France Telecom. Within the German Computer Society GI (Gesellschaft für Informatik), he is a member of many committees of different interest groups. He served as chairman of the computer networks group for 6 years.

For 8 years, the maximum possible time, he served as chairman of the computer science section of the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), and it is this position of which he is most proud, since this is conferred by an anonymous vote of all German computer science professors.

Since 1983, Prof. Spaniol is German member of IFIP TC6 (Technical Committee 6 on Communication Systems of the International Federation for Information Processing). He served as TC6 chair from 1992 until 1997 and once again from 2004 onwards. In 1992, he also received the IFIP Silver Core Award.

In 1998, Prof. Spaniol received the Marin Drinov Award from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. From 1998 until 2003 (i.e. the maximum possible time of six years) Prof. Spaniol has been one of the 24 members of the German Research Council (Wissenschaftsrat) that directly gives recommendations to the German government and especially to the president of Germany concerning activities in research and education.

In September 2006, Prof. Spaniol received the honorary doctorate (Doctor honoris causa) from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia.

In his spare time, Prof. Spaniol enjoys bicycling, especially with members of his department, which has won more than 50 trophies (not for speed, but for number of participants or perhaps for weight). Another source of relaxation is shortwave radio listening. Last, but not least, he is an enthusiast of satirical reviews, which he emulates with his own contributions, such as humorous lectures and a regular satirical column in a scientific(!) German-language journal, written under the pseudonym-anagram "Alois Potton." He and his wife Renate have a son Marc.