IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy Program chairs' report

Andrew Myers and Dave Evans

Previous reviewing process

- One round of reviewing (roughly Nov. 10-Jan. 20)

- ~40 program committee members

- Physical program committee meeting

- Authors of papers required to be blinded.

Problems:

- PC meeting too large for good discussion

- 3 reviews per paper sometimes left holes in coverage

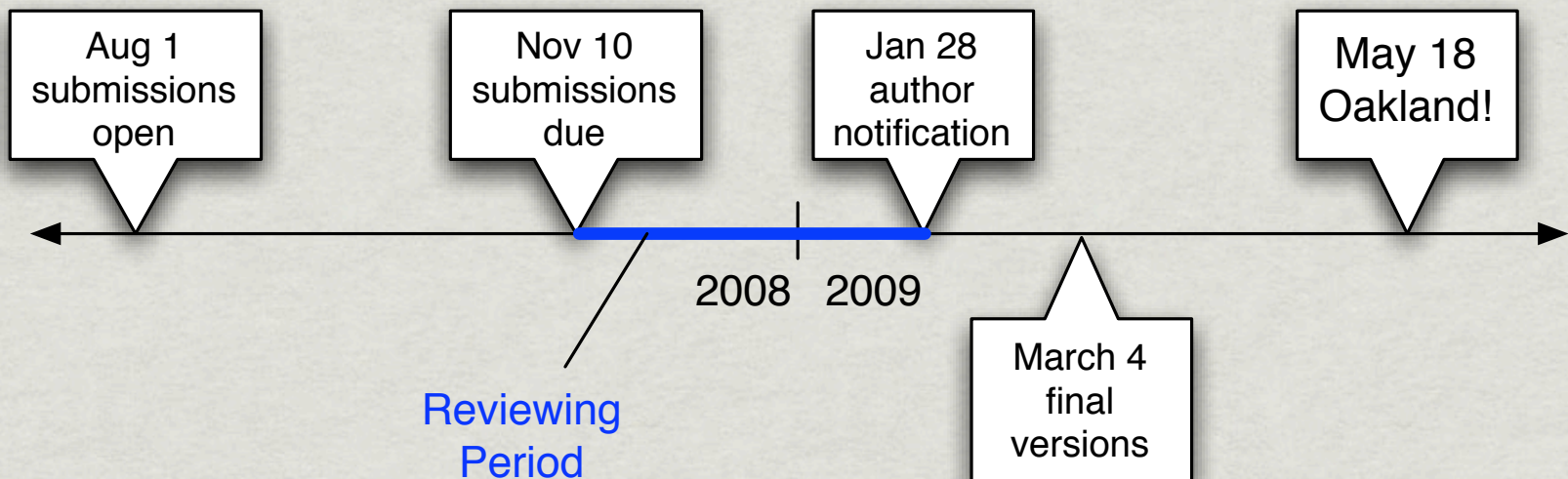- Reviews per PC member manageable: ~21

This year's process
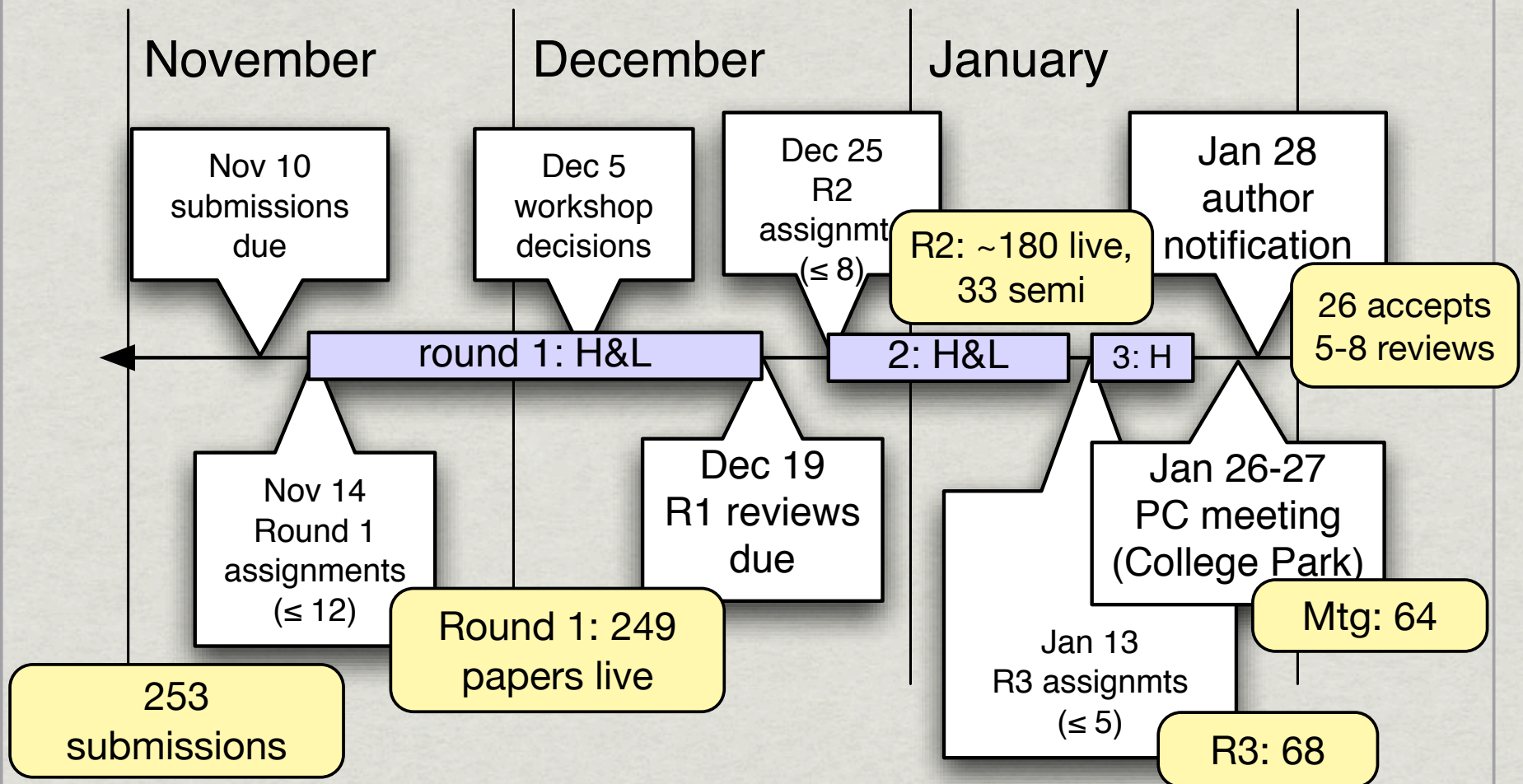
(Adapted from SIGCOMM 2006, SOSP 2007, ...)

- 50 PC members including chairs: 25 'heavy', 25 'light'

  - Heavy members reviewed slightly more papers (~23 vs ~20), attended PC meeting.

  - Light members participated in electronic discussion during review process.

  - Every paper at PC meeting had at least 3 heavy reviews and 2 light reviews.

  - Light and heavy not distinguished in proceedings, etc.

- Outcome: better informed and more engaging discussion, more author feedback, with reasonable load

Timeline

Reviewing timeline

November December January

Nov 10 submissions due

Dec 5 workshop decisions

Dec 25 R2 assignmt (≤ 8)

Jan 28 author notification

R2: ~180 live, 33 semi

26 accepts 5-8 reviews

round 1: H&L

2: H&L

3: H

Nov 14 Round 1 assignments (≤ 12)

Dec 19 R1 reviews due

Jan 26-27 PC meeting (College Park)

Mtg: 64

Round 1: 249 papers live

Jan 13 R3 assignmts (≤ 5)

R3: 68

253 submissions

- Worked well, but required constant attention

Other thoughts

- HotCRP reviewing system invaluable throughout (kudos to Eddie Kohler)

- Rating scale is important. We used a 6-point scale: symmetrical but no middle, headroom to allow strong opinions.

- Important to get good topic preferences from all PC members.

- Blinding has real pros and real cons.

- Authors seem to appreciate and to take advantage of getting more reviewing feedback.

- Multiround reviewing helps in focusing PC work on strongest papers and in assigning reviewers well.