EDITORS' NOTE

The Proceedings of the 2001 Particle Accelerator Conference was prepared completely from electronic submissions, as is the standard for all recent PAC and EPAC conferences. We processed a record number of papers for this conference series in a reasonable period of time, making use of an automated system. This system is based on Brookhaven's for PAC99, but with some innovations. From an operational perspective, our major change was one of philosophy. Namely we accepted contributions only by network transfer. Any authors with media to submit were directed to the conference's public computer area where they were aided in making a network transfer. The result was that the editors could spend more time on editing, and were able to keep up with the paper submissions. The generally high quality of the papers also sped up the editing process. The fraction of papers that could not be fixed by editors was significantly reduced from numbers seen in the past. The editing staff genuinely wishes to thank the accelerator community for making the effort required to simplify paper processing.

A second of our innovations, aimed at simplifying the submission process, was not a success for PAC01, although it may be workable at some future conference. We tried to have submissions proceed directly through Web upload into our Oracle database. However in the days immediately before the conference, the number of authors submitting and editors working simultaneously caused the system to grind to a halt and become unusable. In a matter of a few hours we were able to go to a mode of FTP submission. For those who tried to submit during the period of the changeover, we apologize for the confusion that reined. With our FTP system there were two steps for the author, first to transmit the files and second to indicate via the Web that the files had indeed been transferred. A fairly large number of mistakes were made in one or the other of these steps.

A third major innovation was the assignment of an account on our server to every author. The motivation for this was that it provided reasonable security from having papers inappropriately accessed, while still allowing changes in the submitted information to be made. A potential concern that authors would forget their passwords between abstract submission and paper submission turned out not to be a problem. The system did have the downside of allowing papers to be altered after having been edited. Clearly this possibility must be eliminated in the future.

The sizable majority of problems with the actual format of papers fall into two categories: impinging on margins and LaTeX papers incorporating Type 3 fonts. Our margins are set such that an electronic copy can be printed on either US letter or A4 paper. The top and bottom margins are used for page numbering and 'watermarking' with the conference name and publication ISBN number, and the side margins that we specify are large enough for a paper to be read no matter which side of the page ends up in the gutter region of the hardcopy version. Thus protecting margins is truly important, yet more than half of the papers, as submitted, violated a margin somewhere. The problem is usually not with the text of the paper, but instead with tables, figures and notes indicating funding source. It is hoped that authors will be particularly diligent in regard to margins in the future.

The problem with Type 3 fonts has generally not been addressed in past years, but we have attempted to deal with it this time. LaTeX papers prepared with an outdated class library, which does not have an up to date Type 1 or TrueType font set, or an improperly configured dvips configuration file result in fonts that appear fuzzy on the screen. In most cases this affects math and Greek symbols that appear in the paper, but extreme cases can also affect the body text. Several instances of these "fuzzy" fonts can render a paper unreadable on a computer screen. Although this problem does not affect hardcopy versions of a paper, it is hardly appropriate to force readers to print a hardcopy in order to get something legible. This problem is fixed by re-running LaTeX on an editor's computer that is properly configured. However all original files must be present for this to be possible, and the time required to re-run LaTeX a few hundred times (the magnitude of this problem) is clearly significant. We urge authors, especially in the major laboratories, to be sure that the systems on which they work have the correct font sets and properly configured dvips files—this is generally handled by a system administrator, not by an author. In cases where we have been unable to effect a fix, we have simply accepted the paper as is. However we suggest that future conferences reject these papers.

A public thank you is in order for the volunteers who have made the prompt production of these Proceedings possible. The international team of editors, with representatives from past and future conferences, did, as usual, an excellent job. Also warmly appreciated is the work of those who accepted and filed papers and kept our database up to date. The workers who aided authors in uploading papers had the task of learning what the problems would be in this new endeavor and then addressing them in real time. We also wish to thank those who set up the computer facilities for the conference staff and the editing team. Of course their major installation was the public computing facility of the conference, for which I am sure all attendees join us in a hearty thank you. Finally we would like to give a special thank you to Matt Arena, our Oracle database administrator and creator of our dynamic web pages. Without his help, the production of these proceedings would not have been possible.

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December 13, 2001