

SPMS: Impressions of a New User

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Caveat and Lesson Learnt

- None of the comments presented here should be construed as criticisms. SPMS provides a very powerful set of tools.
- Do not languish when you have problems, use the JACoW Team members to seek advice and assistance.
- The good news is that several people will have experienced the same problems before and probably know the solution.
- A case in point: I should have asked about assigning a flag to the LINAC08 abstracts that were either Contributed Orals or Student Poster Session papers. Yesterday's discussion revealed the existence of the Abstract Attributes page which I had missed. It appears to solve a lot of my problems by allowing me to tag the abstracts and then sort them or send e-mails via SPMS. It may help with the final proceedings production.

Functionality

- Most of the functionality of SPMS is immediately obvious by browsing the SPMS tree with Administrator privileges.
- Initially it is often difficult to remember exactly where certain features reside.
- Monday's discussion regarding documentation following the flow of a conference could perhaps be reflected in the tree.
- Duplication of some links in several categories would not matter. Some already appear twice.
- Operating in the shadow of EPAC08. Dynamic version numbers! Look and feel often changed. Some functionality changes.

Documentation, Screens, JACoW Instructions

- The present documentation requires a lot of improvement.
- The most dangerous parts are those that are obsolete and incorrect. This can lead to a lot of wasted time at critical junctures of a conference.
- I have not had time to assist with the documentation revisions, but will attempt to over the next year while the deficiencies are still fresh in my mind.
- Some of the screens have poorly worded instructions which are misleading even to a native English speaker. This is especially true for some of the system parameter and option settings.
- The JACoW Web site instructions for Mac are OS 7–9.x vintage, not OS X.

PC Mode

- Very powerful features.
- Not always so obvious how to set the various parameters.
- Expert assignments for Main Classifications are critical before and during PC meetings.
 - ◆ Anarchy has been stopped, no more poaching.
 - ◆ Assigning same expert to more than one classification works, except that you cannot accept reclassifications from your other classification. Correct logic – you have two hats but suggesting a reclassification indicates indecision! Solved on a case by case basis by some with Administrator privileges.

Reports and Data Extracts

- A rich menu of standard reports that cover most needs.
- Some are missing vital fields or have incorrect totals.
 - Registration Reports: Country/Region Stats
North America number not included in Grand Total.
- Similar comment for the data extracts.
 - ★ Classic example: All Orals `invited_extract.xls`
 - ◆ Long version of Affiliation rather than concise version.
 - ◆ Does not include Sub-Classification.
- Ultimate solution would be a “build-your-own” report via pulldown menus. A pipe dream?

Invitation Only Conference

- Superb tools provided.
- Used for LINAC08
- Advantages:
 - ▶ Total control of abstract submission and registration.
 - ▶ No bogus profiles created by asylum seekers.
 - ▶ Can totally lock down access.
 - ▶ No need to advertise SPMS URL on conference Web site.
 - ▶ No spam e-mail.

Invitation Only Conference – Disadvantages

- Reliant on assigned nominators to submit list of invitees.
- Late or non submission can create acute embarrassment.
- Cannot spell invitee's name correctly.
- E-mail address provided does not match that in JACoW profile.
- Bad or outdated JACoW profiles result in the Invitees not receiving their invitation and SPMS e-mails.
- Extremely disturbing how many senior people (IOC, PC, Invited Speaker) have JACoW profiles with the wrong affiliation or, most importantly, wrong e-mail address.
- If an Invitee does not have a JACoW profile and account, one has to be created for them and an ID and password assigned.

Invitation Only Conference – Problems

- Extreme caution required when using Invitee List page and **Option 2 - Bulk Load Invitees via Email Addresses**
 - ▶ Watch for invalid e-mail addresses and hence failure to add invitee.
 - ▶ Watch for single e-mail address used in multiple JACoW profiles.
 - ★ Especially prevalent for Ukrainian and Chinese profiles.
 - ★ Worst case encountered: one Ukrainian e-mail address resulted in 15 people being loaded.
 - ★ Solution: search in Profiles by e-mail address, get list of associated names, and then scan down invitees list and use pulldown to remove. Can do as a batch – quick.

Invitation Only Conference – Summary

- Extremely powerful utility.
- Vital for LINAC08 conference.
- Time consuming. 5–7 days total to enter 750 invitees.
- If you lock down the system and do not advertise the SPMS URL on the conference Web site, you are relying on Invitees reading their e-mails carefully, not deleting them, and bookmarking the SPMS URL.
Disturbing how many people fail to do this – including Programme chairs!

Registration Methods

- Delegate registration fee payments via TRIUMF registration system.
- Processed via SPMS using bypass pairs to transfer profile data to pre-fill TRIUMF registration form.
- Exhibitor fees paid via direct access to TRIUMF registration system. No SPMS involvement.
- Special Poster Session for Students and financial support registration via standard SPMS registration form.

Bypass Pairs

Regist Bypass Vars : Mapping table for an external registration system. Name/Value pairs are sent to the URL identified in the registration page's BYPASS URL.

Column	Comments
BYPASS_ID	Automatically generated. Enter any number in the data entry screen as a place holder. SPMS will generate the next ID number.
PAGE_ID	The name of the registration page users see when registering. This maps to an external registration page.
VAR_NAME	The variable name expected by the external registration CGI.
VALUE	A literal text string sent for the name/value pair. Note: VALUE and BYPASS_VAR_CODE are mutually exclusive.
BYPASS_VAR_CODE	An SPMS generated value for the name/value pair. Value is based on the user logged in. Note: VALUE and BYPASS_VAR_CODE are mutually exclusive.

	Bypass	Page	Var Name	Value	Bypass Var Code
Delete		7	PAC09 Registration ▾ addr1		Address Line 1 ▾
Delete		8	PAC09 Registration ▾ addr2		Address Line 2 ▾
Delete		9	PAC09 Registration ▾ city		City ▾
Delete		2	PAC09 Registration ▾ confcode	PAC2009	▾
Delete		11	PAC09 Registration ▾ country		Country of Affiliation ▾
Delete		3	PAC09 Registration ▾ email		Email Address ▾
Delete		13	PAC09 Registration ▾ fax		Fax ▾
Delete		5	PAC09 Registration ▾ fname		First Name ▾
Delete		6	PAC09 Registration ▾ institute		Primary Affiliation ▾
Delete		4	PAC09 Registration ▾ lname		Last Name ▾
Delete		14	PAC09 Registration ▾ phone		Phone ▾
Delete		15	PAC09 Registration ▾ retaininfo		Authorization to use/store information ▾
Delete		16	PAC09 Registration ▾ returnurl		Return URL ▾
Delete		1	PAC09 Registration ▾ spmsid		Unique ID (username) ▾
Delete		10	PAC09 Registration ▾ state		State ▾
Delete		12	PAC09 Registration ▾ zip		Zip ▾

Bypass Pairs

PAC09 Registration

PAC09 Proceedings

[Logout](#) [Search](#) [My Schedule](#) [Home](#) [Find Profiles](#)



[Define Fields](#) [New Data Field](#) [Page Layout](#) [Fee Matrix](#) [Edit Field Groups](#)

Page Name Page name must be unique.

Admin's Email Leave blank to send registration email to the conference administrator.

Max Registrants Leave blank for unlimited registrants.

Completion Text Text displayed upon completing this form.

Return URL [None: Will Close Window](#)

External CC Vendor URL Pass SPMS registration data to an external credit card (CC) processing vendor. **Note:** This requires then name/value pairs named in CC [Payment Vendor Vairables](#). Also, you **must** include the name/value pair of ?external=21 in the External URL text above **and** it must be passed back to the !cc_vendor.IPN routine by the external registration system.

External Registration URL Bypass SPMS registration completely for an external registration system. **Note:** You must define the data transmitted to the external registration system via the [Bypass Name/Value Pairs](#) page.

Hide Receipt Yes No

Warning: Do not hide invoices for pages with fees.

Include Registrants on List Of Participants Report Yes No

Include Registrants on Statistical Reports Yes No

Data Entry URL [registration.bypass?pg_id=21](#)

Report URL [registration.bypass?pg_id=21](#)

Repository

- Disturbing number of profiles containing wrong e-mail addresses or affiliations.
 - ▶ Impossible to fix if e-mail address is wrong as you cannot contact the person.
 - ▶ Have to resort to searching lab Web phonebooks, etc. Very time consuming.
- Affiliation data missing a key field: State/Province/County
 - ▶ Impossible to create a North American postal address that complies with U.S. or Canadian postal authority standards for automated sorting.
 - ▶ Consequence is that mail to U.S. addresses takes longer than to Russia, China, etc.
- ISO country names. Automatic checking of Zip codes.

Abstract Booklet

- Programme and abstract listing section created by hack.
- Used Conference Guide link producing `reports.conference_guide.html` file.
- Hack using xemacs and macros to replace html tags with xml tags.
- Import into Adobe InDesign with predefined format and manipulate.

Problems Encountered

- Sent time assigned to SPMS e-mails 5 hours earlier than true value. Consequence: replies to an SPMS roles e-mail appear in the Inbox at earlier times than the original message. If sent to IOC+PC (~100 names) they are sometimes missed because they are several screens up. Times correct in SPMS e-mail history logs. Due to UTC format attached by Fermilab smtp server.
- Editor page, List my Papers, logs still not working correctly.
- PostScript files uploaded by authors rejected due to script searching for **%!PS-Adobe** failing due to control character before **%!PS-Adobe**.
- Threshold weights not working as advertised. Cannot see papers with only a PDF file submitted and a threshold of 0.

Problems Encountered – Upload Scripts

- New version of Perl scripts `Perl_Scripts_3.zip` available, but documentation on Elettra Wiki relates to old version.
- Not going to use autodistilling, but not sure whether I could use new version.
- Installing on Linux fileservers revealed problems. Perl needs to see the defined In and Out paths, even if they are not used. They pointed to explicit Elettra locations. Perhaps defaults should be `/tmp`.
- PostScript upload failed for one paper > 100000000 bytes. The file was 125 MB.
Set option to 0 to allow infinite file sizes.

Murphy's Law

- Reliant on network connections at all times, so surprising that we do not experience more problems. For example, the image files can be on 3+ servers in 3+ countries or continents.
- Bad profile problem at LINAC08 abstract submission deadline.
- PAC09 SPC meeting network failure just before wrap-up.
- Fileserver at TRIUMF crashed due to crane shorting out two phases at UBC at beginning of LINAC08 processing in Victoria.

New Capabilities

- A listing of Paper IDs showing platform and source file type. Can only see this via the Upload screen.